

New Health Facility is the First Step in Grangegorman Re-development

Construction on the long awaited new replacement facility for St. Brendan's hospital in Grangegorman, Dublin is finally set to begin. The Grangegorman Development Agency today signed the contract John Sisk and Sons Ltd for the €16.5 million project, which should see patients and staff of the old psychiatric hospital on the move in 2012.

The replacement health facility project is being undertaken as a first step in the major re-development of Grangegorman into a new urban quarter for Dublin City. This ambitious infrastructure project, which will see in the region of 4,000 construction jobs alone being created, will have health, education and community as its cornerstones.

In addition to the new replacement health facility, the Grangegorman quarter will be the new home to Dublin Institute of Technology, which is currently spread throughout 39 different locations across Dublin. DIT is the biggest 3rd level provider in Ireland and the move to Grangegorman will allow it to continue to expand its world class education provision into the future.

Speaking at the signing of the contract today the Chairman of the Grangegorman Development Agency, Mr. John Fitzgerald, said that it was great to finally see a major new construction project about to start in Grangegorman and indeed in Dublin. He said "we have been working towards this significant milestone since 2006 and this is just one aspect of the project. Our draft Planning Scheme is currently with Dublin City Council and we hope to have a decision on that before the end of the summer. That will enable the rest of the project to proceed."

The Chief Executive of the Grangegorman Development Agency, Mr. Michael Hand, explained the importance of this occasion. He said "The building of the new replacement hospital for St. Brendan's is significant for two reasons, it will provide a badly needed new home for the residents here and it also signifies the beginning of the physical aspect of the Grangegorman re-development. Once complete, the new hospital will facilitate the opening up of the whole site for the DIT aspect of the project to begin."

Also present at the signing of the contract was Mr. Brian Gilroy. Mr. Gilroy, who is a National Director with the HSE, said that this was a very important step for the HSE in terms of investment in Mental Health. He went on “Grangegorman has always had an institutional function in Dublin. While in the past there was a negative shadow cast on it, this new hospital will be seen as modern, comfortable and appropriate for those who are in need of extra care in our community. We are delighted to see the work about to finally begin.”

John Sisk and Sons are the largest construction company in Ireland. They have been involved in some of our biggest and most recognisable infrastructure projects in recent years, such as the Limerick Tunnel Project, Dublin Convention Centre, The Aviva Stadium, Dundrum Town Centre and Croke Park.

Signing the contract on behalf of SISK was Eastern Regional Director, Mr. Paraic Keogh. He said that SISK was delighted to have won the contract for St. Brendan’s. He continued “Sisk look forward to getting started on the new hospital and we hope that this is the start of an ongoing relationship with the Grangegorman project into the future”.

The new replacement facility for St. Brendan’s hospital will cater for up to 54 residents with varying needs. It will contain 3 different types of care unit for both males and females and each unit will have a maximum capacity of 12 people. Each resident will enjoy their own personal bedroom and ensuite bathroom.

The building will be surrounded by landscaped gardens and the design will encourage visual contact with green spaces throughout. This in itself is an important part of the therapeutic process according to latest best practice.

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