

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

Public Realm Planning Report

Planning Officer: SARAH WATSON

Development: Construct agricultural shed incorporating loose and storage areas; wall manure area; hardcore area and access roadway; upgrading existing entrance and all associated site works.

Location: Brownsbarn, Lower Baldonnell, Dublin

Applicant: Maurice Lyons

Reg. Ref: SD22A/0141

Report Date: 11th November 2022

Recommendation: SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Site Area: 1.8 ha

Zoning: To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture

Main Concerns:

1. **Impact on trees, hedgerows and biodiversity.**

The requested tree and hedgerow survey, arboricultural impact assessment and tree protection plan has not been provided. There are no measures proposed to protect the existing hedgerow during construction. There are proposals to plant new boundary hedging where boundary hedgerow would appear to exist. The applicant needs to clearly show what is existing on site and what is proposed: Landscape plan/Green Infrastructure Plan.

2. **Does not comply with SDCC Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The site lies within a Primary Green Infrastructure Corridor (No. 5 Camac River Corridor) as defined in the SDCC County Development Plan 2022-2028. A GI Strategy has not been provided showing GI on site and the local context.

3. Riparian Corridor

There are no planting proposals for the watercourse running through the site which is a tributary of the Camac. *'A minimum 10m vegetated riparian buffer from the top of the riverbank is maintained / reinstated along all watercourses within any development site.'*

Relevant Sections, Policies and Objectives of the SDCC Development Plan 2022 - 2028:

CHAPTER 4 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy G1 Overarching

GI1 Objective 1: *To establish a coherent, integrated and evolving GI Network across South Dublin County with parks, open spaces, hedgerows, trees including public street trees and native mini woodlands (Miyawaki-Style), grasslands, protected areas and rivers and streams and other green and blue assets forming strategic links and to integrate and incorporate the objectives of the GI Strategy throughout all relevant land use plans and development in the County.*

GI1 Objective 2: *To implement and monitor the South Dublin County GI Strategy during the lifetime of this plan and develop a fit for purpose GI scoring for the County which will support ongoing identification, protection, enhancement and management of GI in the County and which will enable the assessment and monitoring of GI interventions in the County.*

GI1 Objective 3: *To facilitate the development and enhancement of sensitive access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats outside of Natura 2000 sites.*

GI1 Objective 4: *To require development to incorporate GI as an integral part of the design and layout concept for all development in the County including but not restricted to residential, commercial and mixed use through the explicit identification of GI as part of a landscape plan, identifying environmental assets and including proposals which protect, manage and enhance GI resources providing links to local and countywide GI networks.*

GI1 Objective 7: *To develop linked corridors of small urban 'Miyawaki' native mini-woodlands, a minimum of 100 sq m in size, to capture carbon and encourage biodiversity in suitable existing built-up areas, in low grade parkland, and other areas of zoned lands where deemed suitable and appropriate.*

GI1 Objective 8: *To increase over the lifetime of this plan the percentage of land in the County, including residential, managed for biodiversity including supporting the delivery of the objectives of*

the County Pollinator Plan and to continue to investigate the potential for the use of low-mow methods during the lifetime of the Plan.

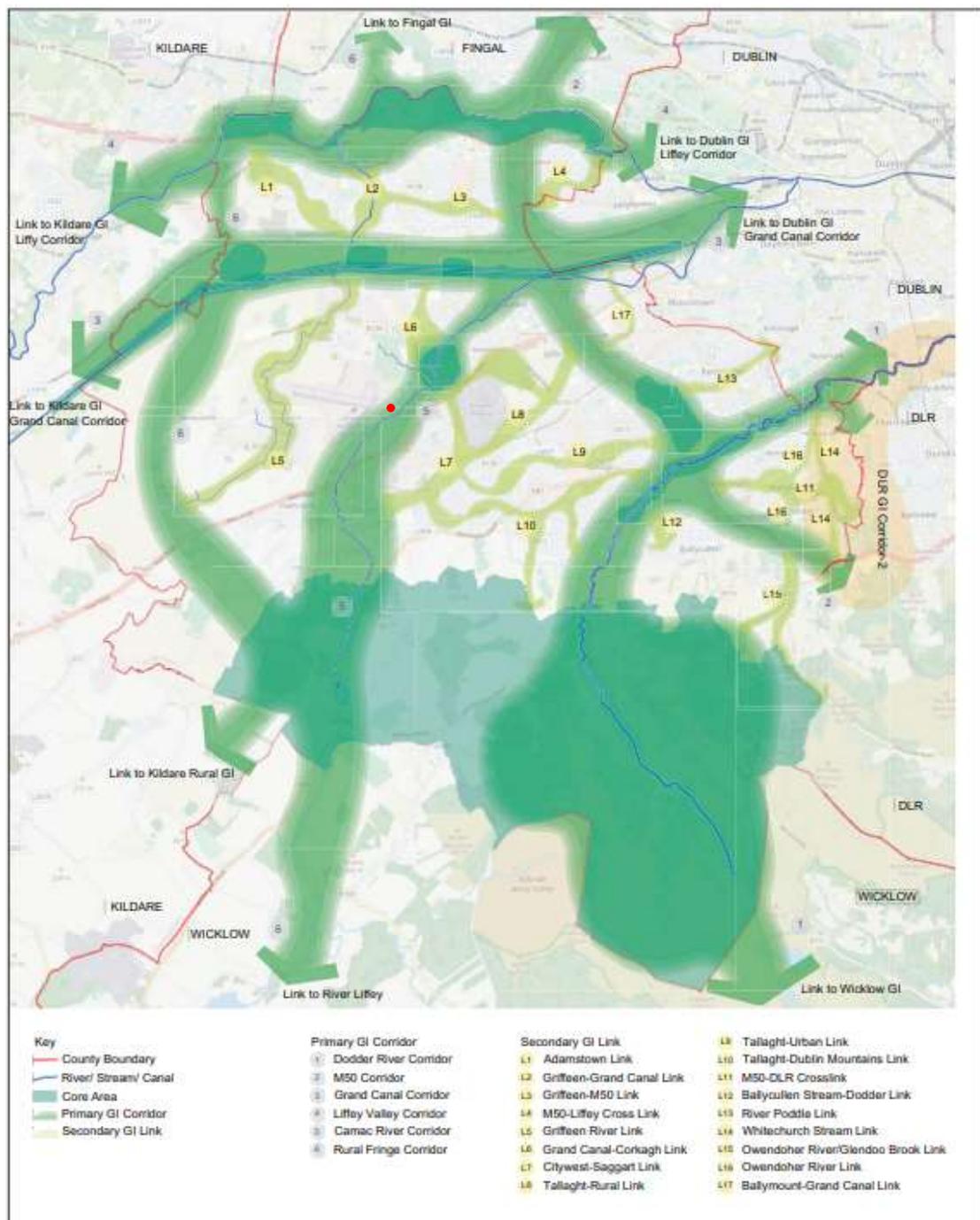


Figure 4.4: Green Infrastructure Strategy Map

Policy NCBH2 Biodiversity: *Protect, conserve, and enhance the County’s biodiversity and ecological connectivity having regard to national and EU legislation and Strategies.*

NCBH5 Objective 1: *To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on biodiversity, including known rare and threatened species, and that biodiversity enhancement measures are included in all development proposals.*

NCBH5 Objective 2: *To ensure that an Ecological Impact Assessment is undertaken for developments proposed in areas that support, or have the potential to support, protected species or features of biodiversity importance, and that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into all development proposals.*

Policy NCBH10: Invasive Species *Protect against and prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species within the County and require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.*

NCBH10 Objective 1: *To ensure that development proposals do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, applicants should submit a control and management programme with measures to prevent, control and / or eradicate the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 / 2011).*

NCBH11 Objective 3: *To protect and retain existing trees, hedgerows, and woodlands which are of amenity and / or biodiversity and / or carbon sequestration value and / or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management taking into account Living with Trees: South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy (2015-2020) or any superseding document and to ensure that where retention is not possible that a high value biodiversity provision is secured as part of the phasing of any development to protect the amenity of the area.*

NCBH11 Objective 4: *To protect the hedgerows of the County, acknowledging their role as wildlife habitats, biodiversity corridors, links within the County's green infrastructure network, their visual amenity and landscape character value and their significance as demarcations of historic field patterns and townland boundaries.*

Policy GI2: Biodiversity

GI2 Objective 1: *To reduce fragmentation and enhance South Dublin County's GI network by strengthening ecological links between urban areas, Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage*

Areas, parks and open spaces and the wider regional network by connecting all new developments into the wider GI Network.

GI2 Objective 2: *To protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of the existing GI network by protecting where feasible (and mitigating where removal is unavoidable) existing ecological features including tree stands, woodlands, hedgerows and watercourses in all new developments as an essential part of the design and construction process, such proactive approach to include provision to inspect development sites post construction to ensure hedgerow coverage has been protected as per the plan.*

GI2 Objective 3: *To retrospectively repair habitat fragmentation and provide for regeneration of flora and fauna where weaknesses are identified in the network through the implementation of new GI interventions.*

GI2 Objective 4: *To integrate GI, and include areas to be managed for biodiversity, as an essential component of all new developments in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter 12: Implementation and Monitoring and the policies and objectives of this chapter.*

GI2 Objective 5: *To protect and enhance the County's hedgerow network, in particular hedgerows that form townland, parish and barony boundaries recognising their historic and cultural importance in addition to their ecological importance and increase hedgerow coverage using locally native species including a commitment for no net loss of hedgerows on any development site and to take a proactive approach to protection and enforcement.*

GI2 Objective 6: *To continue to support and expand the County Pollinator Plan through the management and monitoring of the County's pollinator protection sites as part of the Council's commitment to the provisions of the National Pollinator Plan 2021-2025.*

GI2 Objective 7: *To enhance the biodiversity value of publicly owned hard infrastructure areas by incorporating the planting of new trees, grasses and other species, thereby integrating this infrastructure into the overall GI network.*

GI2 Objective 10: *To enhance biodiversity and the health of pollinator species by banning the use of glyphosphate in or close to public parks, public playgrounds, community gardens / allotments and within residential estates, whether by directly employed Local Authority staff or private contractors*

Policy GI3: Sustainable Water Management

GI3 Objective 1: *To ensure that hydromorphological assessments are undertaken where proposed development is within lands which are partially or wholly within the Riparian Corridors identified as part of this Development Plan.*

GI3 Objective 2: *To require development proposals that are within riparian corridors to demonstrate how the integrity of the riparian corridor can be maintained and enhanced having regard to flood risk management, biodiversity, ecosystem service provision, water quality and hydromorphology.*

GI3 Objective 3: *To promote and protect native riparian vegetation along all watercourses and ensure that a minimum 10m vegetated riparian buffer from the top of the riverbank is maintained / reinstated along all watercourses within any development site.*

Policy GI4: Sustainable Drainage Systems

Require the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in the County and maximise the amenity and biodiversity value of these systems.

GI4 Objective 1: *To limit surface water run-off from new developments through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) using surface water and nature-based solutions and ensure that SuDS is integrated into all new development in the County and designed in accordance with South Dublin County Council's Sustainable Drainage Explanatory Design and Evaluation Guide, 2022.*

GI4 Objective 2: *To incorporate a SuDS management train during the design stage whereby surface water is managed locally in small sub-catchments rather than being conveyed to and managed in large systems further down the catchment.*

GI4 Objective 3: *To require multifunctional open space provision within new developments to include provision for ecology and sustainable water management.*

GI4 Objective 4: *To require that all SuDS measures are completed to a taking in charge standard.*

GI4 Objective 5: *To promote SuDS features as part of the greening of urban and rural streets to restrict or delay runoff from streets entering the storm drainage network.*

GI4 Objective 6: *To maintain and enhance existing surface water drainage systems in the County and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), including integrated constructed wetlands, at a local, district and County level, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.*

GI5 Objective 4: *To implement the Green Space Factor (GSF) for all qualifying development comprising 2 or more residential units and any development with a floor area in excess of 500 sq m. Developers will be required to demonstrate how they can achieve a minimum Green Space Factor (GSF) scoring requirement based on best international standards and the unique features of the County's GI network. Compliance will be demonstrated through the submission of a Green Space Factor (GSF) Worksheet (see Chapter 12: Implementation and Monitoring, Section 12.4.2).*

Policy GI5: Climate Resilience

GI5 Objective 2: *To protect and enhance the natural regime of the watercourses of the County to more efficiently capture their flood resilience value.*

GI5 Objective 3: *To ensure compliance with the South Dublin Climate Change Action Plan and the provisions of the Council's Tree Management Strategy.*

GI5 Objective 4: *To implement the Green Space Factor (GSF) for all qualifying development comprising 2 or more residential units and any development with a floor area in excess of 500 sq m. Developers will be required to demonstrate how they can achieve a minimum Green Space Factor (GSF) scoring requirement based on best international standards and the unique features of the County's GI network. Compliance will be demonstrated through the submission of a Green Space Factor (GSF) Worksheet (see Chapter 12: Implementation and Monitoring, Section 12.4.2).*

GI5 Objective 5: *To promote positive land and soil protection measures to avoid degradation or loss of natural soil resources, to minimise sealing of soils and to remediate contaminated land.*

GI5 Objective 6: *To provide more tree cover across the county, in particular to areas that are lacking trees, with an emphasis on planting native Irish trees as appropriate.*

GI5 Objective 7: *To require the provision of green roofs and green walls, providing benefits for biodiversity and as an integrated part of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Green Infrastructure, in apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings, wherever possible and develop an evidence base for specific green roof requirements as part of the Council's ongoing SuDS strategy development.*

CHAPTER 12 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

12.4.3 RIPARIAN CORRIDORS:

The riparian corridors of the County include rivers, streams and other watercourses and are important for water quality as well as providing green infrastructure and biodiversity links, see sections 4.2.2 and 11.3.1 for policy and objectives. Development within or affecting riparian corridors will be required to:

- *Ensure that hydromorphological assessments are undertaken where proposed development is within lands which are partially or wholly within the Riparian Corridors identified as part of this Development Plan;*
- *Demonstrate how the integrity of the riparian corridor can be maintained and enhanced having regard to flood risk management, biodiversity, ecosystem service provision, water quality and hydromorphology;*

- *Promote and protect native riparian vegetation along all watercourses and ensure that a minimum 10m vegetated riparian buffer from the top of the riverbank is maintained / reinstated along all watercourses within any development site. This is a minimum and should be considered in light of the bullet points above.*

For further relevant objectives refer SDCC County Development Plan 2022-2028

SDCC Living with Trees – Tree Management Policy 2021 – 2026

South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees' 2021-2026 contains information within Chapter 7 Trees and Development that relates to the retention, protection and planting of trees on development sites. Relevant points within this section include:

- The Council will use its powers to ensure that where it is conducive with the objectives of the County Development Plan, and other planning objectives there is maximum retention of trees on new development sites.
- In the processing of planning applications, the Council will seek the retention of trees of high amenity / environmental value taking consideration of both their individual merit and their interaction as part of a group or broader landscape feature.
- On construction sites all work must be in accordance with British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations and with the Councils Open Space Development and Taking in Charge.
- The Council will promote the replacement of trees removed to facilitate approved planning and development of urban spaces, buildings, streets, roads, infrastructural projects and private development sites.

The Public Realm Section has assessed the proposed development in accordance with SDCC County Development Plan 2022-2028 and best practice guidelines and recommends the following significant additional information be provided:

1. Arboricultural Assessment

The requested tree and hedgerow survey has not been provided. Concerns remain about the lack of information in relation to existing trees and hedgerows within the site and within falling distance of the Proposed development. The proposed development involves construction adjacent to existing trees and hedgerow.

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 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.
- x) Trees and hedgerows within and within falling distance of the proposed development area to be surveyed.
- xi) The report should indicate what is proposed to mitigate proposed removals and protect that which is to be retained.
- xii) A bond may be required, based on the results of the survey.

Reason: To ensure the protection of trees to be retained on site in the interests of amenity, ecology, climate adaptation, proper planning and sustainable development.

SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2. Landscape and Green Infrastructure Plan

1. There are concerns with the lack of information submitted in relation to the landscape and green infrastructure for the development site. The applicant shall submit and agree a comprehensive landscape and green infrastructure plan with SDCC Public Realm Section. The landscape and green infrastructure proposals shall include:
 - A. A Green Infrastructure Plan which may consist of a simple landscape plan that includes objectives to protect or restore existing on site GI assets, provides for connection to local or primary GI corridors or includes elements which allow the site to act as a local stepping stone.
 - B. A Landscape Masterplan to scale of not less than 1:500 showing –
 - i. The species, variety, number, size and locations of all proposed planting including riparian planting a minimum 10m vegetated riparian buffer along the watercourse.
 - ii. Details of Hard landscape works, specifying surface material
 - iii. Details of any natural SuDs features
 - iv. Detailed Sections and Elevations

- C. Planting material where possible should be native and/or pollinator friendly Irish Grown Nursey Stock. The importation of foreign planting material should be avoided within the proposed planting scheme.
- D. Retention of existing trees and hedgerows should be maximized and there should be an overall net gain of trees and hedgerows.

Reason: In the interest of amenity, biodiversity and climate action, compliance with Development Plan Policy, the provision, establishment and maintenance of a reasonable standard of landscape and proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The applicant is advised to contact Public Realm Dept for clarification of any of the above.

Fionnuala Collins
Assistant Parks Superintendent

Laurence Colleran
Senior Executive Parks Superintendent