

# **Clifton / Rathsallagh Teen Space & Natural Play**

## **Public Consultation Report**

**Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council (DLRCC)**

**March 2026**

## 1. Introduction

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) has identified a need for a new Teen Space with natural play elements at Clifton Park and Rathsallagh, Shankill, Dublin 18. This report consolidates the Play Policy context (2023–2028), stakeholder engagement, consultation preparation, a summary of submissions, DLRCC responses, and the findings of the public consultation survey.

## 2. Location

Proposed new Teen Space & Natural Play elements will be located to the rear of Shanganagh Park House. The area includes a MUGA requiring refurbishment.



*[Proposed Location marked in red]*

### – Preparation for Public Consultation

To prepare for the public consultation:

- A site visit was carried out to assess existing facilities and understand the surrounding environment.
- Liaised DLR Community Department to discuss the project and gather key stakeholder contacts who could help circulate the consultation survey.

Clifton Rathsallagh Teen Space & Natural Play

- The online survey (pre-design stage consultation) ran from 6 January to 6 February 2026. Written submissions could also be emailed, posted, or delivered to County Hall
- An in-person consultation event was held at Shanganagh House Community Centre on Thursday, 22 January 2026, where plans and ideas were discussed directly with residents.
- The Public consultation was advertised by DLRCC through social media posts regularly throughout the public consultation.
- Posters erected locally to inform local residents.

Given that Rathsallagh and Clifton Park are mature residential estates, it was essential that all residents had an opportunity to engage.

The consultation aimed to gather a wide range of views from residents and stakeholders to help shape the concept design.

The objective of this project is to:

- Engage with local teenagers and stakeholders to understand community needs.
- Create a space for teenagers to socialise safely and enjoyably.
- Delivering a space that promotes physical health and wellbeing.
- Provide an inclusive environment that supports participation from diverse users.
- Support and enhance the broader community.

To maximise participation, stakeholder mapping was conducted in December, identifying a 3 km radius as a reasonable walking or cycling catchment for the project. Local stakeholders were contacted by phone and email to encourage promotion through their networks.

### **Stakeholder Mapping Contacts (3 km catchment)**

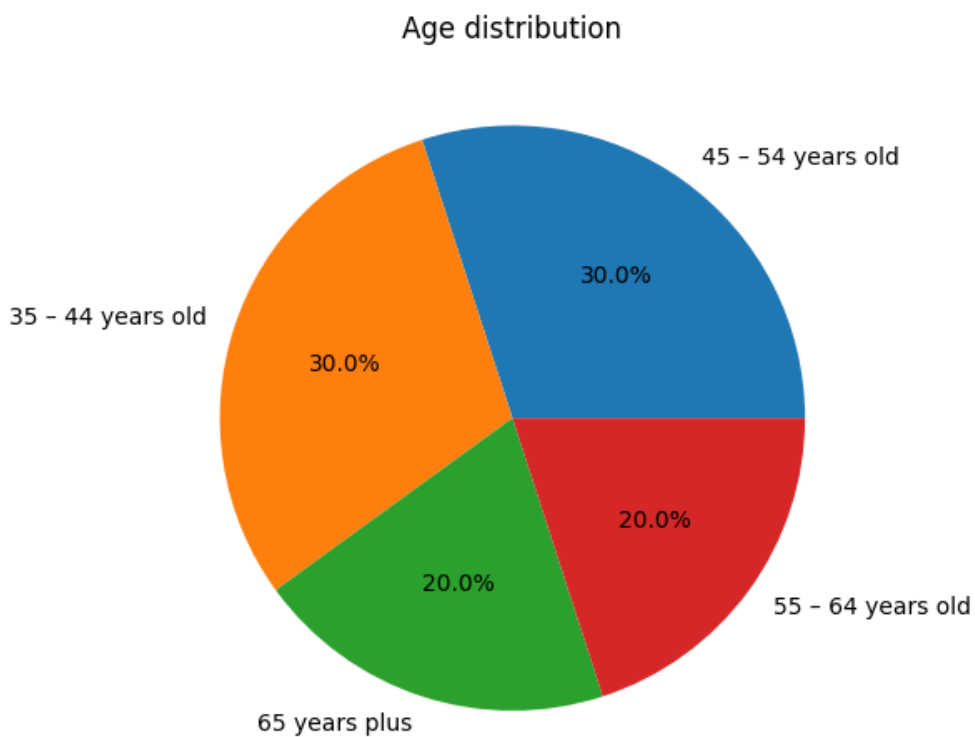
- Rathsallagh / Shanganagh / Clifton Park Estate Management
- Shanganagh Park House
- Crosscare Youth Service
- Road Action Group

## Summary of Submissions

- Total 26 submissions received: 20 online, 6 by email,
- Mentions: 18 positive, 5 negative (some submissions included both).

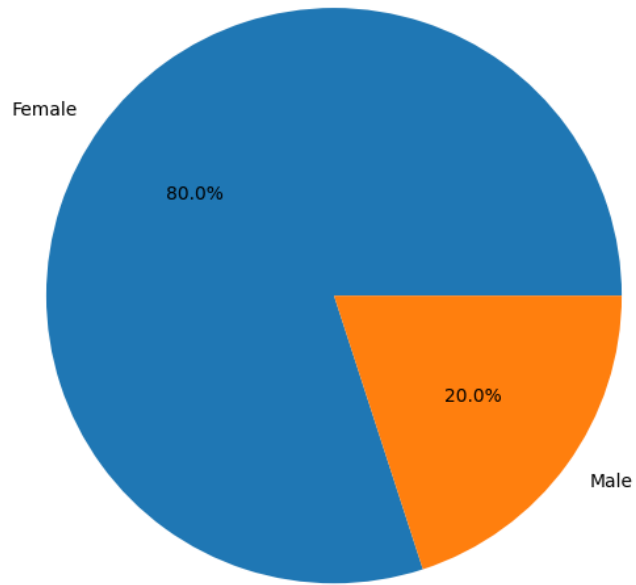
## . Findings from the Public Consultation Survey

### 7.1 Respondent Demographics



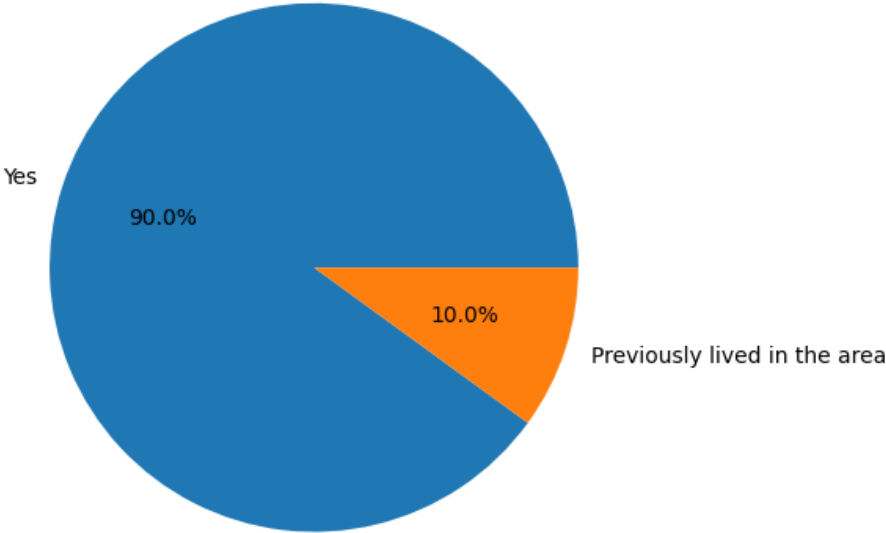
- *This indicates strong commitment from long-term residents and families who use the area daily. Unfortunately, it also shows a lack of engagement from pre-teens and teens for which this space is being created.*

Gender breakdown



*The majority of respondents were female.*

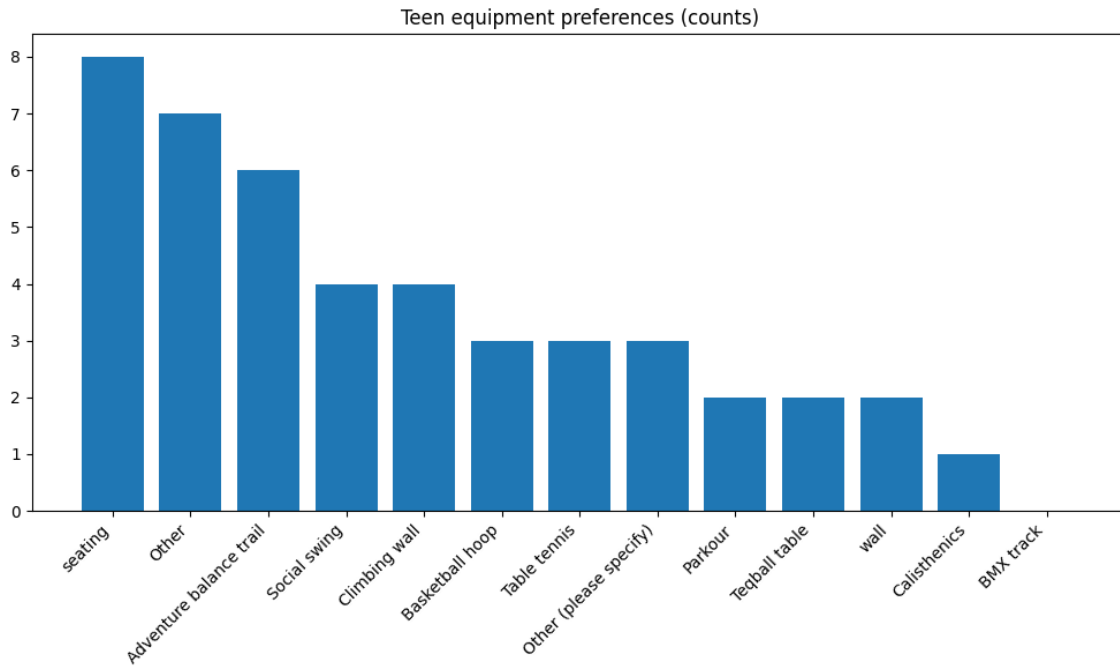
Local residency



*Almost all respondents confirmed they are local residents.*

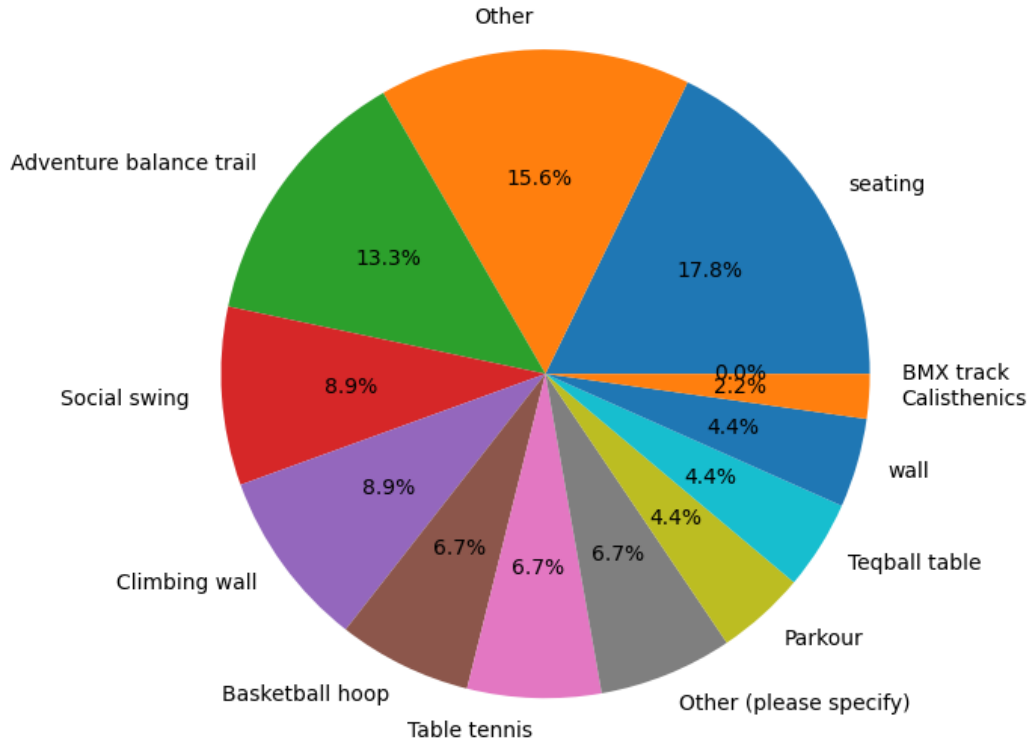
## **7.2 Teen Equipment Preferences**

Counts per category (bar chart):



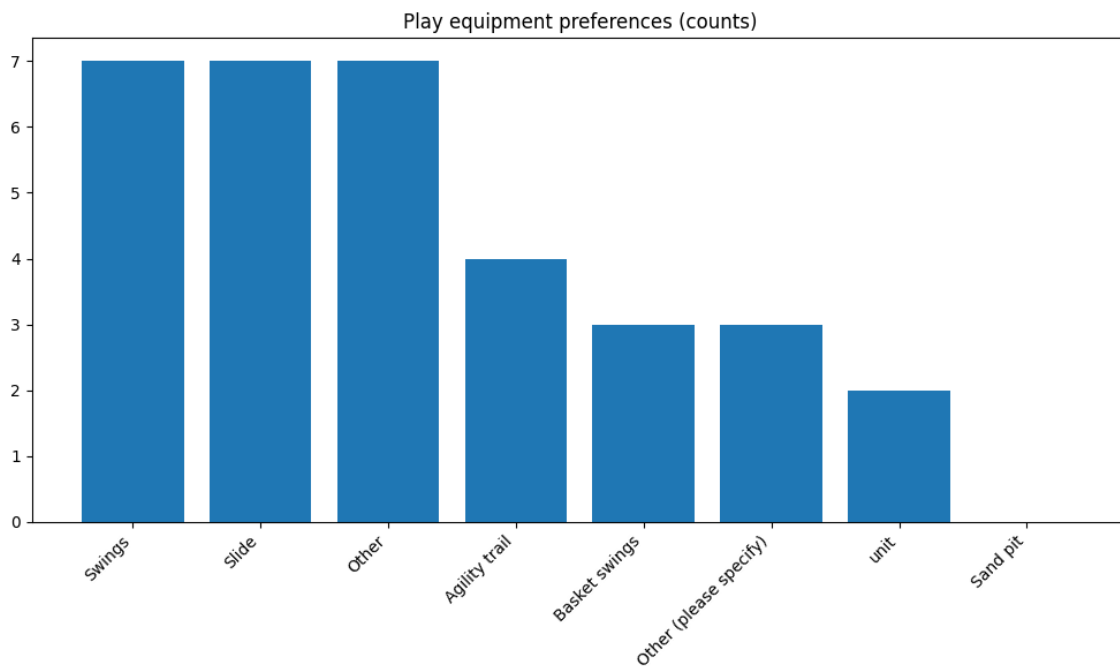
*Strong desire for seating and landscaping reflects the demographic response in public consultation.*

Teen equipment preferences (incl. Table tennis & BMX)



*This aligns with best practice for contemporary teen spaces across Europe.*

### 7.3 Play Equipment Preferences (Younger Children)



*Residents expressed interest in robust, traditional play features.*

**Most respondents indicated they walk to the area, highlighting the importance of:**

- Safe pedestrian routes
- Improved lighting
- Traffic-calming measures (frequently mentioned)
- 

### **DLRCC Responses**

#### **Lighting and Safety**

Lighting and safety were the most common concerns. DLRCC will:

- Review lighting in the vicinity.
- Recognise the importance of passive surveillance and open design principles.
- Will contact DLRCC Traffic Department and request a traffic risk assessment be carried out.

Residents with concerns regarding anti-social behavior are encouraged to contact Shankill Garda Station or the Shankill Local Policing Forum

### **Equipment**

DLRCC is committed to creating a Teen Space and natural play area that has a high play value and is durable, low maintenance and locate quiet zones and social seating to encourage calm, inclusive use. We will consider the suggested equipment proposed while designing for this area.

A community Garden/ Orchard was requested on the night of the public consultation at Shanganagh Park House. We will consider this request in the overall plan of the area and consult the Parks operation section.

### **Increases in community use of Shanganagh Park House**

As this is outside Parks & Landscape department remit, we will contact Community Department with the submitted suggestions from the public consultation.

- Will liaise with DLRCC Community Department and highlight calls for a supervised indoor teen hangout zone at Shanganagh Park House for evening winter months.
- Access is available to the junior play area at Shanganagh Park House for residents to use **during daylight hours** after creche closure and weekends.
- Request enhanced outreach services for local teens and structured and creative activities for teens at Shanganagh Park House

### **Conclusion**

The consultation evidence both need and support for a sensitively designed Teen Space and natural play elements. Key concerns raised were anti-social behavior in certain locations; lighting and visibility; durability of equipment and investment in maintenance of the proposed teen space; and comfort and safety for older residents. With robust materials, improved lighting, tree planting and more seating with thoughtful location and ongoing engagement, the teen space can become a valued, safe and inclusive asset for Clifton, Rathsallagh and Shankill. This positive opportunity can provide play areas for ages 10+, support social connection and integration between established and emerging new communities. A healthy active and enhanced landscaping and seating for intergenerational use. DLRCC aims to address these priorities identified in the public consultation through our design within our allocated budget.