



Dún Scéine,
Iveagh Court,
Harcourt Lane,
Dublin 2,
D02 WT20.

Planning Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

4th July 2022,

RE: SD22A/0153 Development on site for Phase 1 (of a 2-phase future masterplan) partial demolition refurbishment and a new circulation link extension to the existing Loreto Abbey Complex, at the Grange Road Loreto Rathfarnham for use as Gaelcholaiste an Phiarsaigh

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority (the “NTA”) has reviewed the above planning application and based on the *Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035* (the “Transport Strategy”), which is a consideration material for planning in the Greater Dublin Area.

It is the view of the NTA that the proposed application offers an opportunity to encourage a shift towards sustainable modes by prioritising access by walking and cycling in particular for travel to/from the school. With regard to this the NTA would like to make the following observations and recommendations.

Provision for cyclists and pedestrians

Vulnerable road users, such as children on bicycles or scooter, require a safe route from the public road network to the cycle parking facility – in this regard a safe route for cyclists from the entrances

to the cycle parking should be clearly marked. The maintenance of the existing access on Grange Road for pedestrians and cyclists as proposed should be prioritised and clearly marked in order to encourage usage and reduce conflict between modes on Dispensary Lane.

Section 11.4.1 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 sets out Bicycle Parking Standards and requires 1 space per 5 staff and 1 space per 5 students for primary schools. As noted in the Transport Assessment submitted with the application, 245 cycle parking spaces would be required to serve the subject school on the completion of the redevelopment (2 Phases). *'A total of 180 cycle parking spaces are provided for the proposed Phase 1 development. During the future Phase 2 development, the cycle parking provision will be increased to a total of 275 spaces'* which is in excess of the minimum requirements and should contribute towards facilitating travel by bicycle to the school. All cycling infrastructure should be provided in compliance with the NTA's 'National Cycle Manual' including the provision of shelters for bicycles in order to encourage use.

Recommendation

- Safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians should be clearly marked in order to reduce conflict with vehicular traffic
- All cycling infrastructure should be provided in compliance with the NTA's 'National Cycle Manual' including the provision of sheltered cycle parking and the provision of identifiable routes through the car parking for cyclist.

Car Parking Provision

Section 11.4.2 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 sets out Car Parking Standards - in relation to primary schools it is stated that, as a maximum, 1 space per classroom should be provided. It is noted that it is proposed to provide 24 car parking spaces which is in excess of the maximum of 20 that would be allowed under Development Plan policy. It is the view of the NTA that the quantum of car parking provided should not exceed that provided for in the Development Plan as this would support and encourage travel by car.

Recommendation

- The quantum of car parking provided should not exceed that provided for in the Development Plan which would allow a maximum of 20 spaces.

Travel Plan

In accordance with Section 7.1.2 of the *Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area*, a travel plan should be conditioned as part of any planning permission and be carried out in a manner, consistent with existing NTA guidance set out in *'Toolkit for School Travel'*. This should include an up-to-date travel survey for both students and staff and the setting of targets to further reduce the car mode share for both students and staff.

Recommendation

- A Travel Plan should be conditioned as part of any planning permission and be carried out in a manner, consistent with existing NTA guidance.

I trust that the views of the Authority will be taken into account when considering this application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mac Aree". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Mac Aree
Head of Strategic Planning