

Proposed Part VIII Development

Nobber First Station, Nobber, County Meath.

- Description:** The development will consist of
- (a) The partial demolition of the existing fire station building
 - (b) Its extension horizontally to the rear in order to extend the existing appliance bay and southeast wing
 - (c) Its extension vertically, to accommodate new break room and training room within the roof space at first floor level above the southeast wing
 - (d) The construction of a new four storey training tower at the southwest corner of the site
 - (e) The redesign of the landscaping around the Turlough O'Carolan monument to include the removal of the existing wall and fence and new hard and soft landscaping to create a public plaza with public lighting and seating
 - (f) All associated boundary treatments and site work.

Architects Report in respect of the Proposed Part VII Development

1. Background

Nobber Fire Station is a retained fire station providing firefighting services to a catchment population of some 9,000 in Meath.

The existing building is a single storey, single appliance station with ancillary sanitary and welfare facilities, store, meeting and temporary muster room. The building was constructed in 1965 and while recent works were undertaken to upgrade the thermal performance of the building, it is largely unaltered since its construction. The building is finished with a brick to the front elevation and dash render to the sides and rear of the building.

The site is located next to Turlough O'Carolan Park, with the total site area being c. 0.429 acre.

Currently there are no showers or suitable changing facilities and no female welfare facilities. There is no suitable muster bay area – currently crews changing into their fire kit in an area which previously served as a shower room. The appliance bay area is very tight and can only house one vehicle – the Firefighting Appliance. The 4x4 vehicle is stored externally in the unpaved area to the rear of the station. Currently the crew must travel to Navan Fire Station for operational training and evening fire drills to fulfil the requirement to undertake 80 hours drill training annually as per the guidance of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. This results in fire cover for the fire ground of Nobber Fire Station being subject to delayed response should an operational incident occur during the training period when the crew are in Navan Fire Station.

The proposed Part VIII is to upgrade existing building and facilities to comply with current employment and welfare legislation and best practice, while also adding essential space for an additional appliance and training facilities within the building.



2. Description of the Proposed Development



The proposed development consists of significant upgrade works which are outlined above. The station is in need of upgrading to comply with current employment and welfare legislation.

The main aims of the proposal are to Provide additional appliance bay area to

- Accommodate both vehicles attached to station within the appliance bay
- Provide suitable Muster area
- Provide Sufficient Welfare Facilities
- Upgrade Training and Kitchen Facilities
- Provide training yard and drill area to allow operational training to occur on site.

The proposal retains the existing structure where possible, while extending to provide the additional accommodation required. The extension to the rear extends the existing appliance bay and provides a suitable muster area & welfare facilities. The extension vertically accommodates a new break room and training room within the roof space at first floor level above the southeast wing.

The external upgrade works consist of a new Training area and Drill Yard consisting of a new 4 storey training tower to the southwest corner of the site. This will allow the operational training to occur on site and ensure quick response should an operational incident occur during the training period.

The site is located next to Turlough O'Carolan Park. As part of the works, it is proposed upgrade works to Turlough O'Carolan Park take place to provide a new public plaza and seating area. While this creates a new area for the town, it also increases the presence and approachability of the fire- station within the village.

3. Design Statement

The design takes the slop of the existing roof to the West side of the building and carries it on upward to create a second storey which consists of a generous Training and staff kitchen area. An open stairs links the Glazed Entrance to Turlough O'Carolan Park to the appliance bay. A large glazed wall between the stairs and the appliance bay allows light to penetrate deep into the heart of the building.

The existing and new external walls will be externally insulated to the highest level and finished with a low maintenance render system in a light colour that contrasts with the dark framing of the new treble glazed windows and Staffordshire Blue Brick that is proposed to the front and rear elevation. The new roof is dominant: clad and contemporary aesthetic that represents the ethos of a progressive and modern fire station.



The training tower, illustrated as a robust sculptural element to the scheme, consists of a winding staircase around a central wall with a roof structure that mimics the roof of the proposed fire station. This acts as a landmark that completes the overall composition by firmly defining the yard area.

Turlough O'Carolan Park is to be landscaped to highlight the Turlough O'Carolan Monument and main entrance the building. The paving is directional towards the main entrance, and new seating and lighting will provide a new asset to the village of Nobber.

