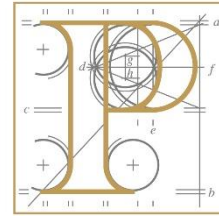


APPENDIX A

REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Our Case Number: ABP-305442-19



An
Bord
Pleanála

Cork County Council
c/o Liam Lynch, Project Manager
Carrigrohane Road
Cork
T12 A243

Date: 19 June 2020

Re: Dursey Island Cable Car and Visitor Centre, Cork

Dear Sir,

I refer to the above-mentioned proposed development which is before the Board for approval. The Board decided to defer consideration of this case and, in accordance with section 175(5)(a) (as applied to cases under section 226) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to request the applicant to furnish further information.

Having considered the rationale, justification and basis for the calculation of the tourist capacity of the proposed development and in particular, the correlations made in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement in relation to a study on the potential impacts of tourism on the chough population on the French island of Ouessant, the Board is not satisfied, having regard to the precautionary principle, that the mitigation measures proposed to address the potential impact of increased visitor numbers on Dursey Island as well as within the designated Natura 2000 sites on the mainland will be sufficient to address any potential likely significant effects on qualifying interests within these designated sites.

In addition, while the Board acknowledges the potential of the proposed improvements works to the R572 regional road to address pedestrian and traffic safety issues, the projected significant increase in tourist numbers is also likely to have an impact on traffic on this route as well as car-parking capacity on the site, and these matters should be a key consideration in the preparation of a visitor management plan.

The Board hereby requires you to furnish the following further information in relation to the effects on the environment of the proposed development: -

- 1) A more precise and evidence-based calculation of the seasonal availability of foraging areas for the chough, based on the scale of suitable feeding habitat on Dursey Island, and the consequent numerical capacity of visitors and the mitigation measures that would be effective in addressing potential indirect impacts on the chough bird species or its feeding habitat.

Teil
Glaio Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

- 2) Additional scientific evidence and information on flush distance calculations used in respect of Dursey Island, and any implications on available foraging areas on the island and consequent visitor capacity.
- 3) Specific details of how the chough nesting site in a derelict building on the island will be protected, in line with the recommendation from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- 4) The preparation of a visitor management plan to control and manage visitor numbers accessing Dursey Island, to support the delivery of responsible and sustainable tourism, to manage potential traffic and parking issues during peak holiday season, and to conserve an ecologically sensitive environment. The plan should describe the process for determining, and managing, maximum capacity for visitors both to the island and to the mainland visitor centre on a monthly, weekly and daily basis as appropriate.
- 5) Additional information, including appropriately scaled cross-section and longitudinal drawings, regarding the provision of waste water treatment systems proposed for the mainland and island sites, and in particular, how the large sand filter proposed on the mainland site will be constructed within the sloped topography of the site, and how sufficient subsoil beneath the gravel distribution layer on the island site will be provided to meet the Environmental Protection Agency Code of Practice guidance.

Please also note that following its examination of any information lodged in response to this request for additional information, the Board will then decide whether to invoke its powers under section 5(d) of section 175 (as applied to cases under section 226) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, to require you to publish newspaper notice of the furnishing of any additional information and to allow for inspection or purchase of same and the making of further written submissions in relation to same to the Board.

Your response to this letter should be received not later than **5.30 p.m. on the 31st July 2020**. If you have any queries in relation to the matter, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Mac Giollarnáth
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

Teil
Glaó Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
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D01 V902

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Dublin 1
D01 V902