

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



INTERNAL MEMORANDUM PUBLIC REALM PLANNING REPORT

Development:	Construction of a three storey creche and community centre facility of 1,610sq.m gross floor area with associated external play area; car & cycle parking, hard and soft landscaping, bin storage, a revised layout to the northern edge of Cuil Duin Avenue to accommodate access to the proposed development including amendments to the existing footpath and cycle track and provision of set down car parking spaces and all associated site and development works.
Location:	On lands at Cuil Duin Avenue, Citywest, Co. Dublin
Applicant:	Greenacre Residential DAC
Reg. Ref:	SD22A/0398
Report Date:	18/11/2022
Planning Officer:	CIARAN STANLEY
Recommendation:	REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Statutory Local Policy

South Dublin County Development Plan, 2022-2028

Section 3.3.6 Protection of Trees and Hedgerows

Policy NCBH11

Section 3.4.3 Landscapes

Policy NCBH14

Section 4.0.1 GI and Climate Action

Policy GI1: Overarching

Section 4.2.1. Biodiversity

Policy GI2: Biodiversity

Section 4.2.2. Sustainable Water Management

Policy GI3: Sustainable Water Management

Policy GI4: Sustainable Drainage Systems

POLICY GI5: Climate Resilience

SECTION 4.2.4 Recreation and Amenity (Human Health and Wellbeing)

Policy GI6

Section 4.2.5 Landscape, Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage

Policy GI7

Section 8.7.1 Principles guiding public open space provision

Policy COS5: Parks and Public Open Space – Overarching

Section 8.7.4 Delivery of Public Open Space and Contributions in Lieu

Section 8.7.5 Quality of Public Open Space

Section 8.7.6 Play Facilities

Section 12.4.3 Riparian Corridors

Main Concerns:

- proximity of development ($\leq 10\text{m}$) to stream/water body located along the eastern boundary of the site.
- The proposals have not sufficiently demonstrated compliance with GI policies. GI Plans need to be developed to reduce fragmentation of existing GI and show connections through site and into wider GI Network.
- Applicants have not supplied the required information on the Green Space Factor required for every development. Appropriate Green Factor for the site must be achieved.
- Details of soft and hard landscaping required.

COMMENTS:

In relation to the above proposed development, this section has reviewed the application and has the following comments.

SUDS

There is a lack of natural SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) shown for the proposed development. Under the CDP 2022-2028 All new developments are required to incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). Sustainable Drainage Systems include devices such as swales, permeable pavements, filter drains, storage ponds, constructed wetlands, soakways and green roofs;

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 2022-2028

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

As required under **Section 12.4.2** of the CDP 2022-2028, all planning applications shall demonstrate how they contribute to the protection or enhancement of Green Infrastructure in the County through the provision of green infrastructure elements as part of the application submission, having regard to the following:

- In the case of small-scale developments this may consist of a simple landscape plan which 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;
- Where the development site is located within or close to a Core or Corridor the development should, at a minimum, protect any existing GI assets and enhance same (for example, not breaking a GI Corridor but enhancing same with a connecting piece of planting, retaining hedgerows or woodlands);
- The characteristics and assets of the proximate GI Core, Corridor or Stepping Stone should be reflected within proposed development, for example continuation of hedgerows, tree planting, waterways;
- Development should seek to enhance or restore features that act as ecological corridors, particularly water features, hedgerows, tree lines, areas of un-cultivated land. These, or some element of them, should be incorporated into the proposed development to create pathways for wildlife and / or increase amenity value;
- Development sites which are not located proximate to designated GI Cores or Corridors should identify the nearest designated GI Core, Corridor or Stepping-stone and make provision for GI interventions on the site which could eventually provide a link to local Stepping Stones, Cores or Corridors;
- Developers should be aware that ecological corridors can also act to quickly spread non-native invasive species. Therefore, identification and control of invasive species site should be included in planning applications and the GI Plan.

All development proposals shall be accompanied by a Green Infrastructure Plan, which will normally be submitted as part of the suite of Landscape Plans that are required for a development. Plans shall include the following:

- Site location plan showing the development site in the context of the wider GI as shown on the Council's GI Plan for the County;
- Site survey and analysis, identifying existing GI Infrastructure and key assets within the site;
- Indicate how the development proposals link to and enhance the wider GI Network of the County;
- Proposed GI protection, enhancement and restoration proposals as part of the landscape plan, where appropriate, for the site; à Proposals for identification and control of invasive species.

GREEN SPACE FACTOR (GSF)

The GSF is a score-based requirement that establishes minimum standards for landscaping and GI provision in new developments. Minimum scoring requirements are based on the land-use zoning of a site (See GI5 Objective 4), this applies to all development comprising 2 or more residential units and any development with a floor area in excess of 500 sq m. Qualifying developments are required to reach the minimum Green Space Factor (GSF) score established by their land use zoning. Developers can improve their score by both retaining and enhancing existing landscape features and incorporating new features. A developer will be required to specify the GSF measures included within a proposed development as part of the submitted Green Infrastructure Plan and Landscape Plan. A Green Space Factor Guidance Note will also be made available on the Council's website under the Development Plan section setting out the applicable weightings and scorings. Where applicable, a completed worksheet shall be submitted with the Green Infrastructure Plan and Landscape Plan in support of a proposed development.

GREEN SPACE FACTOR (MINIMUM SCORE NOT ACHIEVED)

In cases where proposed development does not meet the minimum required score and the Council agree that the minimum score is not achievable on the site; the Council will engage with the applicant to help determine an alternative GI solution, to ensure that the proposed development does not detract from the local environment and makes a positive contribution to local GI provision. Where site-specific constraints do not allow for adequate landscaping features in line with minimum requirements a developer will be permitted to provide alternative GI interventions or contributions to make up for this shortcoming, see below. Those GI measures ultimately chosen will be dictated by the site-specific context and will be subject to agreement with Council. The applicant shall therefore contact the Public Realm Section to agree alternative GI interventions or contributions to make up for this shortcoming.

PLAY

The Public Realm Section welcomes the provision of the play areas adjacent to the proposed development with access by a pedestrian. However, the Public Realm Section would have concerns allowing access from the play area to the existing drainage channel as there is a very real safety concern here. The applicant is therefore requested to remove this proposed access to this water channel and providing fencing along the southern boundary of the play space in order to prevent access.

Additional details, specifications and images are required in relation to the proposed playground/playspace. All play equipment should be of predominantly natural materials with unstructured play included in the proposed design. The playground designer/landscape architect can contact SDCC public realm section to discuss the proposed playground, including the inclusion of additional universally accessible equipment. The applicant should consider the use of engineered woodchip as playground surfacing material.

The applicant is requested to submit a detailed Play Rationale and Layout Plan (separate to, but related to the Landscape Masterplan), using natural and nature-based solutions, to provide informal, impromptu and spontaneous play opportunities, along with *play equipment* that provides appropriate challenges for multiple age groups. The Layout Plan shall comprise the following: -

- showing types of play and play area(s),
- target age groups,
- landform (included levels and contours) and boundaries,
- design and construction details of play opportunities and facilities in respect of landform, planting, boundaries, equipment and safety surface.

All play equipment and ancillaries shall conform to European Standards EN 1176-1-11 and EN 1177 Playground equipment and surfacing, and to BS/EN standards 2017/18 for Playground Installations for HIC (Head Injury Criterion) and CFH (Critical Fall Height).

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 requested:

1. Landscape Design Proposals

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 applicant shall provide the following additional information:

- i. The applicant shall submit a comprehensive Landscape Design Rationale, the objective of this report is to describe the proposed landscape and external works as part of this proposed housing development.
- ii. The applicant is requested to submit a fully detailed Planting Plan to accompany the landscape proposals for the entire development. The applicant should propose native species where possible to encourage biodiversity and support pollinators within the landscape.
- iii. The landscape Plan shall include hard and soft landscape details; including levels, sections and elevations, detailed design of SUDs features including swales and integrated/bio-retention tree pits.
- iv. Significantly reduce the impacts of the development on existing green infrastructure within and adjacent to the proposed development site
- v. Demonstrate how natural SUDs features can be incorporated into the design of the proposed Development
- vi. Submit green infrastructure proposals and a green infrastructure plan that will mitigate and compensate for the impact of the proposed development on this existing site and show connections to the wider GI Network. These proposals should include additional landscaping, 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.

2. Landscape Maintenance and Management

The applicant is requested to provide details of the scheme for the maintenance and management of the proposed landscape scheme including the play area for the lifetime of the development. The scheme shall include the following:

- i) methods for the proposed maintenance regime;
- ii) detailed schedule;
- iii) details of who will be responsible for the continuing implementation
- iv) details of any phasing arrangements

3. Sustainable Drainage Systems

(A) The applicant should demonstrate compliance with the SDCC SUDS Design Guide 2022, and Policies GI3, GI4, GI5, IE3, SM2, SM7, and sections 4.3.1, 12.7.6, 12.11.1, and 12.11.3. of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 in relation to sustainable drainage systems.

(B) In relation to SUDs, the applicant is requested to submit plans showing how surface water shall be attenuated to greenfield run off rates and showing what SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) are proposed.

(C) SUDs Management - The applicant is requested to submit a comprehensive SUDS Management Plan to demonstrate that the proposed SUDS features have reduced the rate of run off into the existing surface water drainage network. A maintenance plan should also be included as a demonstration of how the system will function following implementation.

(D) Natural SUDS features should be incorporated into the proposed drainage system for the development such as bio-retention/constructed tree pits, permeable paving, green roofs, filtration planting, filter strip etc. In addition, the applicant should demonstrate how the proposed natural SUDS features will be incorporated and work within the drainage design for the proposed development. The applicant is requested to refer to the recently published 'SDCC Sustainable Drainage Explanatory, Design and Evaluation Guide 2022' for acceptable SUDS tree pit details.

(E) The applicant is requested to submit a report to show surface water attenuation calculations for proposed development. Show on a report and drawing what surface water attenuation capacity each SuDS (Sustainable Drainage System) system has in m³. Show in report what surface water attenuation capacity is required for proposed development. Show what different surface types, areas in m² are proposed such as, green roofs, permeable paving, buildings, roads and their respective run off coefficients. Submit a drawing showing the treatment train of SuDS and proposed natural flow controls for each SuDS system.

4. Green Infrastructure and Green Space Factor (GSF)

The applicant is requested to provide additional information as follows and in accordance with the quoted policies and sections of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 - 2028:

(a) To demonstrate how they intend to reduce fragmentation of existing green infrastructure. The applicant should provide a green infrastructure plan showing connections through the site and connections to wider GI network.

(b) To demonstrate how the appropriate Greening Factor will be achieved for the relevant land use zoning objective. See link to the Green Space Factor Worksheet: [Related Documents - SDCC](#)

5. Green Space Factor (Minimum Score Not Achieved)

In cases where proposed development does not meet the minimum required score and the Council agree that the minimum score is not achievable on the site; the Council will engage with the applicant to help determine an alternative GI solution, to ensure that the proposed development does not detract from the local environment and makes a positive contribution to local GI provision. Where site-specific constraints do not allow for adequate landscaping features in line with minimum requirements a developer will be permitted to provide alternative GI interventions or contributions to make up for this shortcoming, see below. Those GI measures ultimately chosen will be dictated by the site-specific context and will be subject to agreement with Council. The applicant shall therefore contact the Public Realm Section to agree alternative GI interventions or contributions to make up for this shortcoming.

6. Play Proposals

The applicant is required to provide the following information in relation to the proposed play area

- a)** Clarification as to the total number and location of play opportunities; the age range they are appropriate for and whether they are universally accessible. An emphasis shall be on active, accessible play throughout the development.
- b)** The play area should be re-designed so that the proposed access to the water channel is removed
- c)** The applicant shall provide fully detailed play proposals as part of the landscape scheme for the proposed development. The applicant shall consider the provision of additional universally accessible equipment within the play proposals for the development. Additional details, specifications and images need to be provided in relation to the proposed playgrounds and play spaces for the development. All play equipment shall be of predominantly natural materials with unstructured play included in the proposed design. The applicant shall consider the use of engineered woodchip as playground surfacing material.
- d)** Proposals shall be submitted in the form of a Proposed Play Rationale and Layout Plan (separate to but related to the Landscape Masterplan).

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