

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000-2002
AND
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001
(PART 8 PROCEDURE)



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

(pursuant to the requirements of the above)

Proposal to Extend the Existing Cemetery at

St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry, Co. Offaly

by

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL



April 2023

1 Introduction

This proposal is made by Offaly County Council for the extension of the cemetery at St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry, Co. Offaly as a lawn cemetery. The extension will include 300 graves paces and a columbarium with 100 niches for urns.

The following is a summary of the works described in this application:

- Provision of a post and rail fence and hedging on the southern boundary.
- Provision of access paths.
- Provision of foundations for headstones.
- Provision of a 100 niche columbarium
- Removal of non-native hedging and replacement with appropriate native trees and hedging.

The following drawings are attached as part of this application:

- Site Location – 0502/C001
- Existing Site Layout – 0502/C002
- Proposed Site Layout – 0502/C003
- Detail Sheets – 0502/C004 & 0502/C005

2 Background.

Following Offaly County Council's Burial Ground Survey in 2016 and our report to the Climate Action, Environment, Water and Transportation SPC in q1/ 2022, which sets out priorities on a yearly basis for Burial Ground provision and maintenance, St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry was identified as requiring extension in 2023.

3 Description of Proposed development

3.1 Site Location.

In 2004, Offaly County Council purchased 2 acres of land adjacent to the south-west of the existing cemetery. In 2014, we developed a portion of the land as an extension to the existing cemetery. The site is located to the south-east of the 2014 extension, which is almost full.

3.2 Proposed Development.

It is proposed to provide an extension of 0.65 acres to the existing cemetery at Edenderry.

The works will include:

- Provision of a post and rail fence and hedging on the southern boundary.
- Provision of access paths.
- Provision of foundations for headstones.
- Provision of a 100 niche columbarium
- Removal of non-native hedging and replacement with appropriate native trees and hedging.

4 Environmental impacts

4.1 Appropriate Assessment Screening

Appropriate Assessment Screening was carried out in February 2023. The completed assessment concludes has identified that there will be no potential significant effects on any special conservation interests and their conservation objectives, either alone or in-combination with any other objective or plan.

The completed assessment also concludes that in the absence of mitigation measures, significant effects are not anticipated via land or air, groundwater or surface water pathways on any of the identified Natura 2000 sites assessed in the report. The works can be screened out under the Habitats Directive as not requiring a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

4.2 Waste

All wastes arising from/at the proposed development shall be managed in accordance with Waste Management Acts 1996 as amended. While awaiting removal, all waste materials shall be stored in designated areas protected against spillage or leachate run-off.

4.3 Noise & Dust

All reasonable measures to mitigate any environmental nuisance (noise & dust) which may arise during construction will be taken. Construction shall take place during working hours 7.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 1.30pm Saturday.

4.4 Visual

The extension to the cemetery is located away from, and screened from public roads and is in a semi-rural area; therefore, it is not deemed that it will interfere with the visual amenity of the area.

4.5 Archaeological Assessment

Archaeological Assessment of the proposed extension area was carried out in March 2023. The assessment concluded that there no archaeological deposits, layers, or features were identified during the course of digging trial holes and that there are no recorded monuments within the study area.

5 Working details of the proposed development

Operation and maintenance of the extended cemetery will be provided by Offaly County Council.