



Maynooth Community Council

4 April 2022

Re: Planning Submission on behalf of Maynooth Community Council

Ref: Planning Application 22220

Dear Sir or Madam,

Maynooth Community Council is a voluntary group representing Residents' Associations and Voluntary Groups in Maynooth. The Planning and Development Sub-Committee of Maynooth Community Council wishes to make the following observations in relation to the above mentioned planning application on behalf of our members:

1. At the outset we wish to state that we very much welcome the redevelopment of the existing Lidl store in Maynooth to this flagship zero carbon store with the 3 roof-top solar arrays. We hope that this development will signal to other stores in the town the importance of tapping in to and converting rooftop resources to solar and a move away from the use of fossil fuels to generate energy supplies.
2. It is noted that there are only 6 EV chargers with ducting for expansion to 12 spaces planned for the site. It is argued in the application for PP that this limited number of spaces is based on the number of EVs sold in 2019 and that the “level of occupancy reflects the general take up of EVs nationally where in the National Travel Survey 2019 (the most recent) only 1.5% of respondents owned an EV”. It is acknowledged that “while this percentage will increase significantly in the long term, the level of growth to justify a significant proportion of parking spaces being dedicated to EV charging is some way away” - in the opinion of the applicant.
It should be noted that the most recent National Travel Survey (CSO) figures available for January and February 2022 show that the share of EV cars licenced in this period was almost 3 times that of the same period in 2021 (3,642 compared 1,309). And this figure is continuing to grow at a more rapid rate than envisaged in 2019 due to the current fuel crisis.
3. It is noted that there is no provision made for the installation of a Bring Centre on the site. This is unfortunate as there are now a large number of households in the vicinity of the Lidl store who would benefit from having such an installation in close proximity to their homes. The nearest Bring Centre is in the KCC car park at the Glenroyal Centre. MCC would urge the Planning Authority to make the provision of a Bring Centre on this site a condition of planning permission.

4. The various measures for biodiversity enhancement outlined in the planning application are most welcome. However MCCs preferred option is that native Irish trees and hedgerows are planted in the areas where such planting is planned e.g. Hazel, Wild Cherry, Birch, White and Blackthorn etc. The installation of the Green Wall is an interesting concept but will only be beneficial if it is properly maintained and not allowed to deteriorate due to lack of appropriate maintenance. The same can be said of the wildflower meadow. The AIPP advocates more for the natural development of wildflower areas through the adoption of the “Don’t Mow let it Grow” mowing regime and the avoidance of planting wildflower seeds. Many of the seeds planted are not of native provenance (despite claims to the contrary) and can result in importing non native or invasive species to the locality.

Yours faithfully,

Maynooth Community Council