

# Design Guidelines

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Christchurch City Council (CCC) and Infinity Belfast Limited (IBL) have in place a number of rules and covenants that effect the development of sections at Belfast Subdivision.

The covenants offer you peace of mind in the knowledge that your neighbours are also required to meet the same minimum standards, protecting the built and landscape features and amenities of the development.

This document summarises the main requirements (as at the date provided to you), but for full details please refer to the relevant sections of the Christchurch City Plan and covenants applying to the Lot you have purchased.

If we can be of further assistance in helping your design process, please contact us on (03) 443 0088.

## 2. SECTION SPECIFICATIONS

- Each Lot will connect to reticulated stormwater;
- Each Lot will connect to reticulated wastewater;
- Each Lot will connect to reticulated water supply;
- Each Lot will connect to underground power;
- Street lights throughout development (servicing each stage as stage is titled); and
- Telecommunications provided by fibre.

## 3. HOUSE DESIGN RULES

All house designs must meet the requirements detailed below and your plans need to be approved by IBL prior to seeking building consent from CCC. The below requirements are subject to change (in IBL's sole discretion) from time to time.

Most requirements are either standard zone rules, or were negotiated with CCC for this development, with the aim of allowing higher density housing than the standard zone rules would otherwise permit, whilst at the same time ensuring that street appeal is maintained and neighbours are not unduly impacted.

Please note that the introduction of any Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) does not override the requirements of the Belfast Subdivision Land and Building Covenants and these design guidelines. Dwellings must comply with the Belfast Subdivision Land and Building Covenants and these design guidelines. IBL may at its sole discretion nominate certain areas within stages 6 and 8 of the Belfast Subdivision where development in accordance with the MDRS provisions will be allowed despite the Covenants and these design guidelines.

- **Building Height**  
The maximum height of any building shall be 8m.
- **Site Coverage**  
The maximum percentage of the net site area covered by buildings shall be as follows:
  - Sites with a net area of 300m<sup>2</sup> and over: 40%
  - Sites with a net area of under 300m: 45%
- **Outdoor Living Space**  
Accessible outdoor living space shall be provided on site for each residential unit and can be a mix of private and communal areas, at ground level or provided by way of above ground balconies, and shall meet the following areas and dimensions:

	Min Total Area	Min Private Area	Min Dimension
Residential units two bedrooms or more	30m <sup>2</sup>	16m <sup>2</sup>	4m for a private ground floor space or communal space*
One bedroom or studio units on the ground floor	16m <sup>2</sup>	16m <sup>2</sup>	4m for a private ground floor space or communal space*

One bedroom or studio units on the first floor or above	16m <sup>2</sup>	6m <sup>2</sup>	1.5m for balconies, 4m for a private ground floor space or communal space
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\*NB this means that one side is at least 4m – so to get to 16m<sup>2</sup> the dimensions could be 4m x 4m, or 8m x 2m, or 10m x 1.6 etc

### Recession Planes

Buildings shall not project beyond a building envelope constructed by recession planes as shown in Appendix 14.14.2 Diagram C of the CCC Plan from points 2.3m above:

- internal boundaries; provided that
  - a) where an internal boundary of a site abuts an access allotment or access strip the recession plane may be constructed from points 2.3m above the furthest boundary of the access allotment or access strip or any combination of these areas; or
  - b) where buildings on adjoining sites have a common wall along an internal boundary the recession planes will not apply along that part of the boundary covered by such a wall.

- Minimum building setbacks from internal boundaries

The minimum building setback from internal boundaries shall be as follows:

1	All buildings not listed below	1m
2	Where residential buildings on adjoining sites have a ground floor window of a habitable space located within 1.8m of the common internal boundary.	1.8m from neighbouring window for a minimum length of 2m either side of the window. This rule also applies to accessory buildings.
3	All other accessory buildings where the total length of walls or parts of the accessory building within 1m of each internal boundary does not exceed 10.1m in length.	Nil
4	Buildings that share a common wall along an internal boundary	Nil
5	All other buildings where the internal boundary of the site adjoins an access or part of an access.	1m

- Minimum setback and distance to living area windows and balconies

The minimum setback from an internal boundary for a living area window, including studio units, shall be 3m (and 4m for living area windows and balconies on floors above ground level).

### 4. LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

A landscape plan must be prepared and submitted with house plans as part of the Belfast Subdivision approval process.

- The full length of the road frontage not used as vehicle or pedestrian access, shall be landscaped to a minimum depth of 2m.
- IBL is generally expecting to see a degree of attractive landscaping at the front of all houses facing the street to help create an appealing streetscape for all residents.
- There are limits on how high any tree or shrub can be depending on the distance from the boundary. (See Land Covenants.)
- Landscaping is to be completed within three months of the dwelling receiving a code of compliance certificate.

Please see the Belfast Subdivision Land Covenants for further details.

### 5. FENCING REQUIREMENTS

For the purposes of this rule, a fence or other screening structure is not the exterior wall of a building or accessory building.

- The maximum height of any fence in the required building setback from a road boundary shall be 1.2m.
- This rule does not apply to fences or other screening structures located on an internal boundary between two properties zoned residential, or residential and commercial or industrial.
- Side and rear fences must be erected prior to any building construction unless otherwise agreed by IBL.

- All rear and side boundaries should be fenced to a height of 1.8m. A lower height at the street frontage of 1.2m transitioning up to a 1.8m height (for a minimum of 2m from the road boundary) is required.
- Any Lot which bounds a reserve must be fenced to a maximum height of 1.2m and have a minimum visual permeability/openness of 50% (e.g. Warner fence) – except where IBL provides its prior express written consent.
- All fencing proposed shall be shown on the landscape or site plan provided as part of the plan approval process.

## 6. PARKING & GARAGES

- Garages shall not comprise more than 50% of the ground floor elevation viewed from any one road boundary on any one site and shall not be more than 6.5m wide. For garages with the vehicle door generally facing a shared access or road boundary, the minimum garage setback shall be 5.5m from the shared access (not including access allotments) or road boundary.
- Road boundary building setback  
Where a Lot borders one road boundary, the minimum building setback from the road boundary shall be 4m. Where a Lot borders two road boundaries, then the minimum building setback shall be 4m from one road boundary and 2m from the second road boundary.
- Ground floor habitable space and overlooking of street  
The ground floor of a residential unit shall have a habitable space with a window area of at least 2m<sup>2</sup> facing the road boundary.
- Service, storage and waste management spaces  
Ideally the design should allow an area of sufficient size at the side or rear of the dwelling for storage of rubbish bins, of minimum size of 3m x 1.5m.  
  
If this is not possible and bins are to be stored at the front between the dwelling and road boundary, the design must provide for the 3m x 1.5m area to be screened behind 1.8m high timber or trellis fence facing the street.
- Minimum unit size  
The minimum net floor area for any residential unit shall be 90m<sup>2</sup> (exclusive of any garage under the same roof structure).
- Other Conditions
- No relocatable buildings are allowed (unless otherwise approved by IBL).
- All buildings must be constructed from new or high quality recycled materials (unless otherwise approved by IBL).
- Exterior wall cladding (excluding gable ends and trim) shall be either timber, concrete block, local stone, weatherboards, brick or textured plaster – and finished in their natural colour, neutral tones, or coloured earthy mid-tones (unless otherwise approved by IBL).

## 7. PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

### Applying for Approval

An application for design approval must be submitted to IBL prior to applying for your building consent to CCC. The Construction Bond is payable to IBL when an application for design approval is submitted.

In the event that the design approval application is not submitted prior to the start of construction, IBL reserves the right to charge a \$250 administration fee to process the delayed development approval application.

Sample documents to assist you in preparing your design application are available from IBL.

- Application cover letter;
- Approval checklist;
- Exterior finishes checklist;
- Sample building plans; and

- Construction Bond Agreement

The Construction Bond will be returned on confirmation from IBL that no amounts are owing and on completion of the following:

- The building must be completed and site landscaped in accordance with the approved plans.
- The site is left in a tidy condition.
- Any remedial or reinstatement works associated with the construction (e.g. kerbing) have been completed.
- All covenants and conditions have been complied with throughout the construction process.
- Where the above requirements have not been met, IBL may, without prejudice to any of its other rights, recover the cost for repairs, correspondence and administration from the Construction Bond prior to releasing it to the Lot owner.
- The Lot owner should advise IBL when they consider the works are complete and the Construction Bond is due for refund. IBL will complete an inspection as soon as possible and if in agreement refund the Construction Bond promptly.

The purchaser may only request (in writing) the repayment of the Construction Bond within 2 years from the date of payment of the Construction Bond. If the purchaser fails to request the repayment of the Construction Bond within the required timeframe, the Construction Bond will be forfeited.

## 8. RULES DURING CONSTRUCTION OF YOUR HOUSE

These are fully detailed in the Belfast Subdivision Building Covenants. In summary:

- Construction noise must be limited to reasonable hours and not be at an unacceptable level.
- Side and rear fences must be erected prior to any building construction.
- Erosion and sediment control measure must be in place.
- No animals on site during construction.
- Appropriate rubbish disposal measures must be in place.
- Limits on washing down construction vehicles and requirements to handle any spillage.
- Limits on builders' signage.

## 9. BUILDING AND SELLING

Construction of a dwelling house must commence within two years of settlement of purchase, unless otherwise approved by IBL.

No Lot shall be on-sold to another party until a house has been constructed, unless otherwise approved by IBL.

## 10. ENFORCEMENT

IBL may take steps to ensure observance of these guidelines but shall not have any legal responsibility or liability for any lack of enforcement or enforceability or application or waiver of any of these guidelines or any consents or approvals given by IBL under these guidelines. The Lot Owners agree to keep IBL fully indemnified from any claim, liability, loss or action arising against it or its agents in respect of these guidelines having regard to their intent to provide for the interests of Lot Owners inter se and their individual obligations of observance and rights of enforcement of the guidelines.

## 11. VARIATIONS AND DISCLAIMER

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of IBL's knowledge, as at the date this summary is provided. However, IBL is able to change these guidelines from time to time if IBL considers it is in the best interests of Belfast Subdivision to do so. IBL, its directors, employees, advisers and agents do not make any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information contained in this document. All compliance with covenants, consent conditions, building regulations, territorial authority requirements and any other statutory requirements is the responsibility of each Lot Owner and you should seek your own professional advice.