

EIA Screening Recommendation for Part 8 Development Harbour Field Park, Maynooth.

Introduction: This report assesses the requirement for an EIAR for the proposed Part 8 development of the existing Harbour Field Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Development:

The development will comprise of:

- The construction of a new feature playground
- Construction of a new path network through the park
- Removal of large stone clad bund between the park and the canal
- Development of a 4meter wide boardwalk adjacent to the Royal Canal
- Development of a new concrete skate park with associated pump track
- Construction of new formal lawn area with terraced seating edges
- Development of adult gym area with associated parkour equipment
- Associated site development works and connection to existing site services.

Location: Harbour Field, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Legislative Context:

The proposed development is not within the prescribed classes of development/thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, for the purposes of Section 176 of the Planning Act.

It is noted that Article 120(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) requires;

- (a) *where a local authority proposes to carry out an EIA sub-threshold development, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at least, the nature, size or location of the development.*
- (b) *Where the local authority concludes, based on such preliminary examination, that-*
 - (1) *there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, it shall conclude that an EIA is not required.*

Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) sets out information to be provided for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development, i.e.

1. *A description of the proposed development, including in particular—*
 - (a) *a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works, and*
 - (b) *a description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.*
2. *A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.*
3. *A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—*
 - (a) *the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant,*

and

(b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.

Preliminary Examination:

The proposed development concerns the redevelopment of the existing park at Harbour Fields. The existing park already contains planted areas, areas of hardstanding, paths, playgrounds, and an informal kickabout area. In the current Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 the site is zoned as open space and amenity.

The redeveloped park will contain the following features

- New network of paths
- Redeveloped Playground
- New boardwalk adjacent to the Canal
- New concrete skatepark
- New 4M wide cycle path
- Formal Lawn
- Terraced steps
- Adult gym area
- Levelling of existing earthen berm/bund
- Demolition of existing hard standing areas/play surfaces
- Associated site development works and connection to existing services



Site layout plan

The location of the proposed development is at Harbour Field, Maynooth. The site is located to the south of the town centre and adjacent to the Royal Canal with Maynooth Railway station, located immediately to the south on the opposite bank of the Royal Canal. The site is accessed off Leinster Street to the north, which also provides access to adjacent Geraldine Hall/Scout Den. The existing Maynooth Fire Station, Health Centre and Community Care Unit are all located to the west of the proposed development. Emergency access through the park is to be retained for Fire Station access.



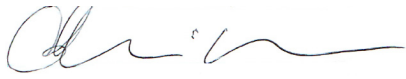
Aerial view with location of proposed site

The geographical area affected does not have particular environmental sensitivities. Construction works are moderate in nature. Building waste will be disposed of in accordance with a waste management plan approved by Kildare County Council. The proposed development is not a type which produces waste, residue or emissions of note, nor is it the type of development which uses natural resources, to give rise to any significant effects on the environment.

Therefore subject to normal construction and waste disposal practices, no aspects of the environment are likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

Screening Recommendation

Having regard to the scale and nature of the works proposed and the nature of surrounding development, it is not considered that the proposed development will give rise to any significant effects on the environment and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required.



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