

Comhairle Chontae Atha Cliath Theas

PR/0621/22

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Order

Reg. Reference: SD22A/0082 **Application Date:** 24-Mar-2022
Submission Type: New Application **Registration Date:** 24-Mar-2022

Correspondence Name and Address: Joseph Cunningham & Associates Aspen House, 76
Seatown, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Proposed Development: Change of use from existing short term tourist
accommodation units to full apartment type living
accommodation units consisting of 10 two bed ground
floor units and 10 two bed duplex type units at first
floor level (20 units in total); also, include small
elevational changes to facilitate balcony extensions at
first floor level and new balcony areas at ground floor
level in order to accommodate private amenity space
for the individual units; omit Planning Condition 6 of
Planning Ref. S01A/0051 (which links the use of units
to the City West Hotel); new bicycle shelter and all
associated site development works, parking,
landscaping and boundary treatment works.

Location: Westpark Crescent, Garters Lane, Saggart, Dublin 24

Applicant Name: Suites Hotel Management CLG

Application Type: Permission

(COS)

Description of Site and Surroundings

Site Area: stated as 0.46 Hectares on the application.

Site Visit: 20th of April 2022.

Site Description

The subject site is located within an existing development at the north-east corner of the Citywest Hotel Complex and golf course, on the corner of Garter Lane and Naas Road (N7). The site consists of a 3-storey building which is of a semi-circular form. The building comprises of 20 short term tourist accommodation units. Surface car parking is to the front (south-west) of the building. There is existing mature trees and vegetation along the boundaries with Garter Lane (south-eastern boundary) and N7 (northern boundary). The adjoining site to the south-west consists of 4 storey residential apartment buildings, that were previously also used as short term tourist accommodation. The site is accessed from Garter Lane via this adjoining residential development.

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Proposal

Permission is being sought for the following works:

- Change of use from existing short term tourist accommodation units to full apartment type living accommodation units consisting of 10 two bed ground floor units and 10 two bed duplex type units at first floor level (20 units in total); also, include small elevational changes to facilitate balcony extensions at first floor level and new balcony areas at ground floor level in order to accommodate private amenity space for the individual units;
- Omit Planning Condition 6 of Planning Ref. S01A/0051 (which links the use of units to the City West Hotel);
- New bicycle shelter and all associated site development works, parking, landscaping and boundary treatment works.

Zoning

The subject site is subject to zoning objective 'OS': *'To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities'* under the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022.

Consultations

Water Services – no objection subject to conditions.

Irish Water – no objection subject to conditions.

Roads Department – additional information requested.

Public Lighting – no comments.

Public Realm – additional information requested.

Heritage Officer – no report received.

Architectural Conservation Officer – no report received.

H.S.E. Environmental Health Officer – no objection subject to conditions.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland – no report received.

Faite Ireland – no report received.

Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – no report received.

Department of Defence – no report received.

SEA Sensitivity Screening – the site overlaps in part with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) B layer.

Submissions/Observations /Representations

No third party submissions received.

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Relevant Planning History

Subject site

SD02A/0411

Retention of alterations to the rear elevation including provision of minor extensions and slight alterations to fenestration to previously approved crescent shaped development. Application Ref. S01A/0051 at lands at Citywest Golf Club. **Permission for retention granted.**

S01A/0051

Twenty hotel suites apartments arranged in crescent shape, 3 storey block, new access via previously permitted development plan reference No. S95A/0477, S97A/0293 and subsequent permission, with associated access road, parking, landscaping, siteworks and service. **Permission granted.**

Condition No. 6 stated:

That the proposed development shall be occupied and used only as part of the existing hotel complex on the extended site. Individual units within the complex shall be used for short term tourist accommodation lettings only. Any change will require a grant of planning permission from the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanala on appeal.

Reason: To meet the specific tourism requirements of the development as set out in this application and to ensure that the hotel suites are used solely for tourist accommodation and not sold or occupied as residential units independent of the hotel complex in the interests of amenity and the proper planning and development of the area.

Adjacent site also previously linked to Citywest Hotel Complex

SD16A/0441

Change of use of 80 short term tourist accommodation units (34 1 bed, 46 2 bed units) and the ground floor of the 'reception' block (formerly a hotel reception, dining room and kitchen) to provide for 84 residential apartment units to comprise 34 1 bed, 44 2 bed and 6 3 bed apartments; the provision of balconies/terraces and new openings for windows/doors to all apartment units; the provision of children's play areas, bin stores and 84 bicycle parking spaces. All associated site development, building improvements, landscaping and boundary treatment works above and below ground. **Permission granted.**

SD13A/0190

Permission for omission of conditions attached to Reg. Ref. S95A/0477, S97A/0293 and S97A/0294 in respect of existing development comprising Blocks known as Thomas Scurlock (Nos. 21-34), Dean Swift (Nos. 35-48), Mary Mercer (Nos. 49-62), James Harold (Nos. 63-76), James O'Toole (Nos. 77-90) and Reception (Nos. 91-100). The development sought will consist of the

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omission of Condition No. 3 of Reg. Ref. S95A/0477, Condition 14 of Reg. Ref. S97A/0293 and Condition 14 of Reg. Ref. S97A/0294 (which link the use of the units to the City West Hotel Complex) in so far as they relate to Blocks referenced above in order to facilitate the operation of these units as centrally managed short-term tourist and visitor accommodation independent of the Citywest Hotel Complex. **Permission granted.**

S00A/0563

Retention of two flagpoles and flags at entrance to hotel, along with a digital signpost along the N7/N9 site boundary, two metal signs attached to wing walls at the entrance gate. **Permission granted and refused by SDCC. The decision was appealed by the first party to An Bord Pleanála. ABP granted and refused permission.**

Other sites in relation to the Citywest Hotel Complex – The Round Garden Apartments

SD18A/0368

Retention of the change of use of 32 apartments from short term tourist accommodation to residential use; associated internal works at ground level to convert fourteen 2 bedroom apartments to fourteen 1 bedroom apartments, including provision of study rooms and increased storage space together with works to provide increased storage space to two apartments; associated internal works at first and second floor (mezzanine) levels to provide enlarged bedrooms, new study rooms and increased storage space to sixteen apartments; associated works to increase the size of fourteen balconies on the southern facade of the building; retention of vehicular access to the development from Church Road via the laneway to the south of the site; associated ground level site and landscaping works including the provision of new or enlarged gardens to the ground floor apartments, reduction in the number of parking spaces from 38 to 29 spaces, removal of associated hard surfacing and the provision of communal open space measuring 711sq.m including a children's play area, cycle parking for up to 32 bicycle and hard and soft landscaping. **Permission and retention permission granted.**

SD14A/0209 & ABP Ref. PL 06S.244266

Development will consist of the following modifications : construction of a new colonnade to the southern elevation of the existing building creating larger balconies for the dwelling at first floor level and private open space for the ground floor apartments; modifications to the site layout including reconfiguration of the existing car parking layout, a new landscaped public courtyard and provision of new outdoor playcentre for the existing residents and all ancillary site works and services; retention of the existing building on revised site boundaries; retention of the change of use of the existing apartments from short stay holiday accommodation to standard residential use. **SDCC refused permission and retention permission** for the following reasons:

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1. *The proposed retention of the change of use of the apartments from short term 'golf apartments' for tourism purposes to permanent residential accommodation would result in the provision of a 32 unit apartment block on 'F - open space' zoned lands. This would materially contravene the development objective indicated in the Development Plan for this land use zoning which is 'to preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities'. The permanent residential use would have no link or connection to tourism or to recreational amenities and instead would provide for a speculative large scale residential use on lands which have not been zoned as suitable for this purpose. The proposed retention would also undermine the restriction on housing on similar developments in the vicinity and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.*

2. *The proposed development would materially contravene Condition 10 of S96A/0462 in that it would permit access from Garters Lane, where visibility splays are inadequate, to a permanent residential development via the vehicular access to the south-east of the site instead of via the access avenue to Citywest Hotel and Golf Club.*

3. *The proposed development would result in the removal of short term tourist accommodation in proximity to Citywest Hotel and Golf Club, a major tourism amenity in the County. The removal of this accommodation would undermine Policy EE28: 'Major Leisure Facilities', which states: 'It is the policy of the Council to secure the sustainable provision of major leisure facilities in the County.....'*

and, with specific reference to LZO 9 'Citywest Destination Resort Complex, Saggart', the aim of which is to support and facilitate the enhancement of such facilities.

4. *The proposed apartments would be seriously substandard in terms of floorspace for 2 bedroom apartments and would not meet the requirements of the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (Department of the Environment 2007) which require 73sq.m of floorspace for two bedroom apartments. This would also contravene Policy SN19: Minimum Standards for New Residential Units of the County Development Plan 2010-2016. In addition, no storage areas have been provided and no information has been submitted regarding the use and layout of the large mezzanine floors at second floor level.*

5. *The proposed development would result in substandard levels of private open space to units 19, 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 due to lack of adequate balcony depth resulting in limited amenity potential. In addition, the semi-private open space proposed is too small to provide for the expected needs of the inhabitants of 32 apartments. No public open space has been provided, and no public parks are located in proximity to the development. This shortfall of public open space is not reflected in a generous provision of semi-private open space. The proposal would not therefore be in compliance*

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with several policies within the County Development Plan which provide for the protection of residential amenity in apartment developments including:-

Policy SN27: Private Amenity Space.

Policy SN26: Semi-Private Amenity Space

Policy SCR42: Public Open Space and Childrens' Play Areas

Policy SN17: Bin Storage

The proposal would therefore materially contravene the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016.

6. The application makes no reference to the location of the site within the curtilage of a Protected Structure, being the walled garden, previously part of the Tassagart House and associated stables complex (RPS:290 and RPS:292). No architectural heritage assessment has been submitted and the impacts of the proposal on the protected site boundary wall cannot be ascertained. The proposal would therefore not comply with Policy AA11 Development Proposals involving Protected Structures.

7. The proposed development would set an undesirable precedent for large residential developments on open space zoned lands, which would in themselves and cumulatively be harmful to the development objectives of the area and be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

First party appeal against decision to An Bord Pleanala. **Permission refused by ABP** for the following reason:

Having regard to the restricted size of the two-bed apartment units, in particular the shortfall in aggregate living areas and storage area, as well as external bin store areas, it is considered that the proposed development and the development proposed to be retained would lead to a poor standard of residential amenity for the intended occupants, would be contrary to the residential quality policies of the planning authority as set out in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016, would be contrary to the provisions of the "Sustainable Urban Housing Design Standards for New Apartments – Guidelines for Planning Authorities" issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2007) and would be contrary to the provisions of the "Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities Best Practice Guidelines" issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2007).

The proposed development and the development proposed to be retained would give rise to a cramped form of development, would constitute the over-development of a restricted site, and would, therefore, seriously injure the amenities of the area and the amenities of future occupants, and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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Relevant Enforcement History

S4947

Change of use of 10 no. premier suites of the apart-hotel from tourist to commercial use. Alleged non-compliance with planning permission in that one block is being used as residential (change of use). **Closed due to insufficient information.**

Pre-Planning Consultation

PP003/21

Change of use of the complex consisting of 20 units from short term lettings to apartment-style dwellings.

Relevant Policy in South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 – 2022

Section 1.7.3 Self Sustaining Growth Towns

Policy CS3 Emerging Moderate Sustainable Growth Town

It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable long term growth of Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns/Emerging Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns based on the capacity of public transport connections and the capacity of social infrastructure.

Policy H6 Sustainable Communities

It is the policy of the Council to support the development of sustainable communities and to ensure that new housing development is carried out in accordance with Government policy in relation to the development of housing and residential communities.

Policy H7 Urban Design in Residential Developments

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all new residential development within the County is of high quality design and complies with Government guidance on the design of sustainable residential development and residential streets including that prepared by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Policy H8 Residential Densities

It is the policy of the Council to promote higher residential densities at appropriate locations and to ensure that the density of new residential development is appropriate to its location and surrounding context.

Policy H9 Residential Building Heights

It is the policy of the Council to support varied building heights across residential and mixed use areas in South Dublin County.

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Policy H10 Mix of Dwelling Types

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that a wide variety of adaptable housing types, sizes and tenures are provided in the County in accordance with the provisions of the Interim South Dublin County Council Housing Strategy 2016-2022.

Section 2.3.0 Quality Of Residential Development

Policy H11 Residential Design and Layout

It is the policy of the Council to promote a high quality of design and layout in new residential development and to ensure a high quality living environment for residents, in terms of the standard of individual dwelling units and the overall layout and appearance of the development.

Policy H12 Public Open Space

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all residential development is served by a clear hierarchy and network of high quality public open spaces that provides for active and passive recreation and enhances the visual character, identity and amenity of the area.

Policy H13 Private and Semi-Private Open Space

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all dwellings have access to high quality private open space (incl. semi-private open space for duplex and apartment units) and that private open space is carefully integrated into the design of new residential developments.

Policy H14 Internal Residential Accommodation

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all new housing provides a high standard of accommodation that is flexible and adaptable, to meet the long term needs of a variety of household types and sizes.

Policy H15 Privacy and Security

It is the policy of the Council to promote a high standard of privacy and security for existing and proposed dwellings through the design and layout of housing.

Policy H15 Residential Consolidation

It is the policy of the Council to support residential consolidation and sustainable intensification at appropriate locations, to support ongoing viability of social and physical infrastructure and services and meet the future housing needs of the County.

Section 3.2.0 Community Facilities

Section 3.13.0 Open Space Management & Use

Policy C12 Open Space

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It is the policy of the Council that a hierarchical network of high quality open space is available to those who live, work and visit the County, providing for both passive and active recreation, and that the resource offered by public open spaces, parks and playing fields is maximised through effective management.

Policy UC6 Building Heights

It is the policy of the Council to support varied building heights across town, district, village and local centres and regeneration areas in South Dublin County.

Section 6.3.0 Walking And Cycling

Policy TM3 Walking and Cycling

It is the policy of the Council to re-balance movement priorities towards more sustainable modes of transportation.

Section 6.4.3 Road and Street Design

Policy TM12

It is the policy of Council to ensure that streets and roads within the County are designed to balance the needs of place and movement, to provide a safe traffic-calmed street environment, particularly in sensitive areas and where vulnerable users are present.

Section 6.4.4 Car Parking

Policy TM7 Car Parking

Section 7.1.0 Water Supply & Wastewater

Policy IE1 Water & Wastewater

It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and drainage infrastructure and to promote investment in the water and drainage network to support environmental protection and facilitate the sustainable growth of the County.

Section 7.2.0 Surface Water & Groundwater

Policy IE2 Surface Water & Groundwater

It is the policy of the Council to manage surface water and to protect and enhance ground and surface water quality to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Section 7.3.0 Flood Risk Management

Policy IE3 Flood Risk

It is the policy of the Council to continue to incorporate Flood Risk Management into the spatial planning of the County, to meet the requirements of the EU Floods Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive.

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Section 8.0 Green Infrastructure

Policy G1 Overarching

Policy G1 Green Infrastructure Network

Policy G3 Watercourses Network

Policy G4 Public Open Space and Landscape Setting

Policy G5 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Policy G6 New Development in Urban Areas

Section 9.3.1 Natura 2000 Sites

Policy HCL12 Natura 2000 Sites

Section 10.0 Energy

Policy E4 Energy Performance in New Buildings

Section 11.2.0 Place Making and Urban Design

Section 11.2.1 Design Statements

Section 11.2.2 Masterplans

Table 11.17: Masterplan Considerations

Section 11.2.7 Building Height

Section 11.3.1 Residential

(i) Mix of Dwelling Types

(ii) Residential Density

(iii) Public Open Space/Children's Play

(iv) Dwelling Standards

(v) Privacy

(vi) Dual Aspect

(vii) Access Cores and Communal Areas

(viii) Clothes Drying Facilities

Table 11.21: Minimum Space Standards for Apartments

Section 11.4.1 Bicycle Parking Standards

Table 11.22: Minimum Bicycle Parking Rates

Section 11.4.2 Car Parking Standards

Table 11.24: Maximum Parking Rates (Residential Development)

Section 11.4.3 Car Parking for Electric Vehicles

Section 11.4.4 Car Parking Design and Layout

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Section 11.4.5 Traffic and Transport Assessments

Section 11.6.1 (i) Flood Risk Assessment

Section 11.6.1 (ii) Surface Water

Section 11.6.1 (iii) Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS)

Section 11.6.1 (iv) Groundwater

Section 11.6.1 (v) Rainwater Harvesting

Section 11.6.1 (vi) Water Services

Section 11.7.1 Energy Performance In Existing Buildings

Section 11.8.1 Environmental Impact Assessment

Section 11.8.2 Appropriate Assessment

Relevant Government Policy & Guidelines

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework, Government of Ireland, (2018).

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031, Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly, (2019).

Section 5 – Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, in Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 – 2031.

Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009).

Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide, A Companion Document to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (2009).

Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities-Best Practice Guidelines, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (2007).

Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, (2020)

Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, (2018).

Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (2009).

OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (March 2021).

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government & OPW, (2009).

Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: A Guide to Good Practice, Building Research Establishment, (1991).

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Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future. A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020, Department of Transport, (2009).

National Cycle Manual, National Transport Authority, (June 2011).

Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Government of Ireland (2001)

Assessment

The main issues for assessment relate to:

- Zoning and Council Policy;
- Change of Use;
- Planning Condition;
- Part V;
- Residential and Visual Amenity;
- Landscaping;
- Traffic, Access and Parking;
- Services and Drainage;
- Environmental Health;
- Environmental Impact Assessment; and
- Appropriate Assessment.

Zoning and Council Policy

Land Use Zoning

The subject site is located within zoning objective 'OS': *'To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities'*. Residential development is Open for Consideration under this zoning objective. The County Development Plan states that these uses may be acceptable to the Planning Authority subject to a detailed assessment against the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, and the relevant policies, objectives and standards set out in the Plan. Proposed uses in this category will be subject to full assessment on their own merits and particularly in relation to their impact on the development of the County at a strategic and a local level. Such uses may only be permitted where they do not materially conflict with other aspects of the Plan.

The existing building and use were granted under Reg. Ref. S01A/0051, with subsequent design related amendments granted under Reg. Ref. SD02A/0411. The parent permission was for 20 'hotel suites'. At the time the parent permission was granted the site was zoned Objective 'F' *"to preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities"* (under the 2010-2016 County Development Plan). Hotel/Motel use was open for consideration under this zoning objective at the time. A condition on the parent permission required the units to be occupied and used for short term tourist accommodation lettings only, as part of the existing hotel complex on the extended site.

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The subject application would involve the change the use of the short-term tourist accommodation to residential apartments. The site is located on Garter Lane on the edge of the Citywest Hotel lands in Saggart. The Saggart/Citywest area, within which the subject site is located, is defined as a 'Self-Sustaining Growth Town' under the County Development Plan (Variation No. 4). The self-sustaining growth town of Saggart/Citywest will develop based on the capacity of the public transport network and social infrastructure. Policy CS3 outlines it is the policy of the Plan to support sustainable long-term growth based on the capacity of public transport connections and the capacity of social infrastructure.

A precedent has been set for a similar change of use on lands zoned 'Open Space' and associated with the Citywest Hotel Complex, as a result of Reg. Ref. SD16A/0441 on the adjoining lands and Reg. Ref. SD18A/0368 at Round Garden, further south of the subject site. These permissions involved the change of use of 84 and 32 short term tourist accommodation units to residential apartments respectively. The subject development would add 20 residential apartments to this. It is also the last of the originally granted tourist accommodation of the Citywest Hotel Complex in this specific area (north-east of the Citywest Hotel Complex).

The subject site is approx. 900m from the Saggart Luas stop. There are Dublin Bus services along Garter Lane, with a bus stop directly at the entrance to the site from Garter Lane. This includes services to the city centre. Under the revised BusConnects network Orbital, Other City Bound and Peak Time Routes are proposed along Garter Lane. The site is also approx. 1 km to Saggart Village, which has a number of local facilities.

Taking into account the planning history of the adjacent and similar lands, the site context and location in terms of public transport and social infrastructure, it is considered that the use of the building for permanent residential use would be acceptable, subject to adequate residential amenity and compliance with other relevant policies, objectives and standards.

Design Statement

Under Section 11.2.1 of the County Development Plan development proposals of this size (above 10 dwellings) shall be accompanied by a Design Statement. The applicant has submitted a Planning Information Report which sets out the proposed development and how it has been assessed against the relevant standards. Given that the proposed development is for the change of use of an existing building, it is not considered that a full Design Statement is required in this instance.

Change of Use

The proposed development would provide for the change of use from existing short term tourist accommodation units to full apartment type living accommodation units. The applicant states that

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the units were originally connected to the City West Hotel. They state that because the hotel has changed ownership it is now proposed to change the use of these units. The applicant states this is in order to regularise the current situation. A letter of consent from the management company has been submitted stating that they have contacted the individual owners of each of the 20 units and gained consent.

The applicant should be requested to clarify the existing use i.e. whether the units are currently being used as residential apartments. If so, the change of use from short term tourist accommodation to residential apartments should be applied for as retention permission. If this is the case, revised statutory planning notices should be submitted as part of the additional information response. **This can be addressed by way of additional information.**

Planning Condition

The proposal would also involve the omission of Planning Condition 6 of Planning Ref. S01A/0051 (which links the use of units to the City West Hotel). This condition reads as follows:

That the proposed development shall be occupied and used only as part of the existing hotel complex on the extended site. Individual units within the complex shall be used for short term tourist accommodation lettings only. Any change will require a grant of planning permission from the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanala on appeal.

Reason: To meet the specific tourism requirements of the development as set out in this application and to ensure that the hotel suites are used solely for tourist accommodation and not sold or occupied as residential units independent of the hotel complex in the interests of amenity and the proper planning and development of the area.

The condition states that any change will require a grant of planning permission. Therefore the granting of the subject application would not materially contravene this condition. Given that the proposed change of use acceptable in principle, the Planning Authority finds the omission of this condition acceptable.

Part V

Section 96(13)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states that this section shall not apply for permission for “*the conversion of an existing building or the reconstruction of a building to create one or more dwellings, provided that 50 per cent or more of the existing external fabric of the building is retained*”. Over 50% of the existing external fabric of the building is to be retained. It is therefore considered that Part V does not apply in this instance.

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Residential and Visual Amenity

Unit Mix and Type

The proposed 20 apartments would all be 2-bed, 3 person apartments. 10 apartments would be provided at ground floor and 10 duplex type apartments would be provided over the first and second levels. The apartments on the ground floor would be own door (accessed from the front elevation). The apartments on the upper floors would be accessed by 5 stairwells externally accessible from the rear elevation.

While the proposed development would provide for only 2 bed apartments, the adjacent lands (and overall site) provide for a mix of 1 bed, 2 bed and 3 bed apartments. A range of housing has also been permitted within the wider vicinity of the site. Given the scale of the development and surrounding housing, the proposed unit mix is considered to be in compliance with the County Development Plan. The proposed unit mix also complies with the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (2020) (Apartment Guidelines).

As per section 3.6 of the 2020 Apartment Guidelines *“planning authorities may also consider a two-bedroom apartment to accommodate 3 persons, with a minimum floor area of 63 square metres, in accordance with the standards set out in Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities (and reiterated here in Appendix 1). This type of unit may be particularly suited to certain social housing schemes such as sheltered housing.”*

This unit type is not provided for in SDCC's County Development Plan, nor is it imposed by a Specific Planning Policy Requirement of the 2020 Guidelines. The correct standard is therefore the County Development Plan, which contains a blanket minimum floor size of 73sq.m for all 2 bed apartments. The proposed apartments would be approx. 69.4sq.m to 122.9sq.m in size. One apartment type would be approx. 69.4sq.m in size, and therefore under the 73sq.m standard. Considering that this is only marginally under, and that the proposal is to retrofit an existing building, this is considered to be acceptable in this instance.

6 apartment types are indicated in the application documentation. However, it is not clear what apartment type each apartment is (only indicated for some). There are also 2 of every type, so the numbering should be reviewed. **This should be addressed by way of additional information.**

Standard of Accommodation

The existing units would be amended to provide for 20 apartments. This would largely involve internal amendments and elevational changes to facilitate balcony extensions at first floor level and new balcony areas at ground floor level in order to accommodate private amenity space for the apartments. The first and second level apartments would be over 2 storeys with bedrooms, kitchen,

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bathroom, dining and private amenity on the lower floor (first floor level) and living and storage on the upper floor (second floor level). The ground floor apartments would all be at ground level.

The double bedrooms in Types 1 and one of the Type 3s would be undersized. For these apartment types, the largest bedrooms would be 10.8sq.m, 11.2sq.m and 10.5sqm. However, the total aggregate bedroom areas for the apartments would be 20.8sq.m, 22.4sq.m and 20.7sq.m. Given this, and that they are only slightly under, the bedroom sizes are considered to be acceptable.

The proposed storage would range from 5.0sq.m to 5.3sq.m. This is slightly under the County Development Plan standard, however, is considered sufficient given the proposal is to retrofit an existing building. Floor to ceiling heights would be approx. 2.5m to 2.8m, which is in compliance with the Apartment Guidelines. The apartments would be dual or triple aspect. This exceeds the requirements and is therefore in compliance.

Private and Communal Open Space

Private amenity spaces in the form of balconies and terraces would largely be provided on the south-west (front) elevation, except at the ground floor for apartment nos. 1 and 10 where it would be provided on the side elevations, located east and south of the building (due to the layout of the building). The private amenity spaces all would be approx. 6sq.m to 15.5sq.m in size. The 6sq.m spaces are under the County Development Plan requirement of 7sq.m. It is also considered that private amenity space should be provided in line with 2 bed 4 person apartments under the Apartment Guidelines, which is also 7sq.m. **This should be addressed by way of additional information.**

It is noted that achievement of the standards for private open space is dependent of works being carried out. The units appear to currently be occupied. No timescale has been set out in the application documentation for the carrying out of these works. Therefore, if permission is granted, a condition should be included imposing a timescale for the carrying out of these works, namely one year from the date of grant of permission, or other such period as agreed in writing with the Planning Authority within one month of the date of the final grant of permission.

Modifications to the existing areas of open space have been indicated to provide amenity areas and landscaping. However, as also pointed out by the Public Realm Section, it is not clear what is proposed as communal open space. **The applicant should be requested to clarify this via additional information.**

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Visual and Residential Amenity

The closest residential development to the site is the adjacent apartment buildings to the south-west of the site. The south-eastern (inner circular) elevation would be amended to provide for private amenity space for the ground floor apartments and extend the existing private amenity spaces for the first floor apartments. The side elevations would be amended to provide for private amenity spaces at the ground floor for the apartments on the sides. No changes to the overall height of the building are proposed. Given the small scale and nature of the proposed external works it is not considered that the proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on visual and residential amenity.

Landscaping

The applicant states that 500sq.m of public open space and landscaping would be provided. As noted above it is not clear whether this includes communal open space. **The applicant should clarify this.** High quality, usable communal open space should be provided in line with the County Development Plan and Apartment Guidelines. In terms of public open space, it is acknowledged that due to accessibility of the site from the public realm, meaningful public open space may not be able to be provided. However, this still needs to be addressed and justified.

It is noted that the site is adjacent to open space on the adjacent lands, including a playground. However, as this land is outside of the control of the applicant, access to this cannot always be guaranteed. It is therefore important that sufficient and quality open space is afforded to the development within the grounds of the subject site.

The retention of the existing trees and vegetation along the north-west site boundary is welcomed. The applicant states that infill/additional tree and shrub infill are proposed along this boundary. It is not clear from the submitted documentation what is proposed and what it to be retained. As noted by the Public Realm Section below, **detail on the retention of existing trees and vegetation should be provided via additional information.**

The Public Realm Section has reviewed the proposed development and requests additional information as follows:

Main Concerns:

- *Lack of detailed landscape proposals for the proposed development.*
- *lack of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage System) shown for the proposed development.*
- *lack of information provided in relation to existing vegetation on site.*

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Public Open Space

All public open spaces shall be of a high quality in terms of design and layout, be located in such a manner as to ensure informal supervision by residents and be visually and functionally accessible to the maximum number of residential units. The proposed development should create positive additions to the open spaces of the area in the form of planting, permeability, and usable open space. Open space design within developments shall:

- include well-located public spaces that support a wide variety of activities and encourage social interaction, to promote health, well-being, social and civic inclusion;*
- have a hierarchy of spaces that range from large and strategic to small and local spaces, including parks, squares, greens and pocket parks;*
- have public spaces that feel safe, secure and attractive for all to use; and have trees and other planting within public spaces for people to enjoy, whilst also providing shading, and air quality and climate change mitigation.*

The applicant shall provide clarification and additional information in relation to the following issues:

- i. The applicant has not provided details as to the levels and gradients with the proposed public open space areas. The developer shall submit level details for the open space areas, this shall include cross section drawings where applicable.*
- ii. The applicant has failed to provide of plan which clearly delineates public, communal and private spaces provided, as well as a detailed breakdown of the total area of same. Response should include a plan which clearly delineates public, communal and private spaces to be provided, as well as a detailed breakdown of the total area of same.*
- iii. Any proposed pedestrian connections to adjoining lands should be clearly indicated on plans. The applicant should show how public open spaces in the wider area will link in and integrate with the proposed development. The public realm should be integrated into the adjacent development areas, creating continuous green infrastructure connections that form both physical and biodiversity links.*

Landscape Plan

There are concerns with the lack of information submitted in relation to the landscape scheme for the proposed development. The applicant is requested to provide detailed landscape design for the proposed development. The applicant shall provide a fully detailed landscape plan with full works specification, that accords with the specifications and requirements of the Council's Public Realm Section. The landscape Plan shall include hard and soft landscape details; including levels, sections and elevations, details of proposed play provision, detailed design of SUDs features including swales and integrated tree pits. The landscape proposals to be prepared by a suitably qualified landscape architect.

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Existing Trees and Hedgerows

There are concerns with the lack of information submitted in relation to existing trees and hedgerows within the site. The applicant is requested to submit a detailed tree and hedgerow survey report for the trees within the proposed development area. This tree survey shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist. The report shall provide detailed information on the condition and health of the existing trees and it shall also clearly detail what impacts the development will have on the trees but also potentially the tree roots. The Council recognises the importance of existing trees and requires that they be given adequate consideration at all stages of the development process, from feasibility stage to post completion management. The applicant is requested to submit the following information in accordance BS 5837:

- 1. Tree Report and Survey*
- 2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment*
- 3. Tree Constraints Plan*
- 4. Tree Protection Plan*
- 5. Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)*

SUDS

There is a lack of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage System) shown for the proposed development. Natural SUDS features shall be incorporated into the proposed drainage system. The SUDS shall be an integrated multi-disciplinary approach which locally addresses water quality, water quantity, and provides for amenity and biodiversity enhancement which meets the objectives of South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022.

A SuDS strategy should be developed for the proposed development which takes account of quantity, quality, and amenity issues. The design of SuDS features is required to be of high quality to achieve a multifunctional space for amenity, biodiversity and surface water management. The proposed SuDS features should aid the maintenance of the existing greenfield runoff rates or potentially reduce the amount of surface water entering the piped surface water system.

The current proposed drainage system needs to be developed further in order to sustainably manage surface water through a natural hydrological regime or SUDS scheme within the development. The philosophy of SUDS is an integrated multi-disciplinary approach which locally addresses water quality, water quantity, and provides for amenity and habitat/biodiversity enhancement. SuDS that should be considered for the SHD development include:

- Bio retention systems*
- Infiltration systems*
- Tree pits*
- Channel rills*
- Green area detention basins*
- swales*

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Revised proposals to be provided by the applicant in this regard. Response should include revised layout and drawings.

Green Infrastructure

The applicant is requested to submit green infrastructure proposals to help mitigate and compensate for the impact of the proposed development on this green field site and the removal of a hedgerow. These proposals shall include additional landscape details, SUDS measures (such as permeable paving, green roofs, filtration planting, above ground attenuation ponds etc) and planting for carbon sequestration and pollination to support the local Bat population.

The Public Realm Section has assessed the proposed development in accordance with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan 2016-2022 and with best practice guidelines and recommends the following additional information be provided:

1. Landscape Proposals

The applicant is requested to submit comprehensive and detailed landscape proposals for the development, prepared by a qualified Landscape Architect. Such proposals should include a scaled landscape plan(s) with cross- sections, showing the layout and hard and soft treatment of all boundaries, features, external areas and green spaces. The proposals shall be accompanied by specifications for materials, workmanship and maintenance, together with proposed design details. Hard landscape details are to include, where applicable, those for any proposed lighting, seating, kerbing, boundaries, edging, surfacing and water features. Soft landscape details are to include detailed planting plans and planting schedules, stating species/varieties, quantities, sizes, rootball presentation and spacings. The landscape plan shall be accompanied by a timescale for its implementation, including a minimum 18-month landscape maintenance period and defects liability clause. The Landscape Proposals shall provide the following detailed information:

- A. A Landscape Masterplan to scale of not less than 1:500 showing –*
 - i. The species, variety, number, size and locations of all proposed planting*
 - ii. Details of Hard landscape works, specifying surface material and furniture*
 - iii. Details of natural SuDs features*
 - iv. Details of proposed play provision*
 - v. Detailed Sections and Elevations*
- B. Specifications for mounding, levelling, cultivation and other operation associated with plant and grass establishment*
- C. A timescale for implementation*

2. Existing Trees and Hedgerows

The applicant shall submit and agree a comprehensive Tree and Hedgerow Report with SDCC Public Realm Section. This shall comprise a detailed Tree and Hedgerow Survey and

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Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Tree Constraints Plan, Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement, all in accordance with, BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations. The report shall be carried out by an independent, qualified Arborist and shall include all of the following:

- i) Tree Survey Plan: all trees and hedges on and adjacent to the subject site (i.e. within falling distance thereof) shall be accurately plotted, tagged and shown on a scaled drawing of a topographical survey of the site*
- ii) Tree Survey Schedule: a summary of the surveyed trees and hedges, giving a breakdown of their tag nos., species, size, age, condition and useful life expectancy*
- iii) Arboricultural Impact Assessment: a thorough, detailed and realistic analysis and assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed development on the surveyed trees and hedges; along with a summary table of the tree population and quantification of impacts/losses etc. (total number surveyed and total numbers/percentage to be retained and felled respectively).*
- iv) Design Iteration - Adjustments, Revisions to Proposed Site Layout: subsequent to and arising from the Impacts Assessment, the applicant's design team [especially arborist, consulting architect(s) and engineer(s)] shall demonstrate in their submission, that it has sufficiently explored and investigated layout alternatives, to achieve an optimal solution that meets South Dublin County Councils Tree Strategy and its Development Plan standards in respect of tree preservation and tree retentions, as appropriate*
- v) Tree Constraints Plan: a scaled site plan (1:500@A1) showing the impacts of all surveyed trees in relation to the site layout of the proposed development.*
- vi) Tree Protection Plan: a scaled site plan (1:500@A1) of the proposed development, clearly showing and distinguishing (by colour coding) those trees and hedges to be retained and protected and those to be removed ; showing alignments of Tree Protection Fencing and areas to be excluded from construction activities and compound(s), site office(s), plant, equipment and materials storage. Root Protection Areas (RPAs') of all trees and hedgerows to be clearly shown on this drawing.*
- vii) Arboricultural Method Statement: clear and practically-achievable measures to be used during the construction period, for the protection and management of all trees and hedges that are to be retained, as shown in the Tree Protection Plan.*
- viii) Summary Table: Summary of all trees and hedgerow proposed for removal and retention to include numbers and percentages.*
- ix) The applicant is requested to submit pictures of the existing trees/hedgerows subject to any tree protective fencing. This shall include a location map of where each picture was taken from.*

3. SUDS

Natural SUDS features shall be incorporated into the proposed drainage system. The SUDS shall be an integrated multi-disciplinary approach which locally addresses water quality, water quantity, and provides for amenity and biodiversity enhancement which meets the objectives of South Dublin

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County Council Development Plan 2016-2022. A comprehensive SUDS Management Plan shall be submitted to demonstrate that the proposed SUDS features have reduced the rate of run off into the existing surface water drainage network. A maintenance plan shall also be included as a demonstration of how the system will function following implementation. In addition, the applicant shall provide the following:

- *The applicant shall show further proposed SuDS features for the development such as Green roofs, grass areas, tree pits, channel rills, swales, permeable paving and other such SuDS and show what attenuation capacity is provided by such SuDS*
- *Demonstrate how the proposed natural SUDS features will be incorporated and work within the drainage design for the proposed development.*
- *The applicant is referred to the recently published SDCC SuDS Design Guide for further information and guidance.*

The report from the Public Realm Section is noted. It is considered that these items should be addressed **via additional information**.

Traffic, Access and Parking

27 car parking spaces and 20 bicycle parking spaces would be provided. Bicycle parking spaces would be provided within a shelter structure. The Roads Department has reviewed the proposed development and requests additional information:

Description:

1. *Change of use from existing short term tourist accommodation units to full apartment type living accommodation units consisting of 10 two bed ground floor units and 10 two bed duplex type units at first floor level (20 units in total) – **Relevant***
2. *Omit Planning Condition 6 of Planning Ref. S01A/0051 (which links the use of units to the City West Hotel) – **Not relevant to Roads Dept***
3. *New bicycle shelter, all associated site development works, parking, landscaping and boundary treatment works – **Relevant***

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Proposed COU:

2.0 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The existing units are termed as short-term letting (tourist) units which were originally connected to the City West Hotel. As the CWH has now changed ownership and the units in Westpark Crescent are privately owned and no longer connected to the CWH it is proposed to apply for COU of these units to full apartment type living accommodation in order to regularise the current situation.

Zone 1:

Luas/PT is more than 400m from site

Outline:

The approach here is to consider this as a new application while being cognisant that the building exists, and this application is akin to a retention.

The change of use is from short-term letting to full apartment living so the standards for apartment buildings will apply.

Traffic:

3.11 Roads and Traffic

The development site has a single access onto the public road, Garters Lane, which together with pedestrian footpaths and bicycle lanes. The main entrance onto Garters Lane has been upgraded under **PP Reg. Ref. SD16A/0441**, in accordance with the current requirements and regulations.

Based on the previous Traffic and Transportation Assessment for the adjoining Blocks under planning Ref. SD16A/0441, this proposal for COU will not have any significant impact in terms of traffic volumes from that of the existing similar use and therefore we would consider that the recent upgrading works to this entrance are adequate for the road user safety and caters for the link/junction capacity.

Rational is satisfactory to Roads Dept – No significant increase in traffic anticipated.

Car Parking:

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Table 11.24: Maximum Parking Rates (Residential Development)

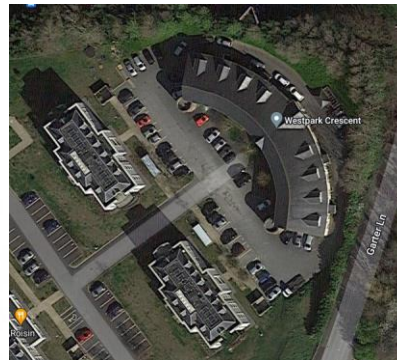
DWELLING TYPE	NO. OF BEDROOMS	ZONE 1	ZONE 2
Apartment	1 Bed	1 space	0.75 space
	2 bed	1.25 space	1 space
Duplex	2 bed	1.25 space	1 space
	3 bed+	1.5 spaces	1.25 space
House	1 Bed	1 space	1 space
	2 Bed	1.5 space	1.25
	3+ bed	2 space	1.5

The number of spaces provided for any particular development should not exceed the maximum provision. The maximum provision should not be viewed as a target and a lower rate of parking may be acceptable subject to:

Maximum Car-parking			
	Units	Rate	Spaces
2-bed	10	1.25	12.5
Duplex	10	1.25	12.5
Total	20		25

3.8 Parking Facilities

Car parking layout has been revised to cater for the requirements, 27 no. car parking spaces is provided in accordance with the standards set out in Chapter 11, Table 11.24 of the SDCC Development Plan 2016 – 2022, with 10% of the spaces being electric charging spaces and 5% being mobility spaces. 20 no. bicycle parking spaces will be provided and designed in accordance with the requirements of the ‘National Cycle Manual, NTA (2011)’ as illustrated on the proposed site layout plan Drg. No C2101 – P03 and P11 to serve the proposed residential apartment units.



Maximum car spaces is 25, with 27 existing/proposed.

Roads see this as a satisfactory total given that the building and mature grounds are existing and the proposed only exceeds the max by a small margin.

Bicycle Parking:

10 bicycle parking spaces have been proposed.

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11.4.1 BICYCLE PARKING STANDARDS

Table 11.22 sets out Minimum Bicycle Parking rates for all new development in the County. Bicycle parking rates are divided into two main categories:

- **Long Term:** These are to be designed for use by residents and employees. Such spaces should be located in a secure area that is not freely accessible to the general public.
- **Short Stay:** These are to be designed for ease of use by the general public. Such spaces should be located in highly visible areas that are easy to access.

Table 11.22: Minimum Bicycle Parking Rates

CATEGORY	LAND USE	LONG TERM	SHORT STAY
Accommodation	Hotel ¹	1 per 5 staff	1 per 10 bedrooms
	Nursing Home	1 per 5 staff	1 per 10 residents
	Residential Apartment	1 per 5 apartments	1 per 10 apartments
	Student Accommodation	1 per bedroom	1 per 5 bedrooms

SDCC CDP 2016-22 11.4.1 sets out the minimum standards for bicycle parking spaces.

Minimum bicycle parking			
	Units	Rate	Spaces
2-bed	10	1/5	2
Duplex	10	1/5	2
Total	20		4

Department of Housing, LG & Heritage - Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments – Bicycle Parking & Storage - 4.17

- **Quantity** – a general minimum standard of 1 cycle storage space per bedroom shall be applied. For studio units, at least 1 cycle storage space shall be provided. Visitor cycle parking shall also be provided at a standard of 1 space per 2 residential units. Any deviation from these standards shall be at the discretion of the planning authority and shall be justified with respect to factors such as location, quality of facilities proposed, flexibility for future enhancement/enlargement, etc.

20 units with 40 bedrooms gives a min of 40 spaces.

Roads Department feel that 30no bicycle spaces will suffice given the location.

All bicycle parking must be covered.

Taking in Charge:

The applicant is to provide a Taking In Charge Map that distinguishes between all areas to be offered to SDCC. All roads, paths, relevant services to be constructed to a taking in charge standard.

Sightlines for Garter Lane junction:

Roads Department have concerns that the existing sightlines are not to the required standard.

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Applicant to submit a drawing of the junction illustrating the existing junction geometry with existing sightlines clearly identified.

Bin storage:

Proposed bin storage is deemed to be adequate.

Roads recommend that additional information be requested from the applicant:

- 1. Applicant to submit a drawing of the junction illustrating the existing junction geometry with existing sightlines clearly identified.*
- 2. Applicant to submit revised drawings showing 30no covered bicycle parking spaces.*
- 3. The applicant is to provide a Taking In Charge Map that distinguishes between all areas to be offered to SDCC. All roads, paths, relevant services to be constructed to a taking in charge standard.*

The report from the Roads Department is noted. The Garter Lane junction is outside the subject site and outside of lands within the control of the applicant. This junction is existing and was upgraded as part of the previous planning permission on the adjacent lands. It is also noted that the proposed development is for a change of use from an existing accommodation type use and, as advised by the Roads Department, no significant increase in traffic is anticipated. Given this it is therefore considered that the item relating to the junction should not be requested.

In relation to bicycle parking the Apartment Guidelines 2020 would require 40 spaces for the residents and 10 spaces for visitors. An increased bicycle provision from that proposed (20) should therefore be provided. Additionally, it is not clear from the information submitted whether any part of the site is proposed for taking in charge by SDCC. **These items should be requested via additional information.**

Services and Drainage

Water Services has reviewed the proposed development and has no objection subject to conditions. This includes a condition to use permeable paving as part of the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS). The Public Realm Section have recommended that additional information be sought in relation to SuDS. **It should therefore be addressed by way of additional information.**

Irish Water has reviewed the proposed development and has no objection subject to standard conditions relating to connection agreements. There are existing waste supply and foul water connections for the building. However, if any changes to these are proposed this should be addressed with Irish Water as a condition of permission.

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Environmental Health

The H.S.E. Environmental Health Officer has reviewed the proposed development and finds to acceptable subject to conditions relating to noise control and air quality during construction. This report is noted and should be conditioned as such in the event of a grant of permission.

Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment

Having regard to the modest nature of the proposed development, and the distance of the site from nearby sensitive receptors, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. The need for environmental impact assessment can, therefore, be excluded at preliminary examination and a screening determination is not required.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The applicant has not provided information to assist the screening for Appropriate Assessment. The subject site is not located within nor within close proximity to a European site. The development involved the change of use of an existing building to residential apartments.

Having regard to:

- the scale and domestic nature of the development,
- the location of the development, and
- the consequent absence of a pathway to the European site,

it is considered that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect individually, or in-combination with other plans and projects, on the Natura 2000 network and appropriate assessment is not therefore required.

Conclusion

Having regard to the:

- provisions of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022,
- the established character of the area, and
- the scale, design and standard of the proposed development,

it is considered that **Additional Information** is required, to ensure the proposed development would be in compliance with Council policy, would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Recommendation

I recommend that **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** be requested from the applicant with regard to the following:

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1. The applicant is requested to:
 - (a) Clarify the existing use i.e. whether the units are currently being used as residential apartments. If so, the change of use from short term tourist accommodation to residential apartments should be applied for as retention permission. If this is the case, revised statutory planning notices should be submitted as part of the additional information response.
 - (b) Clearly detail and number the apartment types and specify what type each apartment is.
 - (c) Submit a revised proposed development that increases the size of the private amenity spaces to comply with the (2-bed 4-person apartment) requirements of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 and Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (2020).
2. In relation to landscaping and open space the applicant is requested to submit the following:
 - (a) Documentation/drawings identifying the area(s) of usable communal open space for the proposed development (within the subject site). The applicant should also address how public open space has been considered.
 - (b) Comprehensive and detailed landscape proposals for the development, prepared by a qualified Landscape Architect. Such proposals should include a scaled landscape plan(s) with cross- sections, showing the layout and hard and soft treatment of all boundaries, features, external areas and green spaces. The proposals shall be accompanied by specifications for materials, workmanship and maintenance, together with proposed design details. Hard landscape details are to include, where applicable, those for any proposed lighting, seating, kerbing, boundaries, edging, surfacing and water features. Soft landscape details are to include detailed planting plans and planting schedules, stating species/varieties, quantities, sizes, rootball presentation and spacings. The landscape plan shall be accompanied by a timescale for its implementation, including a minimum 18-month landscape maintenance period and defects liability clause. The Landscape Proposals shall provide the following detailed information:
 - A. A Landscape Masterplan to scale of not less than 1:500 showing –
 - i. The species, variety, number, size and locations of all proposed planting
 - ii. Details of Hard landscape works, specifying surface material and furniture
 - iii. Details of natural SuDs features
 - iv. Details of proposed play provision
 - v. Detailed Sections and Elevations
 - B. Specifications for mounding, levelling, cultivation and other operation associated with plant and grass establishment
 - C. A timescale for implementation
 - (c) A detailed Tree and Hedgerow Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Tree Constraints Plan, Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement, all in

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accordance with, BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations. The report should be carried out by an independent, qualified Arborist and shall include all of the following:

(i) Tree Survey Plan: all trees and hedges on and adjacent to the subject site (i.e. within falling distance thereof) shall be accurately plotted, tagged and shown on a scaled drawing of a topographical survey of the site

(ii) Tree Survey Schedule: a summary of the surveyed trees and hedges, giving a breakdown of their tag nos., species, size, age, condition and useful life expectancy

(iii) Arboricultural Impact Assessment: a thorough, detailed and realistic analysis and assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed development on the surveyed trees and hedges; along with a summary table of the tree population and quantification of impacts/losses etc. (total number surveyed and total numbers/percentage to be retained and felled respectively).

(iv) Design Iteration - Adjustments, Revisions to Proposed Site Layout: subsequent to and arising from the Impacts Assessment, the applicant's design team [especially arborist, consulting architect(s) and engineer(s)] shall demonstrate in their submission, that it has sufficiently explored and investigated layout alternatives, to achieve an optimal solution that meets South Dublin County Councils Tree Strategy and its Development Plan standards in respect of tree preservation and tree retentions, as appropriate

(v) Tree Constraints Plan: a scaled site plan (1:500@A1) showing the impacts of all surveyed trees in relation to the site layout of the proposed development.

(vi) Tree Protection Plan: a scaled site plan (1:500@A1) of the proposed development, clearly showing and distinguishing (by colour coding) those trees and hedges to be retained and protected and those to be removed ; showing alignments of Tree Protection Fencing and areas to be excluded from construction activities and compound(s), site office(s), plant, equipment and materials storage. Root Protection Areas (RPAs') of all trees and hedgerows to be clearly shown on this drawing.

(vii) Arboricultural Method Statement: clear and practically-achievable measures to be used during the construction period, for the protection and management of all trees and hedges that are to be retained, as shown in the Tree Protection Plan.

(viii) Summary Table: Summary of all trees and hedgerow proposed for removal and retention to include numbers and percentages.

(ix) The applicant is requested to submit pictures of the existing trees/hedgerows subject to any tree protective fencing. This shall include a location map of where each picture was taken from.

(d) Natural SUDS features should be incorporated into the proposed drainage system. The SUDS should be an integrated multi-disciplinary approach which locally addresses water quality, water quantity, and provides for amenity and biodiversity enhancement which meets the objectives of South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022. A comprehensive SUDS Management Plan should be submitted to demonstrate that the proposed SUDS features have reduced the rate of run off into the existing surface water

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drainage network. A maintenance plan should also be included as a demonstration of how the system will function following implementation. In addition, the applicant is requested to:

- show further proposed SuDS features for the development such as Green roofs, grass areas, tree pits, channel rills, swales, permeable paving and other such SuDS and show what attenuation capacity is provided by such SuDS
- demonstrate how the proposed natural SUDS features will be incorporated and work within the drainage design for the proposed development.
- The applicant is referred to the recently published SDCC SuDS Design Guide for further information and guidance.

3. The applicant is requested to submit the following:
 - (a) A revised proposed development showing 30 covered bicycle parking spaces.
 - (b) Taking In Charge Map that distinguishes between all areas to be offered to SDCC. All roads, paths, relevant services to be constructed to a taking in charge standard.

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REG. REF. SD22A/0082

LOCATION: Westpark Crescent, Garters Lane, Saggart, Dublin 24

Colm Harte
Colm Harte,
Senior Executive Planner

ORDER: I direct that **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** be requested from the applicant as set out in the above report and that notice thereof be served on the applicant.

Date:

18/5/22

Eoin Burke
Eoin Burke, Senior Planner