

## Development Management Officer Report Committee Application

<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Committee Meeting Date: 18 October 2016</b>	
<b>Application ID:</b> LA04/2016/1276/F	
<b>Proposal:</b> Community centre and associated site works.	<b>Location:</b> Corner site between Mayo Street and Mayo Link off Lanark Way Shankill Road Belfast
<b>Referral Route:</b> Major Application	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Approval subject to Conditions
<b>Applicant Name and Address:</b> Shankill Women's Centre 151-157 Shankill Road Belfast BT13 1FD	<b>Agent Name and Address:</b> Todd Architects 2nd Floor Titanic House 6 Queens Road Belfast BT3 9DT
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	
<p>Full planning permission is sought for a community centre and associated site works.</p> <p>The main issues to be considered in this case are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principle of a community centre at this location;</li> <li>• Design and scale;</li> <li>• Impact on the character of the area and on residential amenity; and</li> <li>• Traffic, Parking and Environmental considerations.</li> </ul> <p>The site is located within the development limits of Belfast in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and is identified as being within an Existing Employment zoning BT 005/20 Lanark Way.</p> <p>Whilst the proposed use is contrary to the existing employment zoning, it is considered that the principle of development is considered acceptable as the zoning has been substantially redeveloped for other uses and this portion of the site is no longer suitable for modern employment use given its location in close proximity to residential and educational land use.</p> <p>The height, scale and massing of the building is considered acceptable given the site's context. The proposed design and treatment of the elevations marries successfully with the existing built form in the area.</p> <p>In terms of amenity, the proposed land use will not cause conflict with nearby residential properties.</p> <p>Rivers Agency is still outstanding in respect to the drainage assessment, however an informal response has been discussed and no objection is likely to be raised. All other Consultees offered no objection subject to conditions.</p>	

17 objections from a third party have been received. The main issue raised relates to the proposed description being a community centre.

The Pre-Community Consultation Report submitted has demonstrated that the applicant has carried out their duty under Section 27 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 to consult the community in advance of submitting an application.

**Recommendation**

Approval with conditions as set out in case officer report below.

## Case Officer Report

### Site Location Plan



### Characteristics of the Site and Area

1.0	Description of Proposed Development  Proposed Community Centre and associated site works.
2.0	Description of Site  The site comprises of a flat portion of land currently fenced. To the north, west and south there are residential land uses. Immediately to the East is a Nursery School currently under construction.

### Planning Assessment of Policy and other Material Considerations

3.0	Planning History  Z/2005/2387/O- Housing development comprising detached, semi detached dwellings, bungalows and 15 no apartments (47 units total). Withdrawn 06.02.2007.  Z/2007/1663/F- Construction of 10no. apartments and 42no. townhouses. (52no. units in total). Withdrawn 11.02.2009.  Adjacent  Z/2011/0592/F- The creation of a new two-classbase nursery school with associated external play areas including parking and drop-off facilities. Approved 03.02.2012.
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Policy Framework</b>
4.1	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015
4.2	Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland Planning Policy Statement 3: Access Movement and Parking Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning and Economic Development Planning Policy Statement 13: Transportation and Land Use Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning & Flood Risk
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Statutory Consultee Responses</b>
	Transport NI- No objections subject to conditions; NIWater- No objections; Historic Environment Division- No objections; NIEA- No objections subject to conditions; Rivers Agency- Awaiting comments.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Non Statutory Consultee Responses</b>
	Belfast City Council EPU- No Objections subject to conditions
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Representations</b>
	The application has been neighbour notified and advertised in the local press. 17 representations have been received. The main issues raised include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the proposal is a Women's Centre and not a Community Centre; and</li> <li>• that it has no support from the local community.</li> </ul>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Other Material Considerations</b>
8.1	N/A
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
9.1	The key issues in the assessment of the proposed development include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principle of a community centre at this location;</li> <li>• Design and scale;</li> <li>• Impact on the character of the area and on residential amenity; and</li> <li>• Traffic, Parking and Environmental considerations.</li> </ul>
9.2	The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) sets out five core planning principles of the planning system, including improving health and well being, supporting sustainable economic growth, creating and enhancing shared space, and supporting good design and place making. Paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12 require the safeguarding of residential and work environs and the protection of amenity. Paragraphs 4.13-8 highlight the importance of creating shared space, whilst paras 4.23-7 stress the importance of good design. Paragraphs 4.18-22 details that sustainable economic growth will be supported. The SPPS states PPS3 remains applicable under transitional arrangements.  <u>Principle of Proposed use</u>
9.3	Article 6 (4) of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act states that in making any determination under the act, regard is to be had to the local development plan, and that the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
9.4	The proposal was assessed against Policy PED7 of PPS4 given that it is identified as being within an existing employment zoning. This policy states ' <i>development that would</i>

	<p><i>result in the loss of land or buildings zoned for economic development use in a development plan (either existing areas or new allocations) to other uses will not be permitted, unless the zoned land has been substantially developed for alternative uses. It further states that an exception will be permitted for the development of a sui generis employment use within an existing or proposed industrial/employment area where it can be demonstrated that: the proposal is compatible with the predominant industrial use; it is of a scale, nature and form appropriate to the location; and provided approval will not lead to a significant diminution of the industrial/employment land resource in the locality and the plan area generally. Retailing or commercial leisure development will not be permitted except where justified as acceptable ancillary development'.</i></p>
9.5	<p>The applicant's case is that, amongst others points, the proposal is a sui generis employment use. However, a Community Centre falls within Class D2 and is therefore not considered to be a sui-generis use. The proposal will provide employment for approximately 30 members of staff by an established public sector provider, fulfilling a role in providing training and educational services to equip women in the local area to gain employment. Whilst it is not a sui generis use it does have support from the local community. It will result in employment and given the changing nature of industrial employment uses, it is considered that the area of land may not have provided greater than 30 jobs in an industrial use in any case.</p>
9.6	<p>It is also considered that the zoning has been significantly redeveloped for other uses. Through the granting of planning permission for a nursery school between the site and Lanark Way under planning permission Z/2011/0592/F it has in effect cut off the site from the main road (Lanark Way). As a consequence the site can only be accessed from the minor side street and given its proximity to residential dwellings it is considered that an industrial use may have resulted in conflicts with residential use. On that basis it is considered that the proposal meets the policy tests under PED7.</p> <p><u>Scale, Massing Design</u></p>
9.7	<p>The proposal consists of a part 3 storey part 2 storey flat roof development with a footprint that is roughly rectangular in shape. It is considered that the scale and massing of the building respects the surrounding context. Materials are also appropriate and consistent with the existing built form in the immediate area.</p> <p><u>Impact on Residential Amenity</u></p>
9.8	<p>The nearest dwellings are located in Caledon Court. A small service alleyway separates these dwellings from the proposed site. It is considered that the building is adequately detached from the nearby residential properties and will not adversely impact in terms of dominance and overshadowing. Windows are angled away on the north elevation to inhibit overlooking.</p> <p><u>Access and Parking</u></p>
9.9	<p>The proposal has been assessed against PPS3: Access, Movement and Parking. Given the sites location within the inner city (highly accessible location in close proximity to services and amenities) it is considered that the proposal is acceptable with 21 spaces and 2 disabled spaces provided.</p> <p><u>Contaminated Land</u></p>
9.10	<p>A Preliminary and Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment (PRA and GQRA) report has</p>

	<p>been provided by RSK Ireland (RSK) in support of this application. Intrusive site investigations have been undertaken in support of the risk assessment. No unacceptable risks to environmental receptors have been identified. Waste Management (WM) (Land and Groundwater Team) have no objections to the development provided Conditions and Informatives are placed on any Planning Decision Notice, as recommended.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Monuments</u></p> <p>9.11 The application site is located on the site of the former Doagh Flax Mill factory (IHR 10356). The site is recorded on the Department's Industrial Heritage Record and is protected by PPS 6 Policy BH2. Historic Environment Division: Historic Monuments (HED: HM) has considered the impacts of the proposal. HED: HM is content that the proposal satisfies PPS 6 policy requirements, subject to conditions for the agreement and implementation of a developer-funded programme of archaeological works. This is to identify and record any archaeological remains in advance of new construction, or to provide for their preservation <i>in situ</i>, as per Policy BH 4 of PPS 6.</p> <p><u>Surface Water Flooding</u></p> <p>9.12 There are no watercourses which are designated under the terms of the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 within this site. The Flood Hazard Map (NI) indicates that the site does not lie within the 1 in 100 year fluvial flood plain. Through the pre application Pan it was noted a Drainage Assessment would be required and hence one was submitted as part of the application. The Drainage Assessment states that implementation of the proposed scheme would significantly reduce surface water discharge from the site to the public combined sewer system. Whilst Rivers Agency is still outstanding verbal clearance has been given to take the application forward to planning committee.</p> <p><u>Pre-Community Consultation</u></p> <p>9.13 For applications that fall within the major category as prescribed in the Development Management Regulations, Section 27 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 places a statutory duty on applicant for planning permission to consult the community in advance of submitting an application.</p> <p>9.14 Section 27 also requires that a prospective applicant, prior to submitting a major applications must give notice, known as a 'Proposal of Application Notice' (PAN) that an application for planning permission for the development is to be submitted. A PAN (LA04/2016/0320/PAN) was submitted to the Council on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.</p> <p>9.15 Where pre-application community consultation has been required and a PAN has been submitted at least 12 weeks in advance of the application being submitted, the applicant must prepare a pre-application community consultation report to accompany the planning application.</p> <p>9.16 A Pre Application Community Consultation Report has been submitted in support of this application and is considered to meet the statutory requirements.</p> <p>9.17 In regard to the objections received it is considered that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both a Women's Centre and Community Centre fall under the same use class under the legislation – there is no differentiation (Use Classes Order 2015)</li> </ul>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Summary of Recommendation:</b> Approval

	<p>Having regard to the development plan, relevant planning policies, and other material considerations, it is determined that the development will not cause demonstrable harm to the interests of acknowledged importance. Approval is therefore recommended.</p>
<p><b>11.0</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <p>1. As required by Section 61 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission.</p> <p>Reason: Time Limit.</p> <p>2. If during the development works, new contamination or risks to the water environment are encountered which have not previously been identified, works should cease and the Planning Authority shall be notified immediately. This new contamination shall be fully investigated in accordance with the Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (CLR11). In the event of unacceptable risks being identified, a remediation strategy shall be agreed with the Planning Authority in writing, and subsequently implemented and verified to its satisfaction.</p> <p>Reason: Protection of environmental receptors to ensure the site is suitable for use.</p> <p>3. After completing all remediation works under Condition 2 and prior to occupation of the development, a verification report needs to be submitted in writing and agreed with Planning Authority. This report should be completed by competent persons in accordance with the Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (CLR11). The verification report should present all the remediation and monitoring works undertaken and demonstrate the effectiveness of the works in managing all the risks and achieving the remedial objectives.</p> <p>Reason: Protection of environmental receptors to ensure the site is suitable for use.</p> <p>4. No site works of any nature or development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented, in accordance with a written scheme and programme prepared by a qualified archaeologist, submitted by the applicant and approved by the Department. The programme should provide for the identification and evaluation of archaeological remains within the site, for mitigation of the impacts of development, through excavation recording or by preservation of remains, and for preparation of an archaeological report.</p> <p>Reason: to ensure that archaeological remains within the application site are properly identified, and protected or appropriately recorded.</p> <p>5. Access shall be afforded to the site at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the Department to observe the operations and to monitor the implementation of archaeological requirements.</p> <p>Reason: to monitor programmed works in order to ensure that identification, evaluation and appropriate recording of any archaeological remains, or any other specific work required by condition, or agreement is satisfactorily completed.</p>
<p><b>12.0</b></p>	<p><b>Notification to Department (if relevant)</b></p> <p>N/A</p>

<b>13.0</b>	<b>Representations from Elected members:</b>  None



<b>ANNEX</b>	
<b>Date Valid</b>	9th June 2016
<b>Date First Advertised</b>	8th July 2016
<b>Date Last Advertised</b>	8th July 2016
<b>Details of Neighbour Notification</b> (all addresses) The Owner/Occupier, 10, 12, Mayo Link,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3BD, The Owner/Occupier, 102, 102a, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116 Ainsworth 117 Mayo Street,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3AZ, 124 Ainsworth Avenue,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3EP, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,19, 20, 22, 23, 24 Caledon Court, 28, Hillside Crescent, Belfast, Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT9 5EN 6 , 8Mayo Link,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3BD, 60 Lanark Way,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3BH, 78, 80, 95 Mayo Street,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3AZ, Ainsworth Community Centre,Ainsworth Avenue,Edenderry,Belfast,Antrim,BT13 3EP, Ainsworth Residents Group, C/o Lower Shankill Community Association, 119-121 Shankill Road, Belfast, BT13 1FD	
<b>Date of Last Neighbour Notification</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
<b>Date of EIA Determination</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>ES Requested</b>	<b>N/A</b>