

**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Record of 1st Meeting
ABP-312446-22

Development	Proposed further development of the Drehid Waste Management Facility		
Location	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1 st / 2 nd / 3 rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	16/03/2022	Time	11:00a.m. – 12:20p.m.
Representing An Bord Pleanála			
Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)			
Kevin Moore, Senior Planning Inspector			
Jennifer Sherry, Executive Officer	j.sherry@pleanala.ie	01-8737266	
Representing the Prospective Applicant			
John Payne, Project Manager, Bord na Móna			
Robert Hunt, Senior Environmental Engineer, TOBIN			
Maria Rooney, Traffic Engineer, TOBIN			
John Staunton, Project Manager, TOBIN			
Julian Keenan, Trafficwise Ltd			
Dawn Keating, Environmental Scientist, CDM Smith			
Henning Moe, Hydrologist Specialist, CDM Smith			

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant 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 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 any legal proceedings.

Presentation by the prospective applicant

The prospective applicant gave an overview of the proposed development, which is located between Allenwood and Derrinturn, Co. Kildare. The overall landholding for the facility is over 2,000 ha. A number of drawings were provided with the presentation which set out the facility location, regional site location, designated sites, and watercourses in the vicinity. The operational life of the existing Facility is 20 years which commenced in 2008. The prospective applicant advised the landfill is more than likely to reach capacity by 2026. The waste capacity at the facility is 120,000 tonnes per annum and has operated at 360,000 tonnes per annum for a number of years in the past.

The prospective applicant referred to the previous planning permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) which was refused by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 and stated the reasons for refusal will be addressed in this pre-application consultation process.

The proposed development will consist of the further development of the existing facility for a period of 25 years as detailed in the presentation provided. The prospective applicant provided a high-level indicative drawing of the site layout and landfill footprint. The new landfill will be designed in accordance with the EPA Landfill Site Design Manual and will enable a closed loop on non-recyclable/recoverable materials with the Drehid site.

The prospective applicant advised site investigation works were undertaken to address the sites hydrological and hydrogeological conditions by conducting soil borings to characterise subsoils to confirm some features of geophysical survey anomalies. Also, surface water monitoring was carried out to assess the water levels and water quality.

The prospective stated traffic assessment would be carried out in accordance with TII guidelines which will include traffic analysis, road impacts, cumulative impacts, and safety measures. Furthermore, the prospective applicant advised they have undertaken consultations with TII who are satisfied with the scope of the assessment being carried out. The prospective applicant stated 3 objectives have been identified for the study as follows:

1. Identify the scope – haul route is approx. 200km.
2. Identify the method and approach – based on a comparison method (historic traffic, current traffic and supported detail being used to forecast seasonal, monthly, and weekly traffic fluctuations).
3. How traffic impact can be quantified and mitigated.

The prospective applicant highlighted how they considered that the figures cited by the inspector in the previous application and presented at the oral hearing for that case were a significant over representation of the likely position and very much a worst case scenario. The prospective applicant cited their experience from Knockharley landfill where disposal of 440,000 tonnes per annum led to 70 trips per day as a more realistic comparator to the development proposed on the subject site.

The prospective applicant stated an EIAR is currently being prepared for the proposed development and will focus on the proposed further landfill capacity works with the existing landfill facility and the potential for cumulative impacts.

The prospective applicant said it is satisfied the proposed development is a strategic infrastructure development as the current proposal is for a class of development in the 7th Schedule described as, "An installation for the disposal, treatment or recovery of waste with a capacity for an annual intake greater than 100,00 tonnes".

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- The Board's representatives sought a comparison from what is proposed with the current application in terms of site location, traffic generation and general works, in relation to the previous permission which was refused by the Board in 2020. The prospective applicant said the proposed development will be in the same location and of a similar size. The prospective applicant specified the following elements:
 - i. The landfill for hazardous waste has been removed with only nonhazardous waste on site.
 - ii. The focus is to extend the existing facility.
 - iii. The footprint for nonhazardous waste is slightly larger.


- iv. There is no proposal to extend the scale of the existing composting facility, but throughput would be increased.
- v. The pre-treatment waste from the waste energy facility is not included.
- In terms of traffic generation, the prospective applicant said the above changes all feed into the assessment, but it is difficult at this time to quantify how this translates into exact HGV figures. Overall, the prospective applicant stated the proposed development is a more simplified application and extension of existing operations.
- In response to the Board's representatives query the prospective applicant advised the C&D waste is coming from the Greater Dublin Area, building waste comes from all over Ireland and the black bin waste that is generated from the eastern region is going to the new MBT facility before residuals go to landfill at Drehid.
- The Board's representatives enquired if leachate is going to be treated on site. The prospective applicant stated there will be a continuation of the established practice at present, with roughly the same volumes of leachate being processed. It was specified that the existing landfill generates between 29,000 - 30,000 cubes per year with an estimated 25,000 – 30,000 cubes at peak times over the next 25-30 years.
- In discussing traffic as one of the reasons for refusal in the previous planning application the Board's representatives stated it was their interpretation of the Board direction and reasons for refusal that the width and capacity of the roads were a concern. The Board's representatives asked the prospective applicant if it was seeking to address the physical limitation of these roads with Kildare County Council. The prospective applicant advised the primary haul routes that would be used for the proposed development were determined suitable in the planning permission for the MBT Facility. The prospective applicant further advised this will be discussed with Kildare County Council at consultation stage. The Board's representatives stressed that traffic needs to be addressed in any future development of the Facility.
- In response to the Board's representatives query on traffic volumes the prospective applicant said a preliminary estimate of traffic arising from the proposed development would be c.60 HGV movements per day subject to seasonal/monthly fluctuations. Furthermore, a cumulative assessment of both the Drehid Waste

Management Facility and the MBT Facility is estimated at 100 HGV movements per day.

- The Board's representatives highlighted the issue of ammonia levels as a concern from the planning permission which was refused. The prospective applicant advised they are still gathering data from site investigation works. It has found low ammonia levels relating predominately to peat drainage. The prospective applicant also advised there is a mushroom factory and Irish Water Facilities in the vicinity of the site.
- The prospective applicant stated consultations with the EPA have taken place and it is intended to commence public pre-application consultations shortly.
- It was also noted that due consideration will need to be given to how the site boundary is presented, the approach to the actual application and how the prospective applicant will define the boundary of the project. The prospective applicant stated that discussions with the EPA regarding the appropriate site boundary for the purpose of the license application are ongoing.
- The Board's representatives advised that, on the basis of the information presented, it is their preliminary view that the proposed development would constitute a strategic infrastructure development but that ultimately this is a decision for the Board.
- The Board representatives concluded by noting the outstanding issues relating to traffic and ground conditions / impact on European sites and highlighted the fact that any future application will have to clearly address these issues. The Board representatives also noted the comments of the prospective applicant with regard to where they are in the preparation of the application documentation and the ir consultations with other parties including Kildare County Council and the EPA. In light of these factors the Board representatives expressed the view that it would appear beneficial to the prospective applicant for the pre application consultation process to remain open and for a further meeting to be held.

Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wished to do so. It was agreed that a further meeting would take place to discuss issues arising including hydrology, formal feedback from the EPA and ammonia levels, with the prospective applicant to revert to the Board for a date.



Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning

