



Glendruid Dolmen Public Group

Submission regarding Priorsland SHD

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Submitted on behalf of Group (GDPG)

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Introduction

This submission is from the *Glendruid Dolmen Public Group*. We are seeking to improve access to the Glendruid Dolmen and to protect its special setting, and the parkland character of the Glendruid valley for current and future generations. This includes protection of the views in the valley and protection of the natural woodland character.

Development plan for large scale residential developments in the valley are in direct conflict with heritage, bio-diversity and amenity objectives.

Summary Points

1. GDPG have no particular concerns regarding the heights and density of the development. These appear appropriate.
2. An observation that we would have is that An Bord Pleanála and the DLR County Council, including the Cherrywood SDZ planning section, should look at planning process again for the whole area. The system is broken, when applications are being made for densities of 140 units per hectare off Brennanstown Road, (Barringtons Tower SHD) while Res 2 and Res 3 densities within the SDZ are significantly lower. This makes no planning sense !
3. There should also be a review within the Cherrywood SDZ to revisit the overall plan. The significant amendments to the Cherrywood SDZ should permit higher densities within the new town centres and village centres, and remove development for environmentally and heritage sensitive lands of Glendruid.
4. Build more apartments on the level flat land around the new roads and LUAS system. Remove development planned for the steeply slopes sides of the Glendruid valley.
5. The Priorsland development should and could be higher and denser.
6. The parkland areas could be reduced if compensated by removal of RES 1 development from the "Druids Glen West" development area.
7. The Glendruid Dolmen has an alignment with Fairy Castle at Two Rock mountain. This alignment crosses over Priorsland. There is an opportunity to take note of this in the design of buildings or landscape.
8. The area is noted to have considerable neolithic period activity and right through later periods. While much excavation and digs have been completed, it is essential that the works be proceeded and accompanied by the appropriate archaeological team. Significant finds to be considered for preservation in situ or in alternative form.

The Glendruid Dolmen Public Group, GDPG

The Glendruid Dolmen Public Group was established in October 2021 by concerned members of the public to raise awareness and get greater transparency on access and other issues relating to Glendruid Dolmen and Valley area.

The About section from October 2021 gives the group's objective:

"This Group has objective of giving a forum for anyone interested in this amazing Dolmen that sits in a beautiful valley in South County Dublin. For almost 5,500 years it has enjoyed a natural setting and this may change with the encroachment of large residential developments. It is important that the public know what is planned and how this is sensitively handled."

The interest of the Group has extended to the wider Glendruid valley area, and issues of heritage, biodiversity, spiritual aspects of the ancient tomb area, and greater access.

The Group currently has **1,300 members**. It has a four person organising committee, and three administrators to moderate online content. This submission is the approved submission on behalf of the Group and was prepared by the GDPG committee.

Aerial and elevated perspective and showing context

We request that the application show the development in the context of its surroundings using elevated views and aerial perspectives. A CGI photo-montage of the development showing its scale and height in the context of the area should be considered essential to properly assess the development.

Protected Views and ancient alignment from Glendruid Dolmen

The Glendruid Dolmen has an alignment with the peak of Two Rock. As the dolmen is lower in the valley, an elevated view is required to appreciate this. Buildings higher than those planned would start to affect this view.

Verified views should look at the Priorsland development from this perspective.



Cairns in Dublin Mountains are part of ancient funeral network.



The above graphic gives indication of overall development in area. The importance of moderating development close to Glendruid is clear. Very significant quantum of development is provided nearby, with significantly less impact on sensitive valley area. GPG call for restrain on Brennanstown Road.

GDPG request ABP and DLR Co Council to revise the SDZ to move development planned for Druid Glen West to elsewhere in the SDZ.

Glendruid Valley's ancient Woodlands –.



Glendruid Valley is a magical woodland valley in the heart of south county Dublin, with the Carrickmines river flowing through it, and steep valley sides with their tall Scots Pines. Overlooked at one end by Barrington's Glendruid House, and in the valley floor a portal tomb from our long past ancestors. To end this vista with a wall of 10 storey monolithic structures would be highly inappropriate and against planning policies.

Extract on the ecological value of Glendruid Valley and a proposal for an ecological buffer zone. Its from an 2011 Cherrywood SDZ report.

"The Glen contains both freshwater and woodland habitat types including .. (mixed) broadleaved woodland. These habitats support a range of fauna that are found only in the Glen in the context of the whole SDZ area.

Tree species included Beech, Ash, Scots Pine, Oak, Sycamore and Wych Elm. The understorey on the slopes of the valley was dominated by Holly with occasional Hazel and Elder. The ground layer on these slopes was heavily shaded and only Ivy was found. On the valley floor there was a path sloping along the southern side and there were areas of Cherry Laurel that have become established. This invasive shrub out-shaded much of the central portion of Druid's Glen. Further upstream and downstream the valley floor contained a diverse ground flora with Bramble, Honeysuckle, Male-fern, Great Wood-rush, Soft Shield-fern, Hard-fern, Hart's-tongue. In Spring the woodland flora supported Sanicle, Lords-and-Ladies, Herb-Robert, Wood Speedwell and Enchanter's- nightshade. Wood anemone was found in both its white form and the non native Blue Anemone..

Three invasive species were found in this woodland in Druid's Glen: Giant Hogweed, Cherry laurel

and occasional Rhododendron. The latter two are woody species that had out-shaded the native ground flora and limit its ecological value.”

The full report is here.

https://www.dlrcoco.ie/.../files/atoms/files/appendixd_0.pdf

The SDZ plan now includes a buffer zone along the south side of the woodlands on the upland to the Laughanstown town centre area. The south side of Valley the main area of woodland is zoned Objective F, open space and amenity. The north side of the valley remains zoned residential both within the SDZ and the areas outside the SDZ and around the Dolmen. The woodland around the quaker cemetery is zoned open space and public amenity.

Barrington’s Tower land is part of this great natural parkland setting. Due recognition of this is not reflected in the Application. The removal of trees has to be seen in the wider valley context and the serious contribution to degrade the natural amenity of the area.

Looked at on its own it may not appear significant, however it is the aggregation of all the tree felling proposals that destroys the character of this special valley.