



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting

ABP-312348-22 1st meeting

Description	ABP-312348-22 – Proposed construction of three new 110Kv circuits: Newbury-Ballystruan 110kV, Ballystruan-Forest Little 110kV and Forest Little-Belcamp 110kV, at various locations between Forest Little, Belcamp, Clonshaugh and Harristown, Co. Dublin.		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation.		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Venue	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Date	09/03/2022	Time	11:15am -11:50am

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)

Kevin Moore, Senior Planning Inspector

Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer	s.caulfield@pleanala.ie	01-8737287
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Representing the Prospective Applicant

Brendan Allen – ESB Networks

Emma Butler – ESB Networks

Sinisa Sestanovic – ESB Networks

Keith Rooney – ESB Networks

Tony McEvoy – Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Elaine A Bennett – Mott MacDonald

Introduction:

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 23rd December 2021, requesting pre-application consultations and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The proposed development includes the installation of high voltage underground electricity cables in the areas of Forest Little, Belcamp, Clonshaugh and Harristown, Co. Dublin. The proposed development is located within the functional areas of Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council.

The proposed development includes the construction of new circuits at the following locations:

1. Newbury -Ballystruan 110kV
2. Ballystruan – Forest Little 110kV
3. Forest Little – Belcamp – 2 new circuits at 110kV and 220kV

The prospective applicant said the main driver for the proposed development is to accommodate the connection of two new permanent 110kV substations that will be required for the Metrolink project, which is being progressed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The Metrolink project requires the construction of two new 110kV GIS substations in north Dublin and these new substations will be supplied by electricity from ESB by way of new underground cable routes from existing substations in the area.

It was submitted that the cable circuits would be installed along a mixture of public roads and private lands (primarily owned by Dublin Airport Authority) and will result in connections to the two new proposed Metrolink substations to be named Forest Little substation, located at Metrolink North Portal in Cloghran, and Ballystruan substation, located at Metrolink Dardistown in Ballystruan. The prospective applicant presented several drawings which give an overview of the proposed cable routes (copies on file).

Regarding watercourse crossings, the prospective applicant said a number of watercourse crossings would be required as part of the proposed development and said these may take the form of horizontal directional drilling, microbore tunnelling or open trench. These options are currently under consideration. The prospective applicant said it plans to environmentally assess and apply a corridor of up to 10 metres wide, to allow flexibility during detailed design stage.

In relation to the works proposed on public roads, the prospective applicant said a Road Opening License may be required and said this will be arranged in conjunction with the relevant local authority.

The prospective applicant said engagements are ongoing with TII in order to progress the development. The prospective applicant said TII are engaged in consultations with the Board in relation to the overall Metrolink project (An Bord Pleanála case reference: ABP-302010-18).

It was submitted that agreements were made between the prospective applicant and TII that planning approval for the high voltage cables required for the Metrolink project would not form part of the Railway Order application but will instead be sought by the prospective applicant in its role as statutory undertaker for the purposes of electrical infrastructure. Therefore, it said, subject to the Board's determination, the proposed development would be submitted under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The prospective applicant said it is anticipated that both EIA and AA will be required as the proposed development forms part of the wider Metrolink project which itself will be subject to EIA and AA. It said cumulative impacts would be considered and fully assessed as part of the development.

The prospective applicant said its current intention is to lodge the planning application in Q4 2022, shortly after the Railway Order application is submitted.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- The Board's representatives confirmed that the pre-application consultation process for the Metrolink project (ABP-302010-18) is now concluded and it is a matter for the applicant (TII) to submit the Railway Order application.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said, following legal advice received, that it was decided to submit two separate planning applications, the proposed development under section 182A of the Planning

and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Railway Order application for the Metrolink development.

- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to coordinate the submission of both planning applications.
- The prospective applicant said the design is nearing completion but some minor reconfigurations may be necessary. It said the information gained from site investigation works will determine if any adjustments are required.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said consultations are ongoing with relevant landowners and it doesn't anticipate the requirement for wider public consultations.

Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.

Brendan Wyse

Assistant Director of Planning

11 March 2022