



Non-Statutory Public Consultation Report

August 2026



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1. Introduction



Introduction

From 8th June – 31st July 2026, Dún Laoghaire Harbour conducted a period of non-statutory public engagement for the National Watersports Campus (NWC), one of the first major projects to arise from the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan which was launched in early 2026.

This report covers the consultation activities undertaken, from targeted engagement to public events, and the key themes that have arisen from the feedback received in relation to the NWC plans.

A further phase of non-statutory engagement is currently planned for 2027, in advance of a planning submission to An Comisiún Pleanála scheduled for some time in the coming 12 months.



National Watersports Campus

Areas overview

- 1 Carlisle Event Slipway
- 2 Carlisle Event Building
- 3 High Performance Pontoon
- 4 Coal Harbour Watersports Building
- 5 Coal Harbour Boat Maintenance & Training Buildings
- 6 Coal Harbour Public Slipway
- 7 The Gut Windsports Building
- 8 The Gut Windsports Slipway



2. Consultation Process



How was the consultation publicised?

The following communication channels were used to build awareness amongst the public and local stakeholders:

- Project leaflet and map to improve understanding - distributed to Dún Laoghaire County Hall, dlr Lexicon and local watersports businesses located in and around Dún Laoghaire Harbour
- DLR Citizen Space webpage
- National Watersports Campus website
- Multiple social media posts on dlr accounts
- Outreach email through PPN
- Exhibition boards promoting consultation in situ at dlr Lexicon Library.



Engagement Materials



Have your say!
in shaping Ireland's first purpose built multi-watersport facility

Scan here!

The National Watersports Campus will be a collection of world-class facilities for watersports in Dun Laoghaire Harbour.

It will provide upgraded slipways, new buildings for watersports and windsports providers to operate from, specific landing capacity for high performance athletes, redesigned boat maintenance and training facilities and a new events building to accommodate large scale competitions and provide a home for watersports National Governing Bodies.

The aim of this Campus is to bring the wealth of watersports experiences under one banner, highlighting the huge amount of activity already taking place in Dun Laoghaire Harbour, and helping these sports to flourish and become more accessible for more people to enjoy long into the future.

The locations for the proposed designs can be seen on this map, and include:

1. Carlisle Event Slipway
2. Carlisle Event Building
3. High performance portico
4. Coal Harbour Watersports Building
5. Coal Harbour Boat Maintenance & Training Buildings
6. Coal Harbour Public Slipway
7. The Out Windsports Building
8. The Out Windsports Slipway

We're planning on making a very big *Splash*

The Campus is being developed in phases, and initial plans have been created to show how the proposed Campus buildings and slipways will operate. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is now seeking your feedback on the elements of these plans that matter to you. This input will help to shape the design that is taken forward in a planning application later this year.

You can review the proposals and make a submission with your views via this QR code.

You can also attend a dedicated drop-in event at County Hall, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire Wednesday, 18th July from 4pm - 7pm Or Register at the above link for an online webinar that will be hosted at 7pm on Tuesday, 14th of July.

The National Watersports Campus is a bold new vision for watersports in Ireland. We look forward to hearing from you on how we can best make it a reality.

A5 Project Leaflet

National Watersports Campus

Have your say!
Consultation Open
3rd July - 31st July

The National Watersports Campus will be a collection of world-class facilities for watersports in Dun Laoghaire Harbour.

It will provide upgraded and new public slipways for recreational water access, new buildings for watersports and windsports providers to operate from, specific landing capacity for high performance athletes, redesigned boat maintenance and training facilities and a new events building to accommodate large scale competitions and provide a home for watersports National Governing Bodies.

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Carlisle Pier

Carlisle Event Building

The Carlisle Pier building is a prominent landmark located at the western end of the pier, serving as a hub for major water sports events and activities. It is designed to be a multi-functional building, capable of hosting a wide range of activities, from everyday recreational and community events, to high performance competitions, and international events throughout the year. Although all of the buildings and public spaces will be designed to be visually integrated, the Carlisle Pier building is a key element of the campus, and its design will be a key factor in the overall visual identity of the campus.

Find out more here. Take our online survey, and let us know your thoughts.

Look and Feel

Make a submission

Carlisle Pier

Carlisle Event Building

Ground Floor Plan

First Floor Plan

A1 Consultation Summary Boards

National Watersports Campus

What's on Now What's Next

Watersports Directory

Discover clubs, courses, shops and services on our Watersports Directory to find anything you may need.

Watersports > Kayaking > Directory

Watersport Filter By Sort By

Kayaking Providers

4 Results Found

Club
Sandy Cove Kayak Club

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATIONS

Training
Kayaking.ie

TRAINING EVENTS YOUTH EXCURSIONS

Training
Mounthor

EVENTS YOUTH TRAINING

Club
Irish National Sailing & Powerboat School

EXCURSIONS

Dive deeper..

Get to know a bit more about each sport, like where they're located, what they offer, photos from providers, and more.

Discover the Watersports

National Watersports Campus

Site Map Home Watersports Directory What's Next

Get Involved Make a submission email@gmail.com +353 000 000

Contact Us

Dedicated Campus Website – www.nwsc.ie

What engagement activities took place?

- Meeting with elected representatives.
- Online survey – hosted on DLR Citizen Space from 3rd July – 31st July.
- A combination of individual and group in-person workshops and meetings, online and in-person. The Design Team had 9 different engagements with 16 stakeholders.
- Webinar – held on 14th July at 7pm and subsequently posted online.
- Public drop-in – hosted at County Hall, Dún Laoghaire from 4 – 7pm on Wednesday 15th July.
- Exhibition boards – available in Lexicon Library with project leaflets from 15th – 31st July.



3. Consultation Summary



Consultation Summary

The consultation included targeted stakeholder engagement and a series of public-facing events and activities which engaged approximately **249 people**.

9 stakeholder
workshops

Public Webinar

Online Survey

Public drop-in



Common Themes

Consultation feedback on the National Watersports Campus was **largely positive**, with both stakeholders and survey respondents **praising the upgraded offerings** that would arise as part of the proposed NWC facilities, and their **contribution to the development of watersports** in Dún Laoghaire.

Some concerns were raised about **public access vs. facilities predominantly used for private clubs or businesses**. There were also calls to ensure the Campus **supports the local Irish-speaking population**, ensuring **provision of parking is maintained** for watersports users with heavy equipment, and requests to **include additional bathing facilities** as part of the plans.

Specific building concerns included queries around **security, additional changing facilities, building management, and parking**.

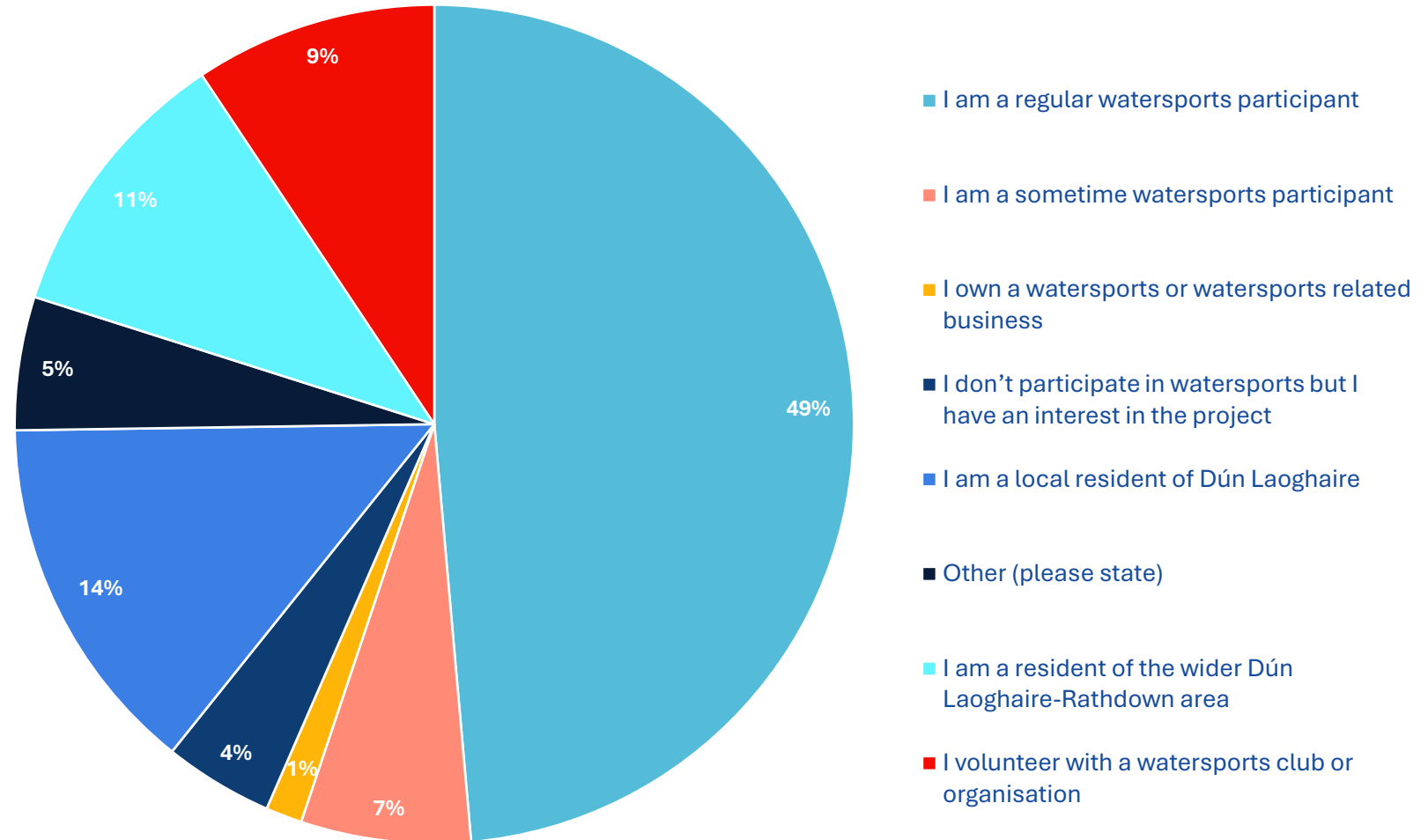


Profile of Survey Respondents

A total of 214 responded to an online survey hosted via CitizenSpace.

In answer to the question “How do you currently engage with watersports in Dún Laoghaire Harbour?”, 49% of people self-selected as a “regular watersports participant”, with 1% stating they own a watersports or related business.

How do you currently engage with watersports in Dún Laoghaire Harbour?

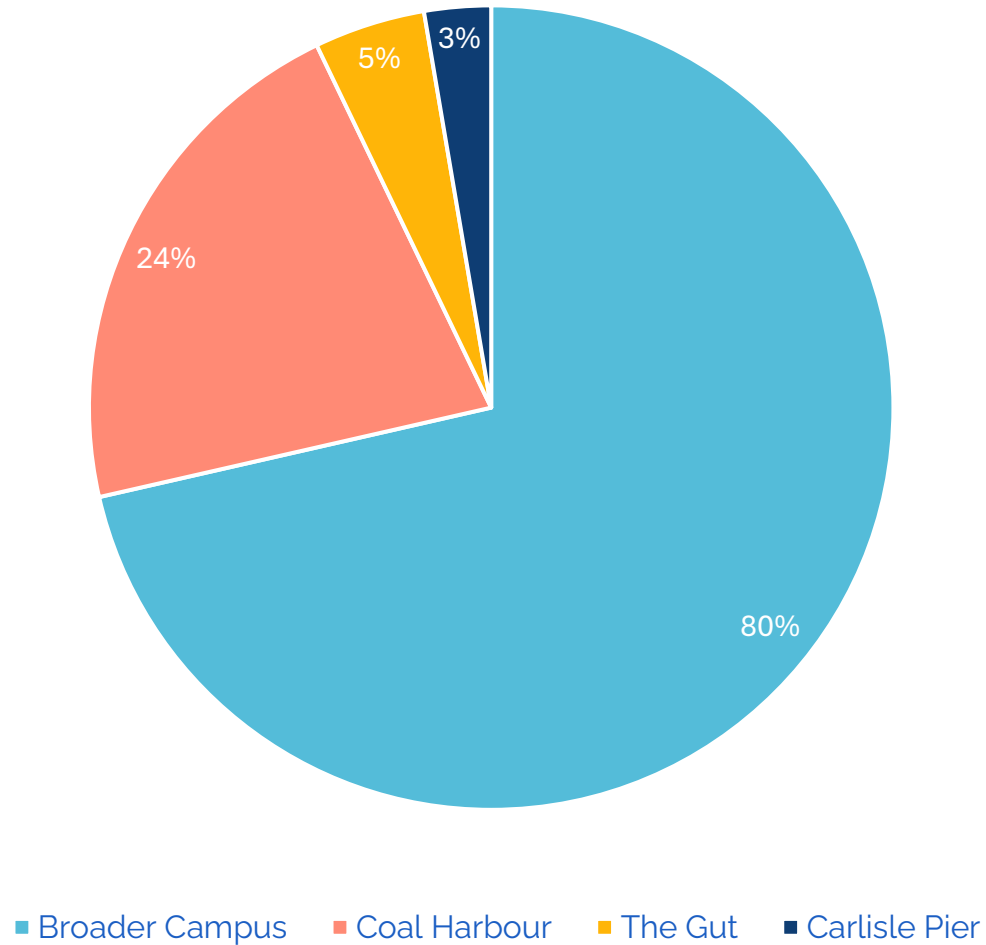


N=214

Responses by area

The majority (80%) of respondents referred to the broader campus when making submissions, with 24% honing in on proposed developments for Coal Harbour, 5% for The Gut and 3% referencing the events building and slipway at Carlisle Pier.

Area Mentions

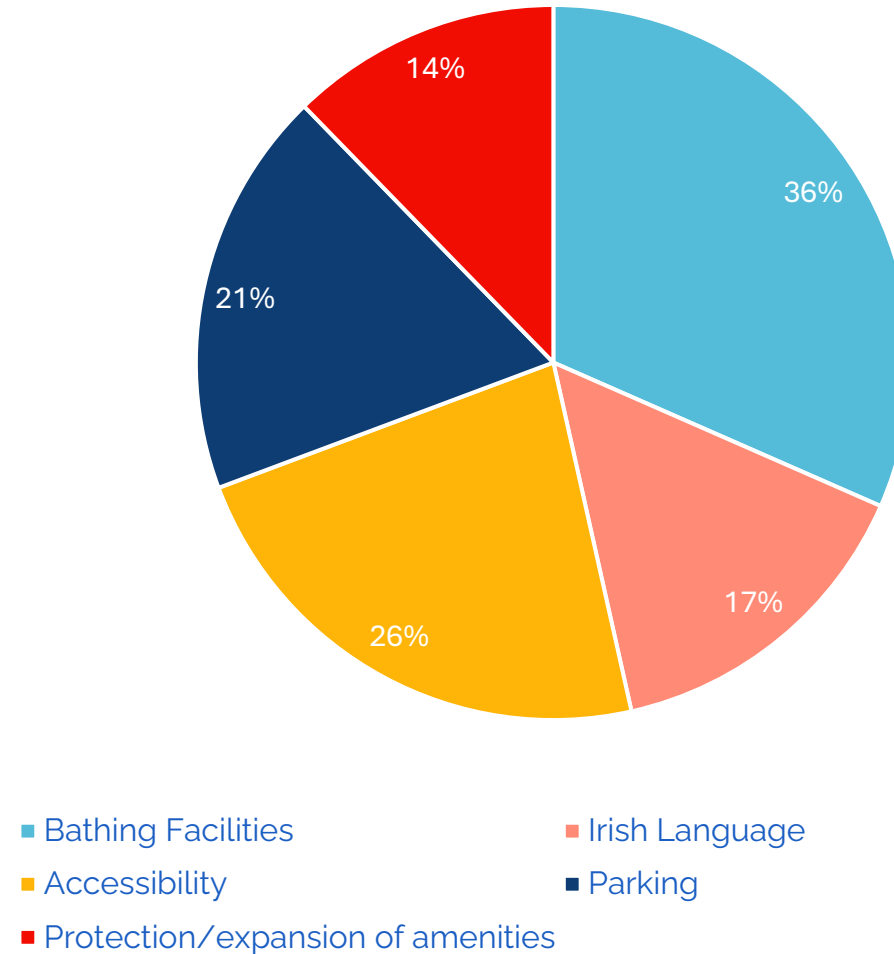


N=214

Responses by theme

A significant number of respondents (36%) explicitly requested the inclusion of additional bathing facilities as part of the plans. A further 26% of respondents requested that facilities be accessible to the public, both in terms of financial accessibility and physical accessibility. 21% called to maintain or increase parking provision, and 17% requested that the Campus have provision for Irish language signage and activities. A further 14% requested protection of their current amenities and expansion of proposed footprint of their facilities.

Common Themes



N=214

Online survey response

Feedback largely reflects support for the project. Top priorities emerging from the survey include:

- **Accessible and inclusive facilities** which cater to the public, not just private clubs. There was a call for consideration of general users, community groups and clubs.
- **Provision of amenities** including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, changing and shower facilities, toilets, storage, public pontoons and parking nearby to the slipways. There was also a call for careful consideration to be given to medical and emergency preparedness.
- Consideration given to Dún Laoghaire's Irish-speaking population, by **providing bilingual signage, Irish-led activities, Irish language branding, and educational initiatives.**
- **Safety and operational considerations** including harbour safety, traffic management, emergency access, and emergency medical planning.
- Support for **existing users**, tenants and businesses.



4. Feedback Overview



Feedback Topics

Indoor swimming pool:

- A number of submissions (36%) called for an accessible indoor 50m pool to be included in proposals to provide for swimming, water polo, diving, scuba diving, underwater hockey and to address a lack of provision at that level in the area.

Outdoor swimming pool;

- A number of submissions also requested an outdoor swimming pool.

Bilingual Approach:

- It was suggested that naming, signage, and specific courses/classes and café services are offered in Irish in line to cater for the current Irish-speaking population and to support its growth.

Public vs. Private Facilities:

- A number of submissions queried the exact provision of public facilities vs. facilities proposed for sailing and yacht clubs.

Boat Storage:

- There were queries as to the level of boat storage that would be provided in the plans.

Increased traffic:

- Concerns were raised about increased traffic in the area once the Campus is built.

Reduced access to piers:

- Concerns were raised about access to piers once Campus is built.

Feedback Topics

Planning application:

- It was queried whether or not the various elements of the Campus would be part of one or a number of planning applications.

Medical services:

- It was requested that Emergency Services are consulted during the next stage of the design process to ensure adequate space and facilities for emergency response across buildings

Material palette:

- There was a request that Design Team consider using appropriate materials to reflect the current materiality of the Harbour.

Future-proofing / Sizing:

- It was noted that demand for watersports is likely to increase with new facilities and that the design should plan for future requirements, rather than encounter costly redevelopments later down the line.

Impact on traffic:

- Queries were raised as to whether the Campus would cause additional traffic and whether this been factored into planning.

Solar panels:

- It was queried whether there would be solar panelling on the new buildings.

Feedback Topics

Sustainable travel:

- Queries were raised as to whether bicycle parking etc. would be considered to encourage sustainable travel.

Planting around buildings:

- Queries were raised about the types of planting proposed around the buildings.

Supporting local business:

- There were requests that local businesses be used where possible to support the National Watersports Campus.

Designing for Swifts:

- There were requests that in consultation with Birdwatch Ireland, Swift Conservation Ireland, and DLR County Council, that 'swift bricks' be proposed to be incorporated at appropriate places in Campus buildings.

Sheltered area for divers:

- Request for a sheltered area for diving practice to be considered within the Harbour.

Space for racing:

- Concerns were raised that development would reduce space available for design racing.

Consolidating locations:

- Requests were made to consolidate the location of the NWC elements closer together.

Land-based sports:

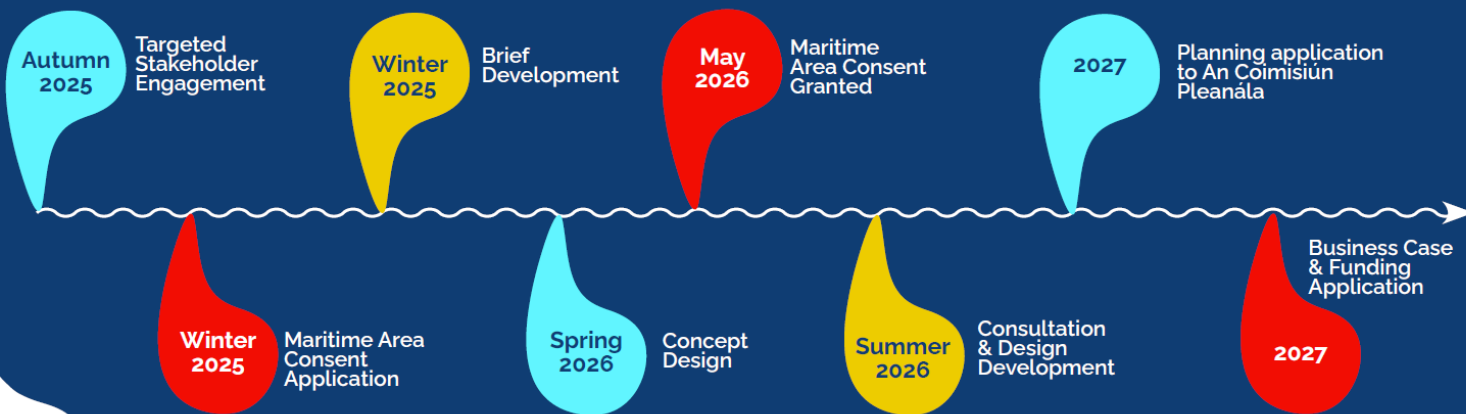
- Request that facilities for land-based sports are considered for poor weather conditions.

Next Steps

The Design Development stage will now continue, taking into account the feedback received as part of the non-statutory consultation phase.

Once designs are further developed there will be a further non-statutory consultation phase in advance of statutory applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

If these applications are approved, a business case and funding application will be prepared.





Thank you

