

Press Releases - Deansgrange's Destruction - 25/01/01

Councillor Eoin Costello has stated that the destruction of Deansgrange as an urban village is assured if an application currently lodged with planning officials is given the go ahead. He has stated his total opposition to the current application and has started a petition on his website (www.eoincostello.ie) for those objecting to the application.



The application relates to the Bank of Ireland site at the junction of Kill Lane and Clonkeen Road in Deansgrange. The village, which was once the centre of an agricultural area predominately owned by the church, retained its village feel and unique sense of identity until very recently. According to Councillor Eoin Costello this is now fundamentally threatened.

The application is requesting permission to demolish the existing Bank Of Ireland premises and to erect a three storey with penthouse building comprising 2404 sq metres of retail floor space, 3326 sq. metres of office space, 372 sq. metres for the bank. Provision is made for 244 underground parking spaces on two levels with access off Clonkeen Road.

Over 500 residents attended a public meeting on Wednesday, 23rd

of January to voice their opposition to the application. One element of the application has provoked deep suspicions amongst residents groups. At the meeting the chairman of the residents action group, Paul Kelly, highlighted an unusual aspect of the application. In the application there is provision of 1507 sq. metres for a library facility. Given that there is already a perfectly good library in Council ownership within 5 metres of the proposed scheme many are suspicious of this apparent altruism.

Residents have come to the conclusion that the inclusion of the library in the main application is the thin end of the wedge which includes a longer term plan to demolish the current library and subsume the land it occupies into the land covered by this proposal.

Another element to the plan which has provoked anger is the application by the current occupiers of the location, Bank of Ireland,

to erect a Portacabin on the Council owned land surrounding the library for use as a bank for 30 months. Many residents felt that the Bank is showing little respect for the local community and its facilities in this application.

Residents are demanding that the application be refused permission on the following grounds;

1. Traffic congestion: Deansgrange village is already a traffic black spot. The junction adjoining the plot seeking permission is a bottleneck and often sees traffic backed up for long distances. Conditions are so bad that Dublin Bus issued a leaflet to customer attributing delays in their service to congestion in Deansgrange village.
2. Scale: At four stories the building will dwarf all surrounding buildings. The development will occupy all the available ground space at the site leaving no green space and leading to the removal of all the trees on the site.
3. Waste management: The application makes no mention of ,or provision for, the storage, compaction, processing an removal of waste from the proposed development.

Councillor Costello stated that *"It is ironic that, at a time which the government is making money available for the renewal of urban villages, because of the important role they serve in binding communities, a development such as this is being contemplated for one of the more important urban villages in our county. It is essential that our planning department reject this application."*