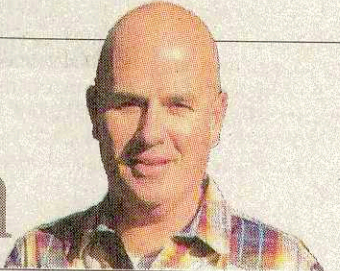


Legacy of a soulful R'n'B opera crossed with a blaxploitation flick rumbles on today

America at Large

Dave Hannigan



When Muhammad Ali first bounded into his surgery in Overtown, Miami, Dr Ferdie Pacheco reckoned the mouthy 19-year-old prospect was the finest physical specimen he'd ever seen, and he subsequently felt privileged to work his corner as he went on to conquer the world. "What was it like to be Ali's fight doctor?" offered Pacheco. "It was like being Queen Victoria's gynaecologist. The title didn't mean much, but the view was spectacular."

More than a decade into the relationship, the physician's job description had evolved to include troubling concepts such as worrying about his patient's long-term welfare. As Ali prepared for the Rumble in the Jungle, Pacheco was so genuinely concerned about the damage George Foreman's concussive power (37 of his 40 wins had come by KO) might wreak upon the fighter's 32-year-old head that he had a medical plane on standby. The plan was to rush his patient to Lisbon for emergency brain surgery if required. It wasn't.

"You have heard of me since you were young," said Ali to his opponent when they met in the centre of the ring in Stade du 20 Mai in Kinshasa, in the then Zaire, on October 30th, 1974. "You've been following me since you were a little boy. Now, you must meet me, your master!"

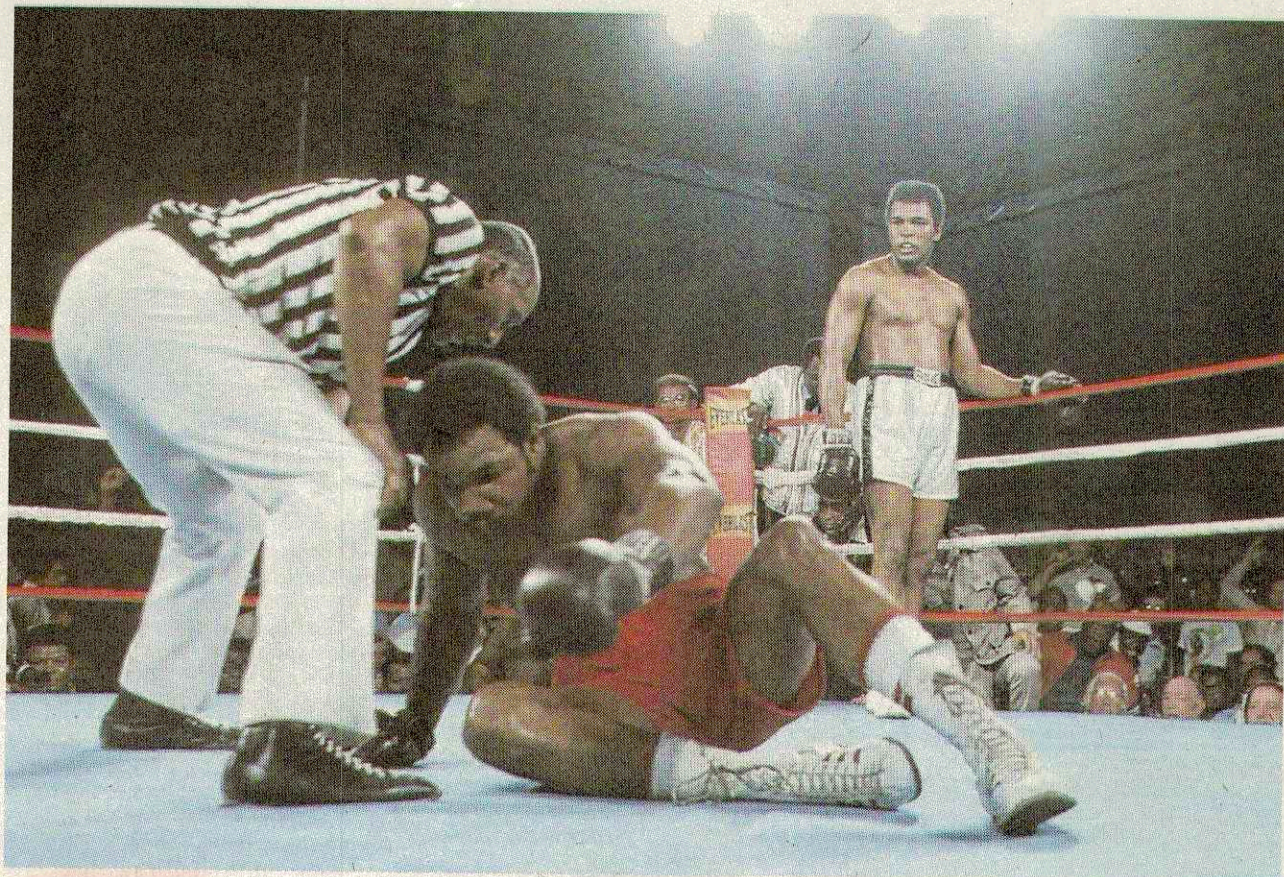
Foreman blinked and the overarching narrative for that magical morning (the bell tolled at 4am local time) half a century

ago was set. As they retreated to their corners to hear the first bell, a billion people around the globe were watching, and an estimated 1,000 prisoners, some criminals, others political opponents of the president, Mobutu Sese Soko, were supposedly imprisoned in holding cells beneath the football field.

A giant portrait of the man the CIA dubbed "the black Hamlet" hung from the rafters at a venue his henchmen often used for executions. For fear the 60,000 citizens in attendance might seize this opportunity for vengeance, he didn't attend the fight, preferring to enjoy a private watch party at the palace with Idi Amin, Uganda's brutal dictator and an avid boxer.

Almost a decade after seizing power, Mobutu put up the purses by plundering \$10 million from the coffers of a country where 40 per cent of the population battled malnutrition. An epic example of sportswashing, except that word didn't exist then. A different time. Even if the original plan to call the bout "From the Slave Ship to the Championship" was shelved, the western view of Africa remained rooted in primitive Tarzan movie stereotypes; Ali threatened to have his brothers in Zaire capture the boxing commentator Howard Cosell, boil him and eat him.

The locals didn't find that guff half as offensive as Foreman arriving in their still young country with a pet German Shep-



Left: George Foreman seeks to get up from the canvas as referee Zack Clayton checks on him during his fight against Muhammad Ali in Kinshasa, Zaire, on October 30th, 1974. Photograph: Below: Ali speaks to the press after the fight. PHOTOGRAPH: TONY TRILOLO/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED/GETTY IMAGES; STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

herd named Digo. The type of canine deployed by the Belgians during their lengthy colonisation and genocide was a reminder of their oppression. Upon touching down two days earlier, Ali had also warned that the reigning heavy-weight champion was "a Belgium" (sic), a ludicrous declaration, yet enough to get the people of Kinshasa shouting "Ali, Bomaye!" (Ali, kill him!) in the Lingala dialect. The chant entered boxing lore.

Mobutu allowed his salubrious presidential compound on the banks of the Congo River at N'Sele, 40 miles from Kinshasa, to be turned into Ali's training camp.



When Ali and his entourage drove back to N'Sele, the people came out and stood by the sides of the dirt roads to cheer the new old champ, their champ, as he rolled past

whisper it, it may also have elevated the fight to the Ali canon. The plot was nearly too perfect. The planet's most compelling athlete at play in his ancestral continent, an impossibly exotic location about which the West remained gullible enough to devour reams of copy sprinkled with voodoo dolls and witch doctors.

Then there was the spell Ali cast called "Rope A Dope". Unknown to his trainer, he wholly improvised the tactic that became intertwined with his legend. "Move, Ali! Move!" roared Angelo Dundee when he saw his static charge disobeying the fight plan to dance away from the foreboding punching of Foreman.

At ringside, the American writer George Plimpton observed Ali's refusal to obey that simple instruction, and shouted, "Christ! It's a fix!" How else to explain his willingness to lean on the ropes, for round after sapping round, shipping all those savage blows that had reduced mighty Joe Frazier and Ken Norton to rubble?

"I was beating him up pretty good, I thought," said Foreman. "But in about the sixth round, he started screaming. 'Is that all you got, George? Show me something!' That was all I had with him forever."

With 21 seconds remaining in the eighth, and both men looking utterly spent, Ali emerged from a weary clinch and suddenly unfurled three kinetic rights

in a row. Then came a left hook followed by one more vicious right that sent Foreman pirouetting, falling to the canvas in slow motion.

"Oh Lawdy," roared Bundini Brown from the corner. "He's on queer street."

In defeat, Foreman initially claimed his water was drugged, the ref counted him out too fast, and the ropes were problematic. Over time, he came to appreciate that he lost his title that day, yet earned his place in popular culture. People who have never watched boxing know the Rumble in the Jungle, a soulful R'n'B opera crossed with a blaxploitation flick, replete with accompanying concert featuring James Brown, BB King, and The Spinners. Foreman was simply cast as the unwitting villain in this drama, the usurper who had to be dethroned by the hero before the curtain could come down.

Dirtroads
An hour after the fight, the heavens opened, and a biblical rain fell. When Ali and his entourage drove back to N'Sele, the people came out and stood by the sides of the dirt roads to cheer the new old champ, their champ, as he rolled past. The redoubtable American columnist Jerry Izenberg followed the convoy to the training camp and later found Ali, alone, standing on the banks of the Congo River, his arms stretched wide in victory, shouting at the water roaring past.

"When all the outlandish trappings of an extraordinary event have begun to fade and gather dust in the memory," wrote the peerless Hugh McIlvanney, "when we have grown vague about the wheeling and dealing involved, about how ethnic pride and financial avarice became ardent bedmates, when we scarcely smile at the remembered sight of Bundini Brown planting a kiss and a 'Float like a butterfly' biro on President Mobutu or the more appealing but equally unlikely spectacle of an attractive young black woman breast-feeding her baby in the third row ringside – when that distant day comes, what will remain utterly undiminished is the excitement of Muhammad Ali's performance."

■ A revised, updated and expanded edition of Dave Hannigan's *The Big Fight – When Ali Conquered Ireland* will be published by Merrion Press in 2025

Racing News

Jan Brueghel ruled out of Melbourne Cup after failed veterinary test

BRIAN O'CONNOR

City of Troy's date with destiny in Saturday night's Breeders' Cup is Aidan O'Brien's overwhelming focus right now but an unwanted diversion is how the Irishman's chequered relationship with the Melbourne Cup has come to the fore again.

Yesterday's withdrawal by officials in Melbourne of O'Brien's St Leger winner Jan Brueghel after failing a pre-race veterinary check has left the colt's Coolmore ownership "extremely disappointed" and probably had the trainer shaking his head.

Those rigorous pre-race tests of international runners have previously been described as "ridiculous" by O'Brien, whose prediction that three-year-old horses would struggle to pass them looks to have come true.

Jan Brueghel, who had been a 5-1 favourite to win next Tuesday's renewal of the "race that stops a nation" passed initial inspections by Racing Victoria officials before entering quarantine last month.

■ Aidan O'Brien: has not revisited Australia since the 2008 Melbourne Cup

At the time O'Brien said: "It's very difficult for three-year-olds to get through because they are still growing, and their bones are still maturing so I wouldn't be sure about any of them getting in and being allowed to run."

"It's ridiculous really. Because they are three-year-olds, they are not as formed as older horses, and there will be things that show up in their scans, but they are not prepared to forgive anything."

A Racing Victoria statement yesterday morning said: "In accordance with the conditions of the race, Jan Brueghel was presented at the University of Melbourne Equine Centre in Werribee on Saturday, 26 October for compulsory CT scans of its distal limbs.

"Reports received from an expert panel of internationally renowned equine surgeons and diagnostic imaging specialists, who reviewed Jan Brueghel's CT scan results, indicate that the horse is currently at height-

ened risk of injury.

"Following advice from RV Veterinary Services in relation to the specialist opinions from the independent imaging panel, RV Stewards ordered the withdrawal of Jan Brueghel from the Melbourne Cup on the basis that he was unsuitable to compete."

O'Brien has twice finished runner-up in the Melbourne Cup, on both occasions beaten by his son Joseph, including on his last attempt in 2020 when Tiger Moth was second to Twilight Payment.

Fatal injuries
However, that same year saw his 2019 Epsom Derby hero Anthony Van Dyck break down with fatal injuries during the race. In 2018 his runner, Cliffs Of Moher, broke his shoulder in the race and had to be put down.

They were among a number of fatalities by overseas runners in a race that focuses attention on racing in Australia like no other, something that prompted local authorities to implement a more rigorous regime of pre-race veterinary testing.

"Everything was perfect with him, he went through all the hoops and scans. Our vets were happy, but the Australian vets were not happy with them," said the Ballydoyle handler who is in Del Mar for the Breeders Cup.

"It's easy to say now, but we thought he was a massive handicapper on a class, unbeaten horse with 87 lbs to carry and Ryan Moore riding him. We will go for the race in Hong Kong now."

"Most scans are open to opinion, they gave him another in the last few days and found a shadow on the hind leg, but with all horses you can get shadows. Everything was properly done with the horse and it's all getting a little bit ridiculous," he added.

O'Brien has enjoyed big-race success in Australia with Adelaide in the Cox Plate 10 years ago and Magic Wand in the 2019 Mackinnon Stakes.

However, he has not revisited the country since the 2008 Melbourne Cup when he was summoned back to the racecourse for a freight stewards' inquiry on the back of riding tactics employed on his runners in the race.

Jan Brueghel's withdrawal leaves Irish hopes in next week's \$8 million highlight revolving around the Willie Mullins pair Vauban and Absurde.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ) NA RIALACHÁIN UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ) – CUID 8

Iarratasóir: Seirbhísí Tithíochta agus Pobail Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Suíomh: Láithreán atá thart ar 2.6 ha teorantach le Lána Bhaile Bhúiséir ar an taobh thuaidh, Páirc Bhaile Cora ar an taobh thiar, Bóthar Bhaile Munnra ar an taobh thoir, agus Gairdíní Bhaile Cora siar ó dheas, Baile Munnra, Baile Átha Cliath 11

Togra: De bhun chengailis an mhéid thuasluaite, tugtar Fógra leis seo i dtaca le tógáil 288 árasán/árasán dhá úrlár agus aonad tithíochta ag láithreán atá thart ar 2.6 ha (thart ar 2.2 ha glan) teorantach le Lána Bhaile Bhúiséir ar an taobh thuaidh, Páirc Bhaile Cora ar an taobh thiar, Bóthar Bhaile Munnra ar an taobh thoir, agus Gairdíní Bhaile Cora siar ó dheas, Baile Munnra, Baile Átha Cliath 11, agus beidh na nithe seo a leanas i gceist leo:

- Tógáil 288 árasán/árasán dhá úrlár agus aonad tithíochta thar 5 láithreán (Láithreán 5, 15, 16, 17 agus 18) idir 2 agus 6 stór ina bhfuil 138 aonad le leaba amháin, 87 le 2 leaba, agus 61 áitreach le 3 leaba agus 2 le 4 leaba.
- Láithreán 5 ina mbeidh 132 aonad árasán (66 aonad le 1 leaba, 44 aonad le 2 leaba agus 22 aonad le 3 leaba) agus beidh idir 4 agus 6 stór i gceist leo, lena n-áirítear imeall uirbeach nua feadh Bóthar Bhaile Munnra;
- Láithreán 15 ina mbeidh 8 n-áitreach ina bhfuil 6 árasán le 1 leaba féin-doras agus 2 teach le 3 sheomra leapa taobh le Gairdíní Bhaile Cora;
- Láithreán 16 ina mbeidh 5 áitreach ina bhfuil 2 árasán le 1 leaba féin-doras, teach amháin le 3 sheomra leapa agus 2 teach le 4 sheomra leapa taobh le Gairdíní Bhaile Cora;
- Láithreán 17 ina mbeidh 34 aonad árasán (17 aonad le 1 leaba, 9 aonad le 2 leaba agus 8 aonad le 3 leaba) agus beidh idir 3 agus 6 stór i gceist leo, lena n-áirítear bloc uirbeach mar chuid de chill uirbeach neamhchrochnaithe ag árasáin Linnbhla agus Charter;
- Láithreán 18 ina mbeidh 109 aonad árasán (47 aonad le 1 leaba, 34 aonad le 2 leaba agus 28 aonad le 3 leaba) agus beidh idir 4 agus 5 stór i gceist leo, le himill uirbeacha go Bóthar Bhaile Cora, Páirc Bhaile Cora agus imeall nua go Lána Bhaile Bhúiséir;
- 70 spás páircála do charranna agus 5 bhá lódála;
- 551 spás páircála fadtréimhseach agus 180 spás geartréimhseach do rothair chun freastal ar na haonaid tithíochta;
- Soláthar spáis úrlár 1611 m² Miondiola/Tráchtála ag leibhéal na talún trasna ó Bóthar Bhaile Munnra/Cearnóg Phapáin (láithreán 5 agus 17);
- Soláthar 324 m² de shaoaráid cúlra leanaí ar úrlár na talún i Láithreán 5;
- Soláthar 1,058 m² de spás pobail, cultúir agus ealaíon a bheidh suite ar leibhéal úrlár na talún i láithreán 5 agus 17;
- Soláthar 91 spás do rothair scaipthe ar fud an láithreán chun freastal ar na húsaidí neamhchónaithe;
- Spás oscailte poiblí a soláthar i bplás nua ag Cearnóg Phapáin (1,953 m²) agus limistéir bhreise 979m², 496m² agus 839 m² ina bhfuil 2,969 m² spás oscailte poiblí;
- Athailiú ar Bóthar Bhaile Cora, soláthar dhá bhealach rochtana nua d'fheithicil (ceann amháin ó Lána Bhaile Bhúiséir agus ceann eile ó Bóthar Bhaile Munnra) agus lána toimnithe do choisithe agus do rothair amach ó Lána Bhaile Bhúiséir;
- Cóireálacha teorann, soilsiú poiblí, oibreacha draenála láithreán, cromchlú bóithre inmheánacha agus cosáin, seomraí méadair BSL, fostáilúin BSL, stórais, stóráil boscaí bruscair agus rothar, seomraí gléasra, fírdheochú; agus
- Gach seirbhís choimheachta láithreán agus oibreacha forbartha os cionn talún agus faoin talamh.

Rinneadh Scagadh le haghaidh Measúnachta Chuí i gcomhréir le hAirteagal 6(3) de Theoiric um Ghnáthóga (92/43/CEE) ar an togra agus scagthástáil maidir le Measúnacht Tionchair Timpéallachta faoi Threoir MTT 2011/92/AE, arna leasú ag Treoir 2014/52/AE.

I gcomhréir le hAirteagal 81 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2001, arna leasú, tá cinneadh déanta ag an Udarás Pleanála agus táthar den tuairim go:

- Ní dócha go mbeidh tionchar suntasach ag an bhforbairt atá beartaíte, ina haon nó i gcomhar le pleananna nó le tionscadlaí eile, ar shuíomh Eorpach ná ar shuíomhanna Eorpacha, agus mar sin de, níl gá le Céim 2 de Mheasúnacht Chuí.
- Níl aon dóchúlacht cheart ann go n-irreoidh an forbairt atá beartaíte tionchar suntasach ar an timpéallacht agus nach bhfuil an forbairt atá beartaíte de chaighdeán atá leagtha amach faoi Sceideal 5 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2001, arna leasú, agus mar sin níl gá le Tuairiscáil ar Mheasúnacht Tionchair Timpéallachta (EIA).

Is féidir le haon duine, laistigh den tréimhse 4 seachtaine ó dhátá foilsithe an fhógra seo, iarratas a dhéanamh ar an mBord Pleanála deimhniú scagthástála a dhéanamh maidir leis an dóchúlacht atá ann go n-irreoidh an forbairt tionchar suntasach ar an timpéallacht.

Féadfar na Pleananna agus na Sonraí i dtacaibh na forbartha beartaíte a iniúchadh, nó a cheannach ar tháille nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a bhaineann le cóip a dhéanamh ar feadh tréimhse 4 seachtaine ón 30/10/2024, le linn uaireanta oscailte poiblí ag Oifigí Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, An Cúntar Poiblí, An Rannóg Pleanála agus Forbartha Réadmhaire, Bloc 4, Úrlár na Talún, Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Luam - Aoin 9.00rn. go 4.30ln. Tá na pleananna agus na sonraí ar fáil freisin lena n-áirítear ar líne: <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle Cathrach www.dublincity.ie

Is féidir aighneacht nó tuairim maidir leis an bhforbairt a bhartaítear a bhaineann le pleanáil cheart agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an cheantair ina mbeadh an forbairt suite, a dhéanamh i scríbhinn leis an mBainisteoir Feidhmiúcháin, An Rannóg Pleanála agus Forbartha Réadmhaire, Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, roimh 4.30ln. an 11/12/2024.

Is féidir aighneacht nó tuairim a chur isteach ar líne freisin <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle Cathrach www.dublincity.ie roimh 23.59 a chlog ar an 11/12/2024.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) – PART 8

Applicant: Dublin City Council, Housing and Community Services

Location: Site c. 2.6 ha bound by Balbutcher Lane to the north, Balcurris Park to the west, the Ballymun Road to the east, and Balcurris Gardens to the south-west, Ballymun, Dublin 11

Proposal: Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Notice is hereby given of the construction of 288 apartment/duplex and housing units at a site of c. 2.6 ha (c. 2.2 ha net) bound by Balbutcher Lane to the north, Balcurris Park to the west, the Ballymun Road to the east, and Balcurris Gardens to the south-west, Ballymun, Dublin 11, which will consist of the following:

- Construction of 288 no. apartment/duplex and housing units across 5 sites (Sites 5, 15, 16, 17 and 18) ranging from 2 to 6 storeys containing 138 no one-bed, 87 no. 2-bed units, 61 no. 3-bed and 2 no. 4-bed dwellings.
- Site 5 consists of 132 no. apartment units (66 no. 1 bed, 44 no. 2 bed units and 22 no. 3 bed units) and ranges from 4 to 5 storeys including a new urban edge along Ballymun Road;
- Site 15 consists of 8 no. dwellings comprising 6 no. 1 bed own-door apartments and 2 no. 3 bed houses adjoining Balcurris Gardens;
- Site 16 consists of 5 no. dwellings comprising 2 no. 1 bed own-door apartments, 1 no. 3 bed house and 2 no. 4 bed houses adjoining Balcurris Gardens;
- Site 17 consists of 34 no. apartment units (17 no. 1 bed units, 9 no. 2 bed units and 8 no. 3 bed units) and ranges from 3 to 6 storeys forming an urban block with incomplete urban cell at the Linnbhla and Charter apartments;
- Site 18 consists of 109 no. apartments (47 no. 1 bed units, 34 no. 2 bed units and 28 no. 3 bed units) and ranges from 4 to 5 storeys with edges to Balcurris Road, Balcurris Park and a new edge to Balbutcher Lane;
- 70 no. car parking spaces and 5 no. loading bays;
- 551 no. long stay and 180 no. short stay bicycle parking spaces to serve the housing units;
- Provision of 1611 m² Retail/Commercial floor space at ground level facing Ballymun Road/St. Pappins Square (sites 5 and 17);
- Provision of a 324 m² childcare facility at ground floor in Site 5;
- Provision of 1,058 m² of community, cultural and arts space located at ground floor level in sites 5 and 17;
- Provision of 91 no bicycle spaces to serve the non-residential uses distributed across the site;
- The provision of a public open space in a new plaza at St Pappins Square (1,953 m²) and additional areas of 979m², 496m² and 839 m² with 2,969 m² of communal open space;
- Realignment of Balcurris Road, provision of two new vehicular accesses (one off the Balbutcher Lane and one off the Ballymun Road) and a dedicated pedestrian and cycle lane off the Balbutcher Lane;
- Boundary treatments, public lighting, site drainage works, internal road surfacing and footpaths, ESB meter rooms, ESB substations, stores, bin and cycle storage, plant rooms, landscaping; and
- All ancillary site services and development works above and below ground.

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the Planning Authority has made a determination and concluded that:

- The proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s) and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that the proposed development is not of a class set out under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA).

Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of 4 weeks from 30/10/2024 during public opening hours at the offices of Dublin City Council, Public Counter, Planning and Property Development Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Monday - Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm. The plans and particulars are also available for inspection online: <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> on the City Council's website www.dublincity.ie

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made, in writing, to the Executive Manager, Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, before 4.30pm on 11/12/2024.

Submissions or observations may also be made online <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> on the City Council's website www.dublincity.ie before 23.59hrs on 11/12/2024.