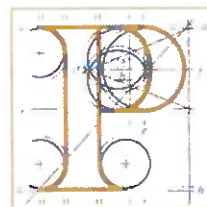


Our Case Number: ABP-318758-23

Your Reference: An Post - SID-OBS-001483



An
Bord
Pleanála

RMLA Planning Consultants
Unit 3B,
Santry Avenue Industrial Estate,
Santry Avenue,
Santry,
Dublin 9
D09 PH04

Date: 15 February 2024

Re: Proposed public realm improvement works known as the "Westgate 2040 Project"
in Drogheda, County Louth

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with conditions.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Aisling Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737131

JA02

Teil
Glaao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel (01) 858 8100
LoCall 1800 275 175
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Website www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



Planning Consultants

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

RMLA Limited,
Unit 3B,
Santry Avenue Industrial Estate,
Santry Avenue,
Santry,
Dublin 9,
D09 PH04

Email: admin@rmla.ie
Date: 7th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed public realm improvement works known as the 'Westgate 2040 Project', Drogheda, County Louth.

An Bord Pleanála Ref. No. 318758

This submission has been prepared by RMLA, Unit 3B, Santry Avenue Industrial Estate, Santry Avenue, Santry, Dublin 9, D09 PH04, on behalf of An Post, Exo Building, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, D01 W5Y2100 in response to the publication of the Westgate 2040 Scheme. An Post welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Local Authority on this project which has the potential to greatly improve the streetscape with a focus on pedestrian movement and public realm enhancements within Drogheda.

This submission is accompanied by the appropriate fee of €50.00. Please note all correspondence in relation to this submission should be sent to the Agents, RMLA Limited, Unit 3B, Santry Avenue Industrial Estate, Santry Avenue, Santry, Dublin 9, D09 PH04. We would request that An Bord Pleanála keep us informed of any decisions relating to this application.

An Post fully acknowledges and welcomes the need to increase pedestrianisation and public realm developments within Drogheda and we would request that the Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála consider this submission in the preparation and finalisation of the Westgate 2040 Scheme and accommodate future engagements with An Post.

Westgate Vision Area

The Westgate 2040 Project aims to support positive urban regeneration and public realm improvements as part of the 'Westgate Vision Area' and wider Drogheda Town regeneration. The main objectives are to create quality and inclusive public spaces and pedestrian linkages to support a strong sense of identity and place. Actions to achieve this include the provision of attractive seating areas, hard and soft landscaping furnishings, tree planting, revised road access and increased cycle infrastructure. Extensive plans are also proposed as new public spaces at George's Square /West Street and Medieval Wall Character Areas and the Riverfront Boardwalk.

An Post Operational Requirements

An Post plays a central role in Irish life and society, providing an essential public service delivering mail and parcels to more than 2.2 million business and residential addresses six days a week. As such, the efficient operation of An Post's postal facilities, including both e-Commerce (Mails & Parcels) and Customer (Retail), is central to the successful provision of postal services for businesses and personal customers. It is imperative that, in order to protect the smooth operation of the existing postal service facilities in Drogheda, that unrestricted 24-hour access for deliveries/collections are protected, in addition to customer access.

Given the nature of An Post's role, providing an essential public service delivering mail and parcels, they require the use of a significant number of small and large vehicles on a daily basis. Unrestricted vehicular access, is, therefore, of critical importance to the operation of the service they provide and any limitations in this regard can have serious knock-on impacts on the ability of An Post to meet the postal needs of the public and service their legal agreements with the State.

While An Post welcomes the new public realm enhancements as set out in 'Westgate 2040', it is requested that the Local Authority, during all stages of the planning and development process associated with the Scheme, carefully considers the operational requirements of An Post's Retail unit located on West Street, in addition to post-boxes/collection points across the town. In this regard, An Post would welcome and encourage the Local Authority to engage directly with An Post during the implementation stages of the Scheme, to ensure minimal disruption of postal operations during both construction and operational stages.

Public realm improvements are supported by An Post, however, the Local Authority is requested to give due cognisance to the importance of providing safe routes and appropriate surface finishes that can accommodate HGV movements and other service vehicles associated with the postal service throughout both the planning, construction and operational phases of any works which may be implemented under the new scheme.

Request for Consultation

As outlined above, An Post welcomes this opportunity to comment and engage for the preparation of Westgate 2040 and expresses their interest in direct engagement with the Local Authority. In this regard, it is requested that the Local Authority carefully consider the operational requirements of An Post, specifically maintaining access to An Post facilities, at all stages of the Westgate 2040 development process. It is further requested that full collaboration and discussions are held with An Post, the Local Authority, and the appointed contractor prior to and during any such works to minimise as much as possible any disruption to An Post's operations in Drogheda.

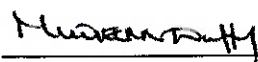
Conclusion

We trust that the matters outlined above will be taken into consideration by the Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála in the assessment of this application.

We are available for discussion on any of the matters referred to above and request direct engagement with the Local Authority as part of the finalisation of this strategy.

We would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this submission by return.

Yours faithfully,



Muirenn Duffy

Director,

For and on Behalf of RMLA Limited