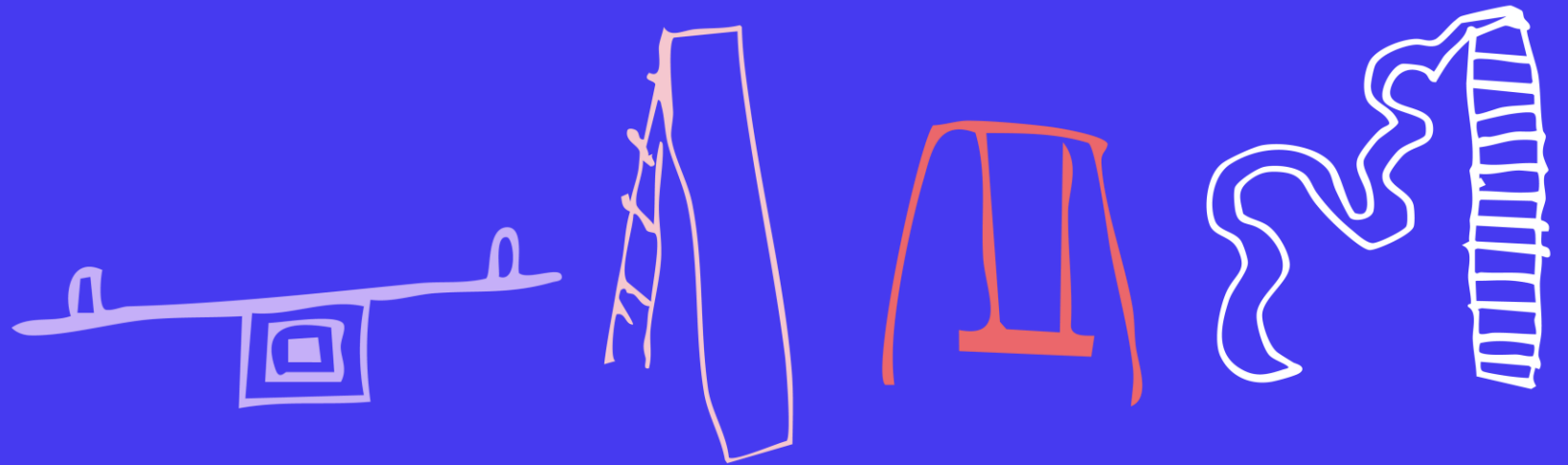


# New Play Space, Clonkeen Park, Deansgrange

Non-statutory Consultation Report  
Summary of Findings

February 2024



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2. Relevant Local Policy and Supporting Research
3. Site Context
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## **Appendices**

- *Online Survey*
- *Snapshot of quotes from Online Submissions*
- *School Workshop drawings*
- *Summary of Play spaces references*
- *Artist Summary Note*






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# 1. Introduction

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Páirc Chluain Caoin  
Clonkeen Park



# New Play Space at Clonkeen Park

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) have identified a need for a new play space at Clonkeen Park, Deansgrange.

The DLRCC Play Policy was adopted in 2023. It establishes a set of goals, objectives and actions to enhance play opportunities in the most accessible and inclusive way throughout the county. The actions arising include the refurbishment of existing play spaces and the development of new ones where a gap has been identified.

Engagement and collaboration is a key part of the Play Policy which requires that we *‘involve children and young people in the re-imagining of spaces for play, and in the design of new play spaces’*.

This report details the non-statutory engagement undertaken by M-CO on behalf of DLRCC during Winter 2024 that included:

- relevant local policy and supporting research
- Summary of local outreach, artist workshops with local school children and an adult information session
- & insights from online engagement through survey and email responses





# Summary Findings

Public engagement activities were carried out November 2024 to January 2025 by M-CO in advance of the design of the play space. These activities included:

- DLR CitizenSpace online survey
- Public workshop in Kill O' The Grange Parish Hall
- Primary school workshops in Kill O' The Grange National School

Overwhelming support for a play space in Clonkeen Park was evident, with 98% of the 444 responses received (437 via online survey and 7 email submissions) in favour.

Key themes that emerged included calls for an accessible playground catering to all ages and mobility needs, improved amenities (toilets, bins), safety, and a focus on sustainability and creative, sustainable equipment. The preferred types of play were Natural play, Traditional play and Intergenerational play.

There was also a significant amount of feedback on the location of the play space, with differing views on locating it at Meadow Vale (beside the BMX track) or close to the Deangrange crossroads end of the park. Concerns were expressed about the potential for disruption from additional traffic and parking.

The DLRCoCo responses to the consultation and recommendations are included in **Section 7** of this report.





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## 2. Relevant Local Policy and Supporting Research

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# Play for All

From the mountains to the sea,  
it's there for you & me!



# DLR Play Policy 2023-2028

DLR Play Policy highlights the five national outcomes of the *National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2014-2020 'Better Outcomes Brighter Futures'*

1. Active and healthy to maximise physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Have economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

*Children's play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves; it takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise.*

*(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31)*





# Common Barriers to Play

DLR Play Policy 2023-2028

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Blackrock Park image courtesy DLR Parks

Common barriers to play identified in the *DLR Play Policy 2023 - 2028* include:

- The intersection of **large roads**, the presence of **bridges** and **motorways**
- Increased levels of **traffic within residential areas** which limits traditional street and community play opportunities due to safety concerns
- A **loss of accessible public green spaces** which are openly available for children to play
- A **lack of understanding** about the importance of play and a low level of tolerance towards children playing outdoors by some adults in some communities
- A **lack of appropriate play infrastructure** e.g., fixed play areas, open recreation spaces, playable public realm etc. to meet the play needs of children and young people
- **Limited opportunities for the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities or complex needs** within play spaces and environments

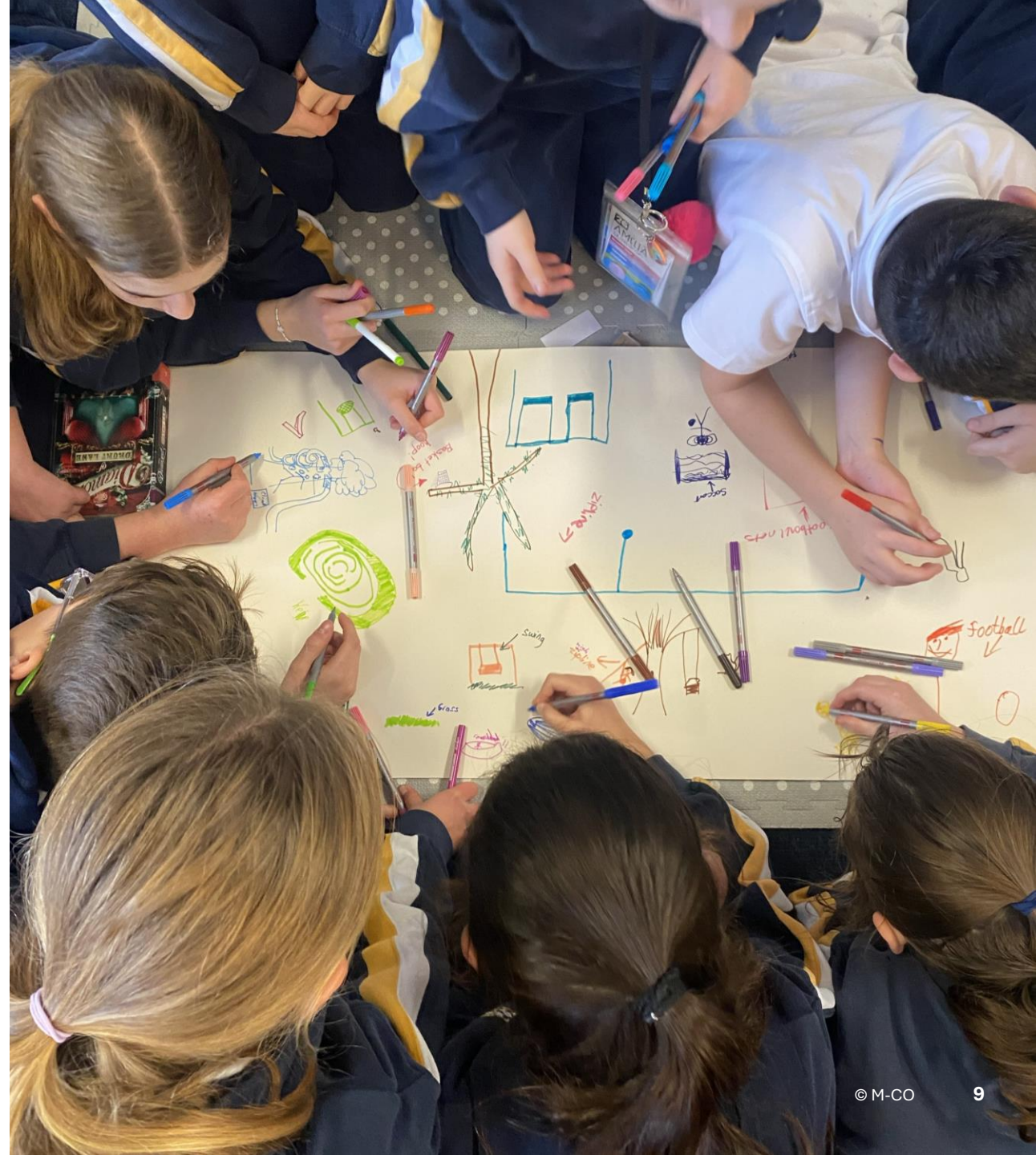


# Indicators for success

DLR Play Policy 2023-2028

Indicators for success identified in the DLR Play Policy 2023 - 2028 include:

- **The meaningful involvement of children and young people** in the design and delivery of spaces and opportunities for outdoor play and recreation.
- **Risk experience:** children's views on the degree of excitement they experience Risk opportunities i.e., evidence of a risk-benefit approach being taken to allow challenging and exciting outdoor play opportunities.
- **Adult attitudes to children and young people** being outside in the local environment.





# Principles

## DLR Play Policy 2023-2028

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Image courtesy DLR Parks

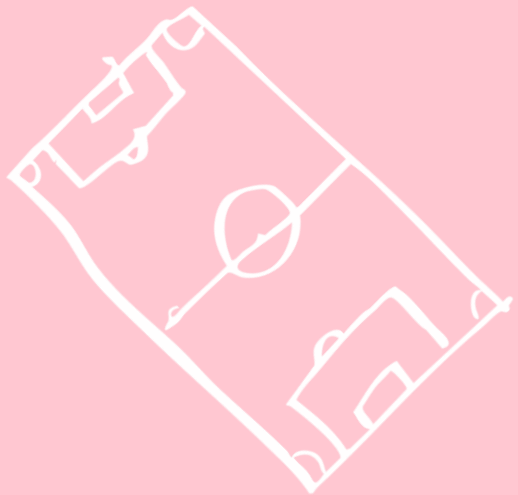
- The concept of **universal design** underpins the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Play Policy
- Everybody living in the county should experience play and have **access** to play opportunities
- Children and young people have a **right to play** and to have a **say** in how they play
- Play and playfulness are fundamental to **good health**, development and **well-being**
- Play **empowers core skills** that support social, intellectual, physical and emotional well-being
- Play helps people **connect** with their local communities and provides opportunities for fun and enjoyment
- Everybody should have access to play places and spaces with **high quality** play opportunities, where they can enjoy outdoor free play and **test risk** in stimulating spaces, as well as experiencing **nature** on a daily basis



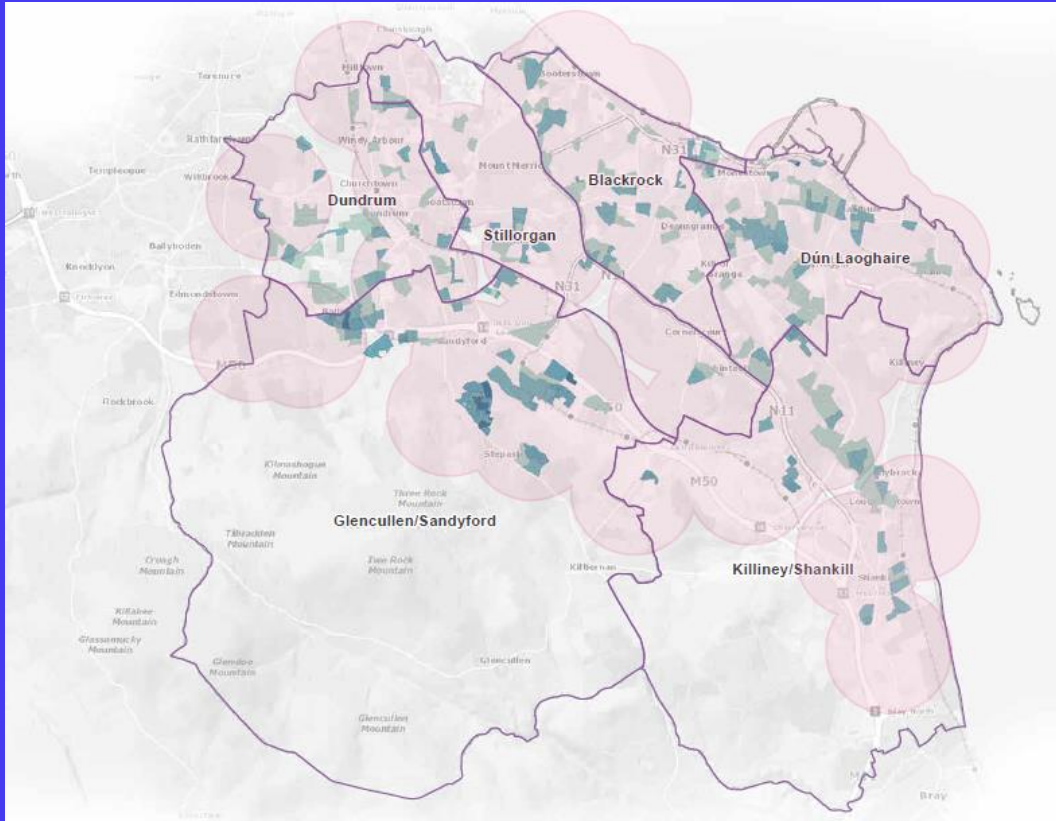
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# 3. Site Context

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# Demographic Profile: Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown



2022 CSO findings show that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has experienced sustained population growth of c. 1.2% per annum through each of the last three intercensal periods (2006-2011, 2011-2016 and 2016-2022), comprising a c. 20% increase in total county population in the last 16 years.

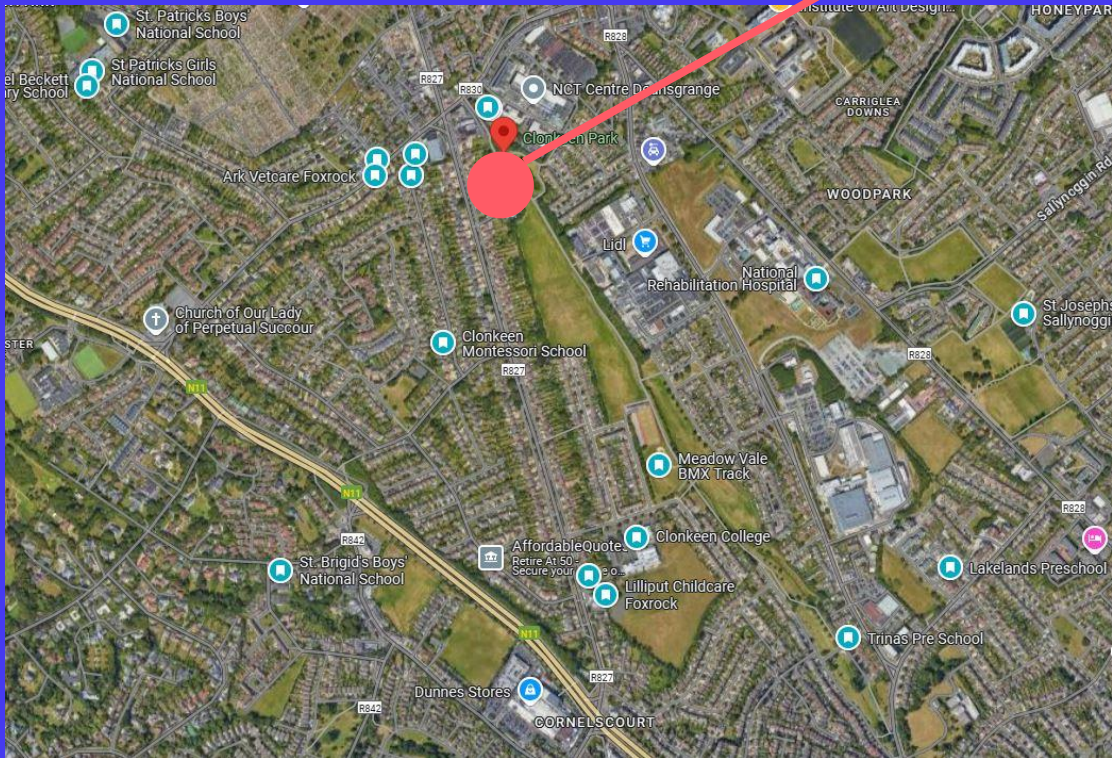
The figure for children and young people aged 0-24 years is 69,851 which accounts for 32% of the population and this was broadly in line with national figures.\* The population can be broken down as follows:

- 0 to 4 years (13,810 or 6.3%)
- 5 to 12 years (21,302 or 9.8%)
- 13 to 17 years (12,682 or 5.8%)
- 18 to 24 years (22,056 or 10.1%)

\* *DLR Play Policy 2023 - 2028*



# Demographic Profile: Clonkeen Park/Deansgrange



There are approx 2600 children under 14 living within 1.5km of the Deansgrange Crossroads.\*

Within the Clonkeen Park area there are a number of local primary schools, the closest to the park being Kill O' The Grange N.S., but also nearby are Holly Park Girls & Boys N.S., Monkstown Educate Together and Elysée Francaise D'Irlande.

*A play space in Clonkeen park aligns with local play policy objectives but also:*

- *The 2010-2015 (extended to 2020) Deansgrange Local Area Plan*
- *& 2020 County Development plan, which aimed to provided play spaces within a 1.2km radius of most residents.*

There is a local campaign group of parents called 'Deansgrange Play' which has been in place since 2022, asking for the opening of an open and inclusive play area in Deansgrange. They accumulated widespread community support for local play facilities, generated an online petition with 750 signatures and have an active social media presence.

*\*based on 2021 census*



# Clonkeen Park

Clonkeen Park is a linear park, bounded by housing estates extending from Deansgrange and Kill O the Grange National School to Johnstown Road, Cabinteely. The Deansgrange/Clonkeen Stream runs through it which connects into constructed wetlands in the park and Kilbogget Park. This has a diversity of wildlife with egrets and other birds nesting along it.

There is a constructed wetlands pond to the Northern park entrance at Deansgrange, where Kill O' The Grange National School adjoins the park. The National Rehabilitation Centre is nearby (which has a children's ward) and numerous local schools.

The cycle and walk way runs from Deansgrange through to the Johnstown road and provides a through route for many of its pupils coming from and to school. There are pitches in the park utilised by local football and GAA clubs , also a local tennis club and bmx track.

Regular park users include:

- Parents and grand parents with young children
- Joggers
- Cycling commuters along the shared cycle route and pathway
- Children going to and from school
- Sports clubs and numerous local dogwalkers





# 4. Stakeholder Mapping

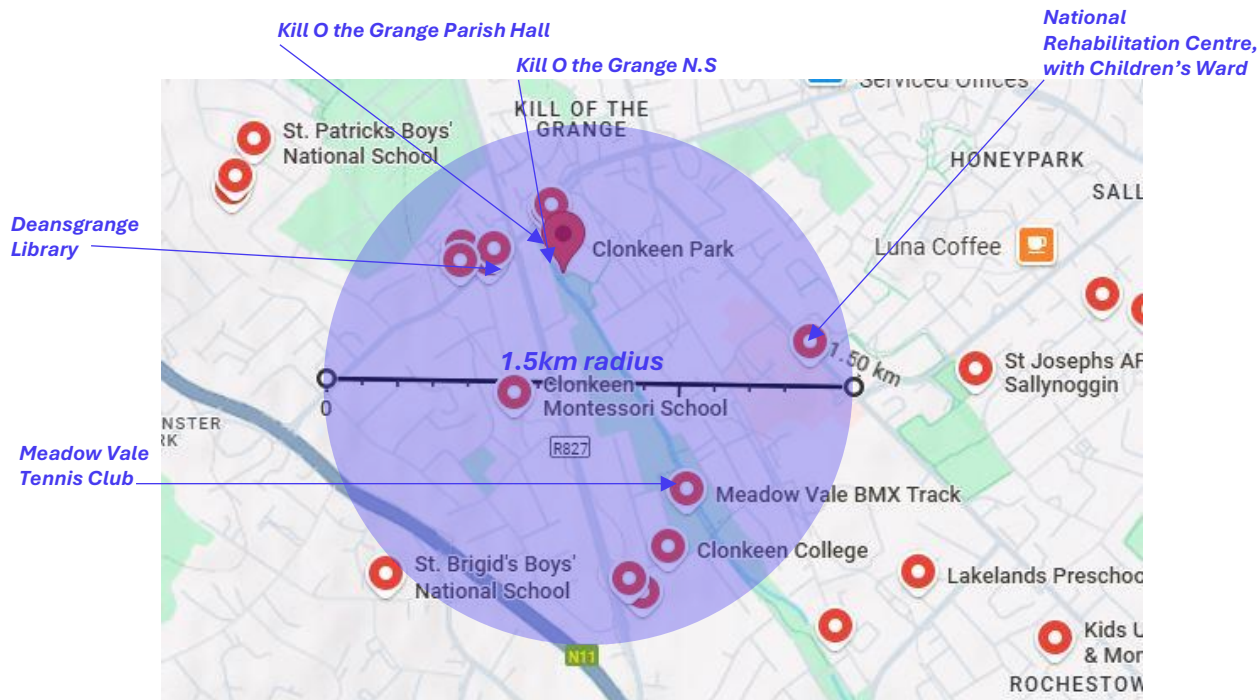


# Stakeholder Mapping

Research into groups within a 1-2km radius that may be interested in development of local play facilities

Groups identified ranged from educational, health, community orientated, and youth focused, as well as some local small businesses. Key local stakeholders mapped are outlined in the table opposite.

Contacts for each were established and notified to disseminate consultation information with varying levels of engagement.



Key Local Organisations / Groups Engaged	Sector
Deansgrange Play	Community
Kill Avenue & Deansgrange Tidy Towns	Community
Kill O'The Grange National School	Education
Holly Park Girls and Boys National School	Education
National Rehabilitation Hospital, Children's Ward	Local Service
Meadow Vale Residents Association	Community
Kill Abbey Residents Association	Community
McIntosh Park Residents Association	Community
dIc Early Years & School Age Child Assoc	Network grp
Children's & Young People's Service Committee	Network grp
Deansgrange Library	Local Service
Meadow vale Tennis Club	Local Service
Fellini's Restaurant	Local Business
Clonkeen College	Education



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# 5. Engagement Activities

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# Engagement Activities

Public engagement activities were carried out by M-CO to get feedback in advance of the design of the play space. These activities are outlined as follows:

- DLR CitizenSpace **online survey** from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025
- **Public workshop** in Kill O' The Grange Parish Hall on 2nd December 2024
- **Primary school workshops** in Kill O' The Grange National School on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with 2nd and 6th classes and artist Elida Maiques

**Promotion** of engagement included:

- DLR CitizenSpace consultation hub
- Social media posts by DLR CoCo
- Direct email contact with stakeholder groups
- A2 posters in Clonkeen Park
- Emailed updates to local public representatives

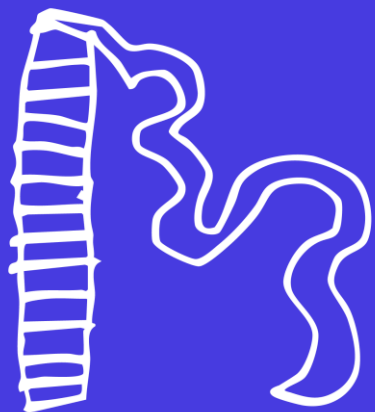




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# 6. Engagement Outcomes and Responses

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## Workshops in Kill O' The Grange National School

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Two workshops were held in Kill O' The Grange National School (04.12.2024) with 2nd and 6th classes and artist and creative facilitator Elida Maiques.

Firstly, the children had a group discussion about what they liked in terms of outdoor play, they then walked through Clonkeen Park and discussed what they saw (animals, plants, people, activities). Finally, they returned to the classroom and collectively drew a 'monster doodle' on a large piece of paper elements of play that they felt would improve the park.

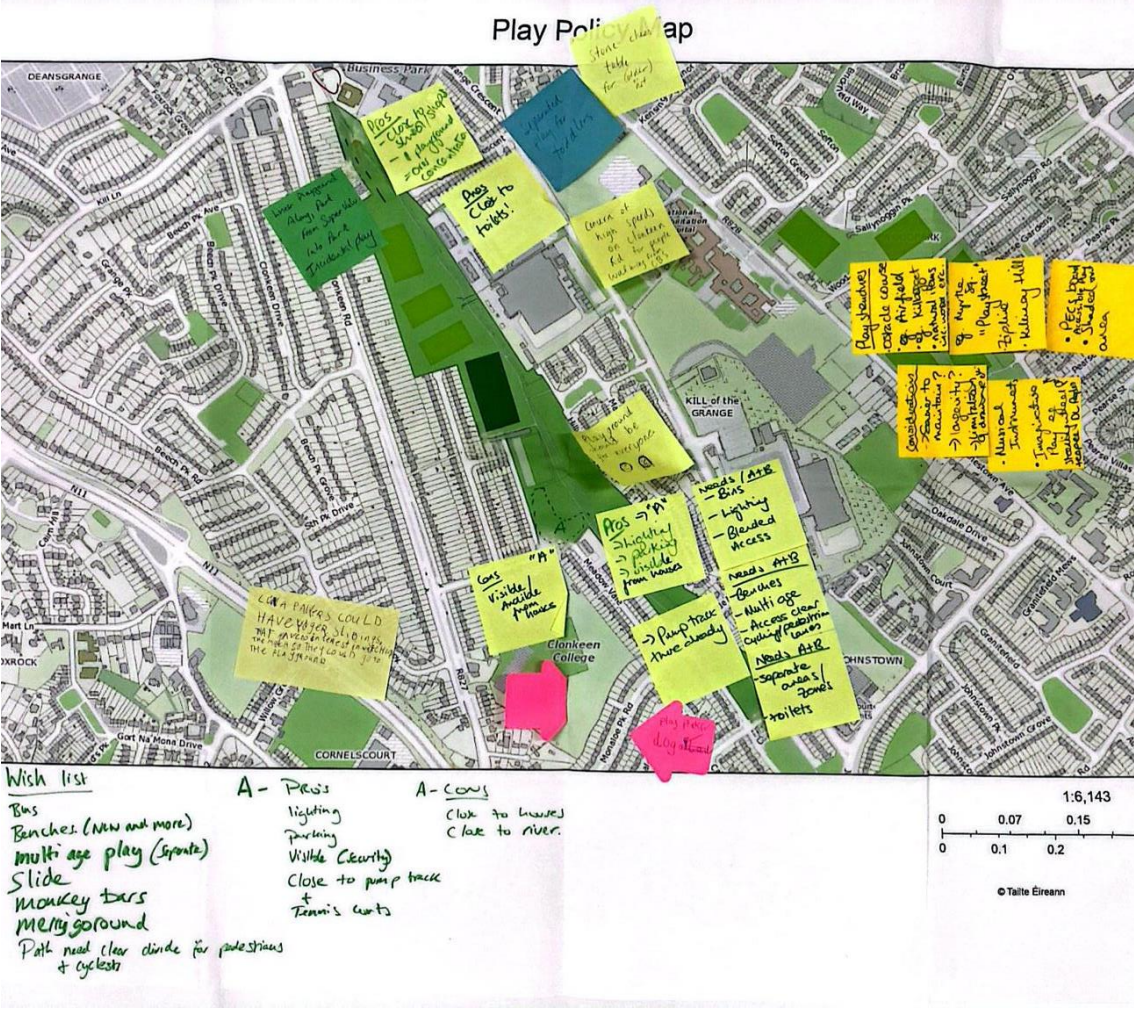








# Public Workshop in Kill O' The Grange Parish Hall



A public workshop was held in Kill O' The Grange Parish Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 from 6:30-7:30pm. The workshop was attended by 45 local residents, including 9 children.

The workshop participants were divided into groups of 6-8 per table and asked for their hopes and concerns about the proposed playground. Participants added post-its with comments to a map of the site and discussed issues arising in their groups, before sharing with the others in the room.

The common themes that emerged in the workshops were:

- Location
- Safety and Security
- Equipment
- Accessibility

These are further detailed in the following pages 22-23.





# Summary of Workshop Feedback

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## **Location** – options suggested included:

At **Meadow Vale** – beside the existing BMX track and tennis courts. This location provides for passive surveillance, is a large site, and close to Clonkeen College. Some concerns were voiced about drawing additional traffic to the Meadow Vale estate, and about the distance from the ‘centre’ of Deangrange (ie the crossroads).

Near substation near **Deansgrange** crossroads, Kill o The Grange School – some noted that there is proximity to an accessible toilet here, also to shops, cafes, and the library. Concern was expressed that this location is more hidden from view, with less passive surveillance and could attract anti social behaviour.

Continuous play equipment connecting the length of the linear park was also suggested.

## **Safety and Security** considerations included:

- Need to segregate cyclists from pedestrians – concerns about fast moving e-scooters and e-bikes.
- Appropriate lighting needs to be considered
- Separate zones for u4s and 5-12 year olds



# Summary of Workshop Feedback (cont.)

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## Equipment

- Bins and benches are needed
- Slides (wide for accessibility) , monkey bars, merry-go-round, musical instruments, obstacle courses, zipline (ref. Killiney Hill), games, chess tables, balance beams
- Shelter from the elements was called for by some – preferable natural.
- Longevity/durability of equipment was highlighted by some, with the importance of maintenance.

## Accessibility

- Access for all in the equipment design
- Provide for touch play
- Provide shelter and access to accessible toilets
- Provide PECS boards



# Online Survey

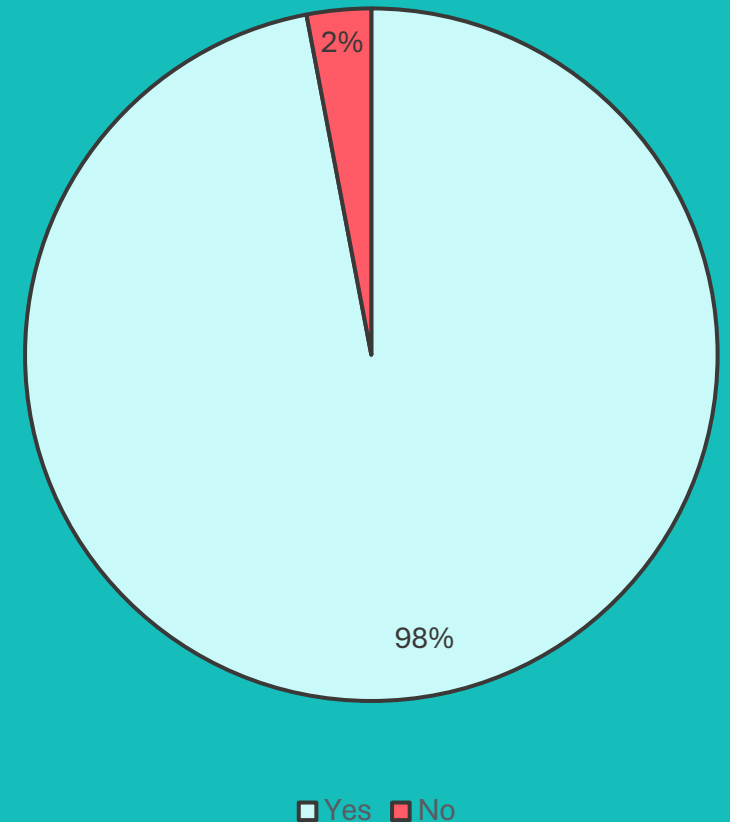
An online survey (Appendix A) was live on DLR Citizen Space platform for a 6-week period from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025. During this time period, submissions were also invited by email and post should the participant prefer. The survey questions included:

- Are you in favour of a children’s Playground for this area?
- Are children (0-12years) ever in your care?
- What types of play would you like to see provided ?
- What favourite playground features would you or your child would like to see?

The survey also invited any further comments that people may have in relation to a play space in Clonkeen Park.

**The insights from analysis of the 444 responses received (437 via online survey and 7 email submissions) are detailed in this section of the report.**

In relation to Q1. (*Are you in favour of a children’s Playground for this area?* ), there was overwhelming support (98%) expressed in the submissions for a local play space.



## Support for the scheme

*I am a huge supporter of this project. It is long overdue, and great news it is finally starting to move ahead!*

*A local playground would be a fantastic asset to our community and a vital resource for children.*

*I think this is a great idea and really hope it progresses in the near future. My two children will use it daily!*

*A playground is desperately needed in the area. It will breathe much needed life into the area and will create more business for local cafes and restaurants.*

*I'm really excited about the new playground but especially the basket swings, they're really important. I think its really important that everybody is able to play in the new play area, especially people in wheelchairs or with autism. I really hope I can play on the way home from school or when we are waiting to pick up my sister.*

*Lifelong skills are developed in a playground. Beyond its benefits for children, the playground can become a space for new parents on maternity or paternity leave to gather, supporting people who are feeling isolated in their community. Seating areas/picnic tables and a covered area for breast-feeding mothers would be beneficial for our local community. Build it and they will come.*



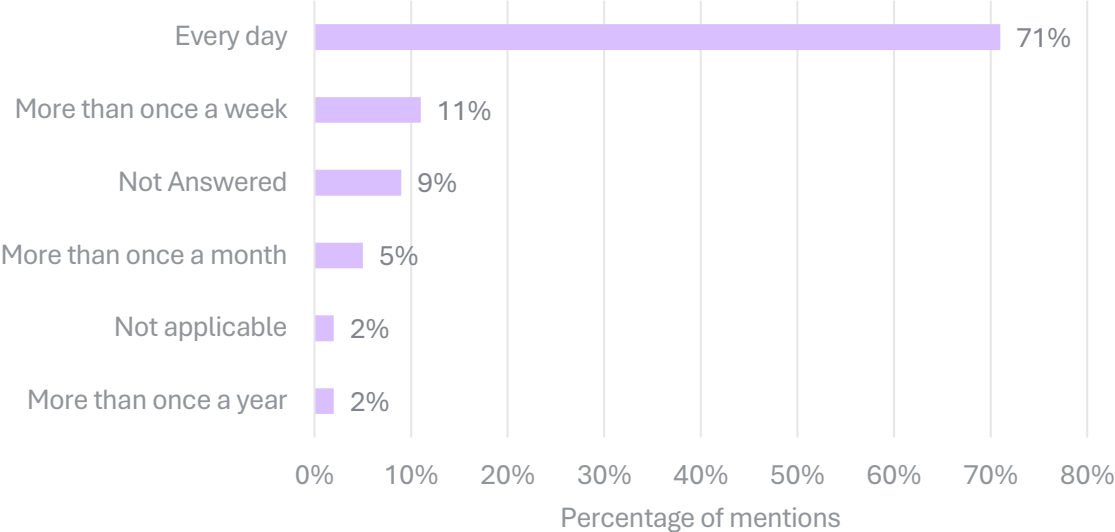
# Children in your care

The majority of respondents (72%) have children in their care as parents. Smaller numbers care for children as grandparents (10%), through other relations (6%), or as other carers (2%). Only 2% of respondents indicated that children are not in their care.

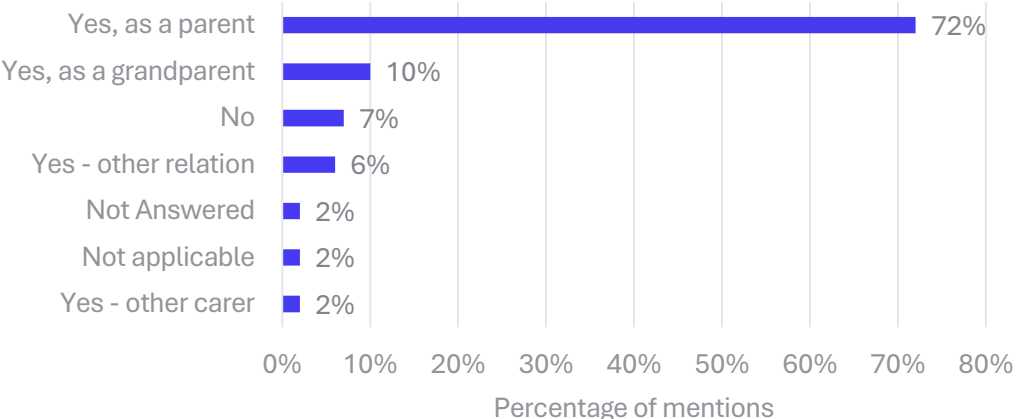
The second graph highlights the frequency of caregiving. Most respondents (71%) care for children daily, with fewer reporting caregiving more than once a week or on less frequent schedules.

The majority of children in respondents' care fall within the 3-5 years and 6-9 years age groups, with a notable number of responses for 0-2 years. This declines for the 10-12 years group, with the least number of responses for the 13+ years group

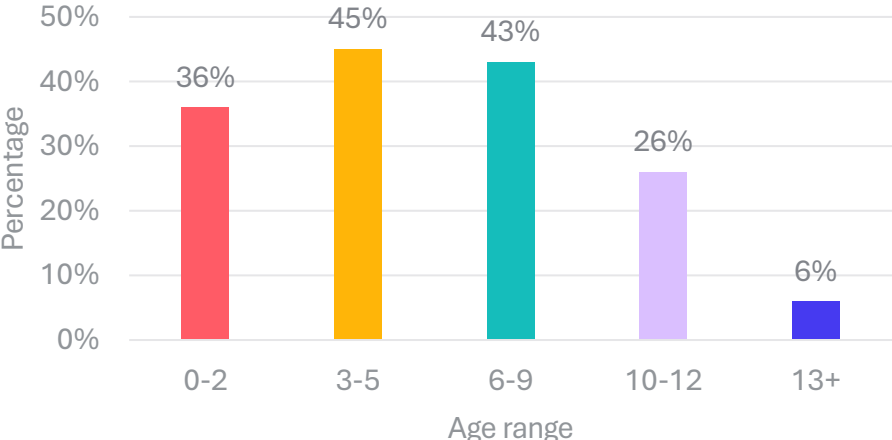
How often are children in your care?



Are children ever in your care?

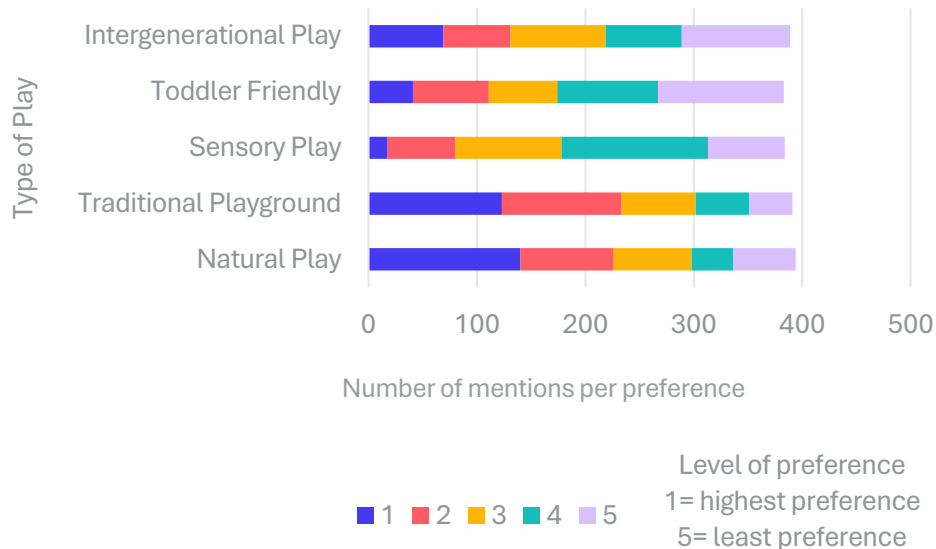


Age range



# Preference for types of play

The preferred types of play according to the online survey respondents were **Natural** play, **Traditional** play and **Intergenerational** play, with a smaller preference expressed for toddler friendly, and sensory play.

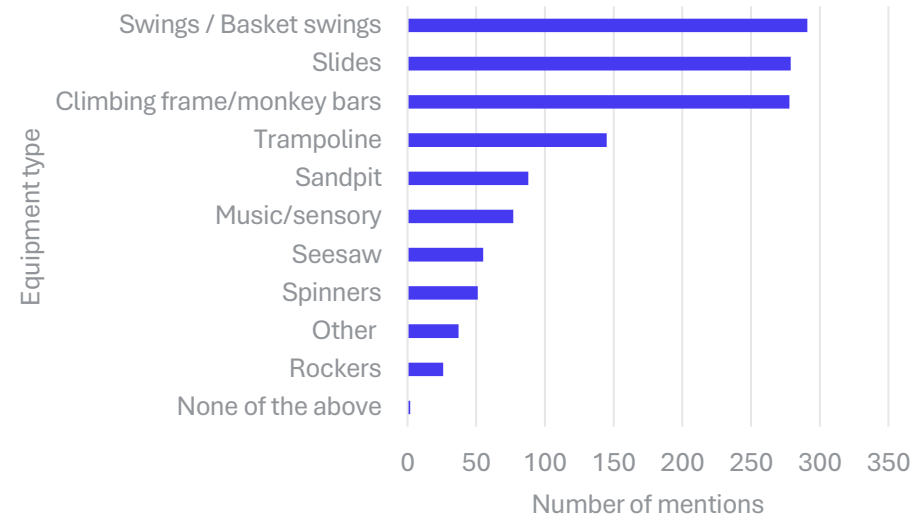


# Preference for features/equipment

**Swings / Basket Swings, Slides, and Climbing Frame / Monkey Bars** dominate as the top preferences

Features like **Sandpit, Music / Sensory, Seesaw** and **Spinners** attract moderate interest

It is noted that interest in **adventure** and **traditional** play equipment was also reflected in the children’s feedback from the primary school workshops





# Most common themes that arose in submissions

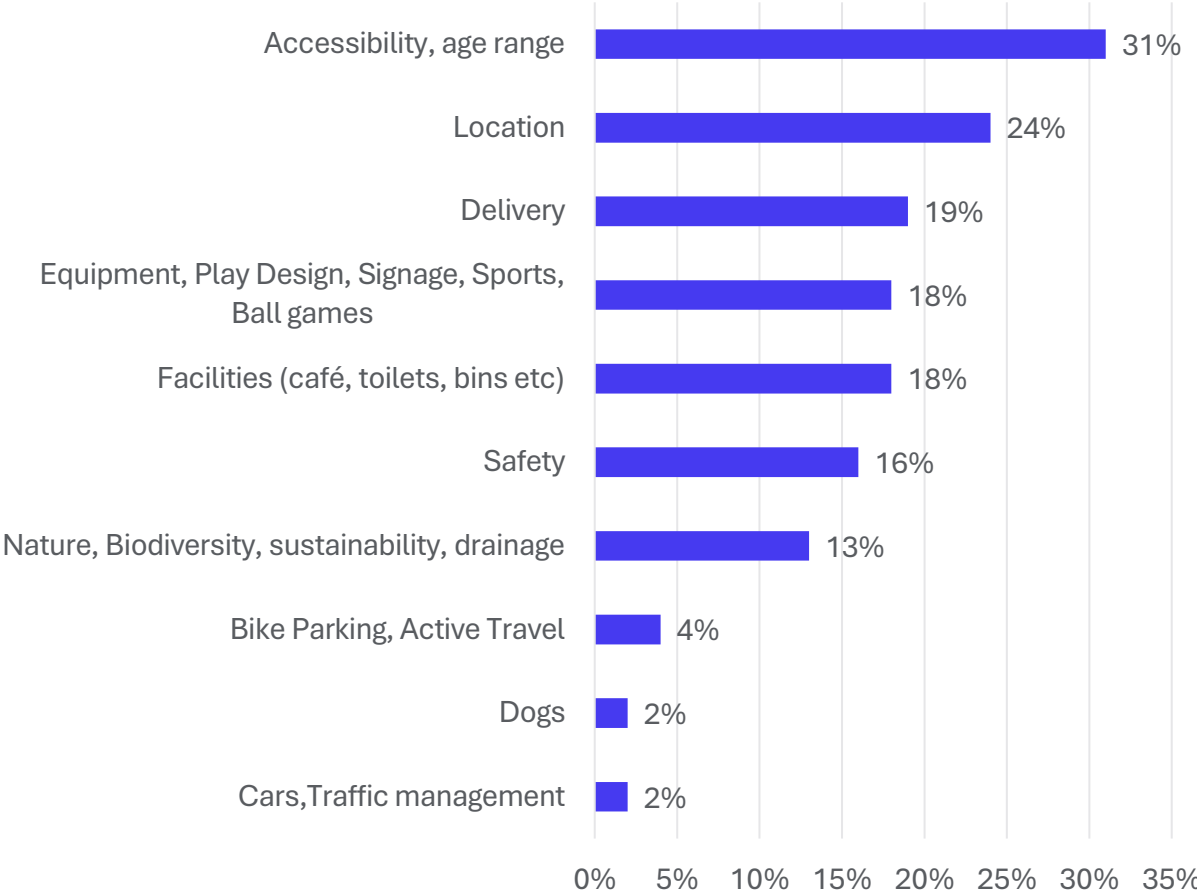
## Thematic Evaluation of Online Survey and Email Responses

A thematic evaluation was undertaken of qualitative survey responses to the final survey question ‘Do you have any further comments on the location and design of play facilities in Clonkeen Park?’. Out of the 444 survey and email responses, 243 participants (55 %) added further comments.

The graph opposite identifies 10 key themes across the commentary with the associated weightings.

The analysis highlights calls for an accessible playground catering to all ages and mobility needs, improved amenities (toilets, bins), enhanced safety for parents' confidence, and a focus on sustainability and creative, sustainable equipment.

There was also a significant amount of feedback on the location of the play space.





# 1. Accessibility, Age range

31%

31% of those who left comments highlighted Accessibility and Age Range.

Submissions noted a need for appropriate play for toddlers, separate from older children. Others highlighted the local need for a range of accessible play equipment as a key priority for their children, and those who visit the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) which as a children's ward beside Clonkeen park. A submission called for a raised platform for local children in wheelchairs, so they can play at an elevated height with their peers.

There were also submissions highlighting the need for a space for teens to gather and a family friendly approach. There were also calls for the design of the playground to be consider Irish weather and to provide accessible shelter from the rain.

A number of submissions called for engagement with groups such as Neurodiversity Ireland and the National Disability Authority on the design of the play space. There were also some offers of personal advice, with contact details provided to DLRCC.

*“Our physically disabled children need to experience the thrill of a swing. Thank you so much.”*

*“NRH is located close to the suggested location near the BMX track, the playground should include accessible facilities for these children too”*

*“The child that I bring to the playground has special needs but is able to run and climb quite well. However, he finds it difficult to grip with his feet. This means that he can climb a ladder - but not a rope ladder. He can cross a bridge - but not a rope bridge”*

***“Design whereby a wheelchair user can access high levels alongside children who can climb to that level...(currently) when their peers climb up they simply can't join them. ”***

*“A toddler friendly area would be very welcome given that there are precious few age-appropriate facilities for that age group in the area. Having them separate to those facilities used by older children is also welcome given the difference in pace and vigour of use”*

*“include equipment that's suitable for kids with muscle dystrophy that can walk but need support, ie ramps with stability bars to hold onto etc.*

*“If possible consider facilities for older children/ teenagers e.g. table tennis table or chess table, picnic table. They put up with a lot during COVID, we should facilitate them socialising with friends”*

## 2. Location

24%

24% of participants who made comments signalled a preferred location, with two principal locations highlighted.

Some considered the area by the **pump track and tennis courts** at Meadow Vale as most appropriate promoting intergenerational play, with some noting further safety from existing overlooking. A Kill O’The Grange walking bus starts from this point to the school through the park. Some noted concerns with access to public toilets here for parents/children (tennis club toilets only available to members), concern with water pooling here after rain . It was noted this area is currently used by Clonkeen college students on their lunch breaks.

Others preferred a playground be closer to **Kill O’The Grange Crossroads** and the Deansgrange Supervalu; some noting it’s proximity to the village, schools and existing infrastructure such as the library and public toilets.

Numerous participants mention a preference for incidental play elements to be spread throughout the linear park, with potential for an obstacle course, children’s route along the existing path, as well as one key play area.

A number of exemplar play space designs in Ireland and Internationally were noted as inspiration for what could be achieved, see Appendix. D

*“Close to the village near Supervalu. The local Montessori opens half an hour later than school and finish earlier...there are awkward pockets of time where you are at a loose end”*

*“I would like to propose the area beside the pump track as it is of course close to the pump track and tennis courts. This would create a vibrant kids area for all to use in a secure easily accessible location.”*

*“Being on the village doorstep it could be used much more easily by the school pupils, local Girls Brigade group (who I volunteer with), the new after school and creche Early Years Academy, Clonkeen Montessori and Foxrock Montessori. ”*

*“Don't really mind if it goes near Supervalu or the pump track but it would be nice if we could get an obstacle course along the path too.”*

*“Would love the playground to be located close to the KOTG School, so it’s not a long walk from Deasgrange to the playground for young kids”*



### 3. Delivery

19%

19% of those who left comments in the online survey made reference to the need for a local play space as soon as possible.

Many of these comments noted strong support, requesting urgent progress with the installation.

*“Overall I am a huge supporter of this project it is long overdue, and great news it is finally starting to move ahead!”*

*“Let's get it done asap folks. It's been years in the discussion.”*

*“Please build this before 31st Dec as my child is due in that date. Thank you.”*

### 4. Facilities

18%

*Accessible Toilets close by, benches for parents/grandparents, bins, hooded lighting, baby changing, breast feeding chair or sculpture, picnic benches, coffee truck, adult exercise equipment integrated - with regular maintenance*

18% of participants mentioned the requirement for improved facilities along with the installation of a play space at Clonkeen Park for it to function.

Some noted the need for accessible toilets close by to the chosen location, others noted that parents and care givers especially grand parents require a number of benches, and some covered tables/seating for wet days. The lack of bins currently at Clonkeen park was highlighted by a number of participants. Some noted a need for baby changing facilities close by, a breast feeding chair/sculpture, and a coffee truck close by for guardians.

*“A space for teens is very important”*

*“In general more benches are needed throughout the park to provide rest breaks for the many people using it for exercise and chances to socialise”*

*“Toilet facilities really are essential”*

## 5. Equipment

18%

18% of those who left further comments in the online survey made reference to specific equipment as part of the play space improvements at Clonkeen park, and/or suggested elements of play design and signage.

A number of participants noted the need for an accessible swing, some noted the popularity of basket swings and requested more than one, while a raised platform that is wheelchair accessible was requested. Some sought incidental play equipment through the park, or obstacle course. Others requested a BoxUp/ equipment library with intergenerational items like skipping rope, table tennis bats or chess. A need to incorporate Universal Design principles was noted and to consider durability of equipment. The installation of functional adult exercise equipment alongside benches was mentioned.

*“Obstacle course ...that is integrated along the walkway would be a great idea for the path along Clonkeen Park”*

*“Breast feeding chairs (wooden sculptures) for mums to breastfeed comfortably when in playground”*

*“don’t want something that needs replacing in 5-10 years”*

*“Maybe there could be more than one basket swing.”*

## 6. Safety

16%

Anti-social behaviour, improved lighting, consider running stream in park, drug-dealing, enclosed for younger play area, scramblers, motobikes

16% of the 237 survey participants who submitted further commentary noted a range of safety concerns as part of their submission.

Some noted concerns with existing anti-social behaviour and a need to address it, some suggested improved lighting in the park, others highlighted concerns with play space near the stream which runs through the park, with requests for an enclosed space for younger children and toddlers separate to where older children will play.

It was noted there has been drug-dealing in the park area, and there are regular occurrences of motorbikes, scramblers and e-scooters speeding through the park area, with some noting concern as to how to address this.

*“I am very supportive of a children’s playground but I am worried about anti-social behaviour and in the playground at night time. There are youths on motorised scooters and fat bikes whizzing through the park at all hours ”*

*“Slightly away from the cycle track & stream would be good, so that if a child runs off they won't be at risk of being knocked over by cyclist / going for a swim!”*



## 7. Nature & Biodiversity

13%

13% of respondents called for the consideration of nature, biodiversity, or that sustainability be incorporated in the play infrastructure to be installed at Clonkeen park.

Some specifically mentioned that particular areas of the park can flood after rain and noted the requirement for adequate drainage. One highlighted that this occurs regularly in the area beside the pump track, as well as other areas.

*“If the area by the tennis courts and pump track is being considered, it is important that the drainage issues in that grass area would first be resolved. The drainage is very poor during wet periods and water often pools on the pump track making it unusable at times.”*

*“incorporate it within a landscaped natural environment, while using as many natural materials as possible”*

*“A playground incorporating a natural play area which would inspire creativity and connection with nature, young children love rain, mud and puddles, a sensory area, and features that encourage safe risk-taking”*

## 8. Bike Parking, Active Travel

4%

4% of those who left further comments in their submission the need for consideration of existing active travel infrastructure.

Some noted a need to install bicycle parking, that will cater for all the family including cargo bikes.

*“There should be adequate bike parking included considering it’s location alongside a major cycle route”*

*“space to “park” a buggy or bike might be a nice addition as well as benches/ seating areas”*

## 9. Dogs

2%

2% of the 244 participants who shared further comments noted dogs and related concerns as part of their submission.

Some noted there are many existing dog walkers in the park, while others raised the need for installing Dog Poo Bins in Clonkeen park as part of the installation of play spaces in the area. Some noted concern with existing dog fouling in the park, with a number of participants noting there are often off lead dogs in the area for consideration when installing children's play equipment.

*“Consider parents with dogs whose children wish to play while on a walk with a dog. As dogs are not allowed in playgrounds (for very good reasons), it is difficult to manage keeping an eye on the children from outside if there is large planting”*

*“noticed a decline in the amount of public bins which encourages littering, the main culprit being dog poo.”*

## 10. Cars, Traffic management

2%

2% of the participants noted cars and traffic management as part of the further comments in their consultation submission.

Some noted concern with an increased level of parking locally when play spaces are installed at Clonkeen Park. It was noted that the existing parking at the Meadow Vale Tennis club is weather worn, with some noting it will require improving should a playground be installed close by.

Others noted a requirement for broader consideration of traffic management locally should the play space go ahead.

*“Residents in Meadow vale are already dealing with extra traffic volumes from the school, tennis club and playing pitches”*

*“the current car park for the tennis courts needs upgrade”*



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# 7. DLR Parks Response to Public Feedback & Recommendations

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# 1. Accessibility, Age range

The public consultations analysis highlights issues and calls for an accessible playground that caters to all ages and mobility needs. As this is a linear park, continuous play opportunities that cater to different abilities, accessibility needs, and age ranges will be considered during the design stage. We are collaborating with our DLRC Sports Inclusion Disability Officer on the development of the playground.

Accessibility As per the Play Policy, DLRC aims to provide an inclusive environment in all playgrounds by providing a range of public play opportunities that are accessible to those who have additional needs and challenges. The public consultation process further highlighted a specific need for an accessible playground on this site, which would benefit several families in the area. Universal design, inclusivity, and accessibility are considered critical to the success of the playground design and will be incorporated.

The requirements for children's play change as they grow and are loosely categorised (0-5 / 6-11 / 12-18) to best provide for the needs of each age range. Toddler and infant playgrounds (0-5) feature low-level play structures, and gentle inclines, to encourage sensory exploration and fine motor skill development. Play designs for children aged 6 to 11, feature greater challenges for motor, social, and sensory development, with more challenging activities to promote physical coordination, social skills and cognitive engagement.

It is considered that children aged 12+ can generally undertake activities that challenge them at a more adult level. In the 12–18-year bracket, a catchment area of 3km is considered by DLRC to be a reasonable distance, to expect a teenager could travel, to access suitable age-range recreation facilities. A teen space is available at Cabinteely Park. This is approximately 1.3km walk from the proposed location of the playground. This is a 15-20 minute walk, or a 5–10-minute cycle, which is considered an acceptable distance for teenagers to travel. The DLRC Play Policy (2023-2028) sets out a catchment area based on a 1km radius around each playground (for ages 0-11). Census figures indicate that there are approximately 2,600 children under 14 living within a 1.5km of Deansgrange Crossroads, which is considered sufficient to warrant play facilities in this area.



## 2. Location

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The location selected by DLRCC) is Meadow Vale, beside the existing BMX track and tennis court. This site has been selected as it already provides intergeneration play with existing facilities of the BMX pump track and tennis courts. It has excellent access to inclusive play and has enhanced safety with passive surveillance. It was noted that a walking bus to the Kill O' The Grange, starts from this point to the school. This location is also within walking distance from Deansgrange Village and Deansgrange Library. The location is currently zoned as public open space in the County Development Plan, which is appropriate for the development being proposed. Being a local playground, we do not expect increased traffic or parking issues. We realise that this is an important infrastructure route for pedestrians and cyclists and is a dog walking park for residents. Other local conditions such as the wet ground in the centre of the site, and that students from Clonkeen College use this area on lunch breaks were noted. Other key themes that emerged from the public consultation that will be considered are improved amenities, safety, and focusing on sustainability through creative sustainable equipment for play in this location.

## 3. Delivery

We recognise the strong support overall from the community and their request for urgent progress for the delivery of the Clonkeen playground through public consultation. We note calls for installation as soon as possible. Our next phase is to design the playground and tender process for the construction and installation of the playground, and we will update Stakeholders as we progress to the next stage. We will work diligently towards the proposed completion date in 4th quarter of 2025.

## 4. Facilities

The public consultation process highlighted a strong interest in the use of natural materials for the space which will be taken into consideration in the design. There were requests for specific types of site furniture, such as picnic and park benches and reading /feeding chairs, shelter/ shade(natural) fencing/barriers from the commuter path and stream, bike, family cargo bikes and scooter parking, bins, hooded lighting, rental sports equipment, dog park and a water fountains. While we endeavour to provide as many facilities as possible. These will be considered in the context of the scale and budget of a local playground project. It is not intended to provide toilet facilities or a teen space as part of this project. Public toilets are available at Deansgrange Library, which is approximately 1km and a teen space at Cabinteely Park (1.4km) from the proposed location.

## 5. Equipment

The public consultation process highlighted that Natural play, Traditional play, and Adventure play were strong preferences for the type of playground being proposed. There were many suggestions for specific items of play equipment such as Swings/basket swings, slides, and climbing frame/Monkey bars dominating as top preferences. DLRCC notes and will consider the children's observations. We note they expressed a strong desire for play equipment that challenged them with elements of risk and high adrenaline, through adventure & natural play such as Obstacle/racecourses, ziplines, roundabouts, spinners, trampolines, seesaws emerged. Also, with an emphasis on natural play items suggested by the children included long grass areas, with planting to hide in, trees, and nature educational panels including PECS boards.

The public consultations analysis highlights call for an accessible playground that caters for all ages. Requests include a mobility swing and a raised platform that is wheelchair accessible and sports box up/ table tennis bats and chess. This will be considered in the design stage. We will also consider the incorporation of other sports & play features as requested in the context of the scale and budget of a local playground project.

## 6. Safety

We note and will consider the number of concerns raised from the public consultation regarding anti-social behaviour, improved lighting, the stream running through the park, and the possibility of enclosed space in the playground for toddlers.

Throughout the Public consultation, it has been noted this area has excellent passive surveillance. Increasing social activity, and maintenance visits by providing children's play should further reduce incidences of antisocial behaviour. The new proposals will be designed to be visible and to discourage anti-social behaviour. General concerns relating to anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Local Policing Fora for Cabinteely/Blackrock. Members of the public can highlight issues to be reviewed at the Blackrock Local Police Fora meetings, by contacting the Community and Cultural Development Department of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at 01 205 4893. Immediate concerns with anti-social behaviour should be reported to Cabinteely/ Blackrock Garda Station on 01 6665600. Following the feedback during the public consultation.



## 7. Nature

We acknowledge that respondents have called for consideration of nature and biodiversity and that sustainability be incorporated into the play infrastructure installed in Clonkeen Park. This site presents natural play opportunities, which we intend to enhance. During the design, we shall examine the drainage issues of this site and work with the appointed contractor to mitigate or resolve this issue. This project is being developed in consultation with the DLRCC Biodiversity Officer, who is assessing the proposals as they develop to minimise environmental impacts and maximise environmental enhancement opportunities. Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening shall also be undertaken to determine whether the project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites, given their conservation objectives. DLRCC has also noted through the public consultation requests for shelter and play in the natural environment using planting of trees, long grass areas and planting for play and biodiversity will be considered.

## 8. Bike Parking, Active Travel

DLRCC are encouraging a shift to more sustainable transport modes, which will require a strong focus on limiting the supply of destination parking. As this park is a high-use commuter linear park DLRCC have noted the need for consideration of existing active travel infrastructure. Cycle parking for buggies, bicycles, family cargo bikes, and scooters will be considered at the design stage. We endeavour to provide as much active travel as possible as this local playground.

## 9. Cars, Traffic Management

It is the policy of the Planning Authority to restrict car parking provision, especially for leisure-type facilities. It is intended that this will be a small local playground for use by local families who are encouraged not to drive. Clonkeen Park playground is not intended to be a destination playground, and additional parking will not be provided.

## 10. Dogs

The public consultation process has highlighted the frequent dog walkers and requests for a dog park. We will consider this in our design process. Dog walkers can provide excellent passive surveillance in public open spaces, and dog walking is an activity that could be combined by families, with a visit to the playground. It is recognised that there are concerns in this area in relation to safety, particularly around dog fouling and dogs not under effective control of a dog owner. It is a requirement that dogs be kept under effective control and keep on a lead. It is noted throughout the public consultation a request for more Dog Poo Bins throughout the park to reduce the incidence of dog fouling.

# DLRCC Recommendations

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Based on positive feedback received during the public consultation, and ongoing strong support from the community for the playground. DLRCC will be proceeding with the playground at Meadow Vale in Clonkeen Park. It is proposed to provide a new play space, including toddler play, for ages 0 -5 and 6 -11.

Natural, Traditional play, and Intergenerational play were the strong preferences expressed in the public consultation for the type of playground being proposed, with incidental play requested throughout the park will be proposed. Accessibility for all ages (0-11) and a strong ethos of inclusion will be a part of the playground.

The enhancement of seating and intergenerational play opportunities is proposed as there is a strong desire to incorporate opportunities for intergeneration play in the park and playground. We propose natural and sustainable play activities through the addition of planting in the park and playground.

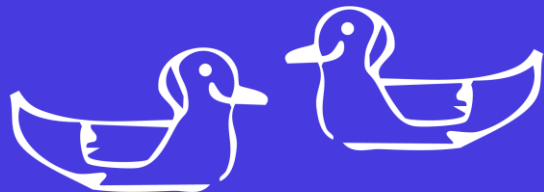
The children's consultation highlighted multiple types of play and equipment with a strong focus on adventure play, access to sports box-ups, and equipment that challenged them. Introducing opportunities to be creative through colour, art, and music will be included in the proposal. These and other suggestions have been gathered and will be put forward for consideration in the design.





# Appendices

- a. Online Survey Questions
- b. School Workshop drawings
- c. Summary of Play spaces references
- d. Artist Summary Note



# A. Online Survey Questions

## Demographic Questions

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**Q1.** Are you in favour of a children's Playground for this area?

- Yes
- No

**Q2 .** Where do you live?

- Cabinteely Green
- Cabinteely Ave
- Clonkeen Road
- Clonkeen Drive
- Clonkeen Crescent
- Beech Park Avenue
- Beech Park Drive
- Beech Park Grove
- Beech Park Road
- Deans Court
- Foxrock Close
- Grange Crescent
- Hillview Drive
- Hillview Lawns

- Kill Abbey
- Kill Lane
- Little Meadow
- Longmeadow Grove
- McIntosh Park
- Meadow Vale
- Monaloe Park Road
- St Fintan's Park
- Other (please specify)

**Q3.** Please indicate your age range:

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

**Q4.** Are children (0-12years) ever in your care?

- Yes, as a parent

- Yes, as a grandparent
- Yes - other relation
- Yes- other carer
- Never

**Q5.** How often are children in your care

- Every day!
- More than once a week
- More than once a month
- More than once a year

**Q6.** Please indicate the age range of those children

- 0-2
- 3-5
- 6-9
- 10-12



# A. Online Survey Questions

## Play Preference Questions

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**Q7.** In order of preference (1=top preference, 5=lowest preference & none of the options above), what types of play would you like to see provided for in your neighborhood?

- **Natural Play** – Unstructured play opportunities in the natural environment - inspired by nature, the local landscape features, plants and wildlife
- **Traditional Playground** – Structured play area providing a variety of play equipment.
- **Fitness-oriented** play – such as exercise machines
- **Sensory play** – sound, touch, smell
- A **toddler friendly** play space
- **Intergenerational Play** – Provide a space

that encourages activities between age ranges.

**Q8.** Tick top three favourite playground features that you or your child would like to see in Clonkeen Park

- Swings / Basket swings
- Slides
- Climbing frame/monkey bars
- Seesaw
- Spinners
- Sandpit
- Trampoline
- Rockers
- Music/sensory
- None of the above
- Other (specify favourite play equipment if not mentioned above)]

**Q9.** Do you have any further comments on the location and design of play facilities in Clonkeen Park?

## B. School Workshop Drawings

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From the group and individual conversations with the children and their drawings a number of themes emerged and are outlined below.

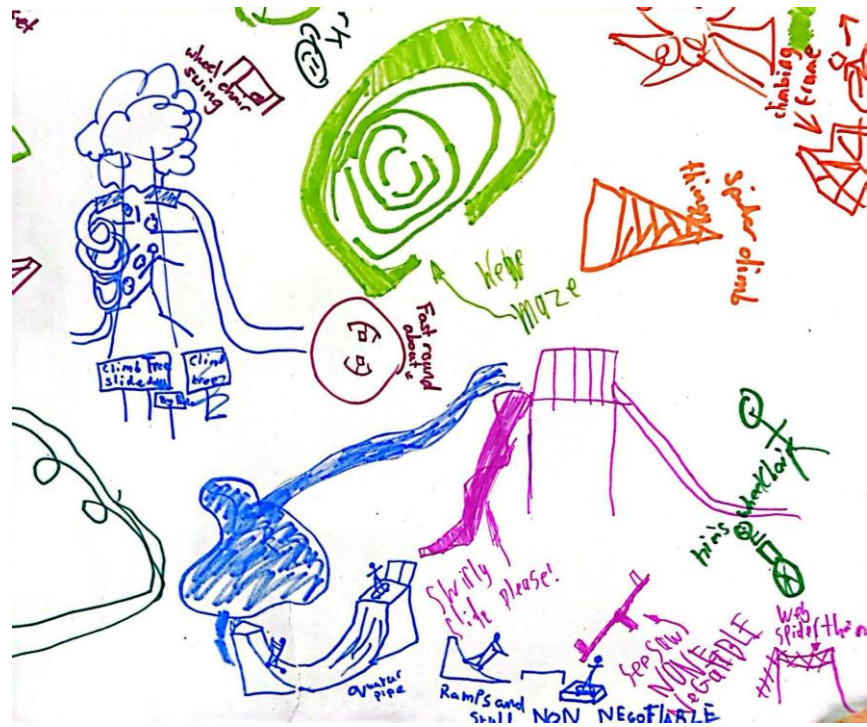
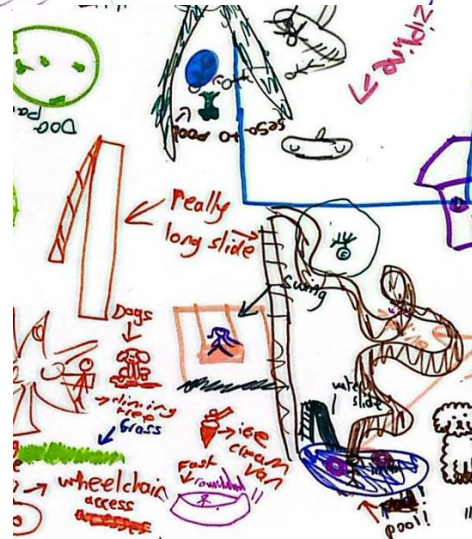
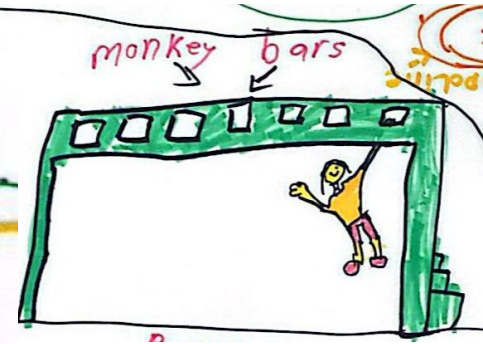
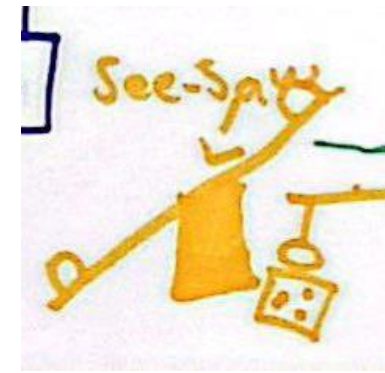
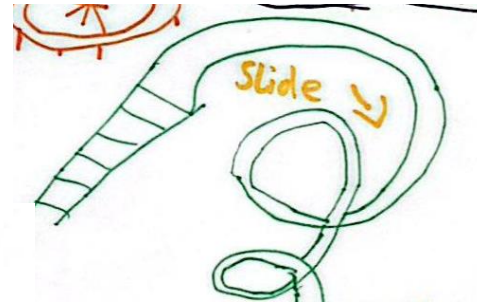
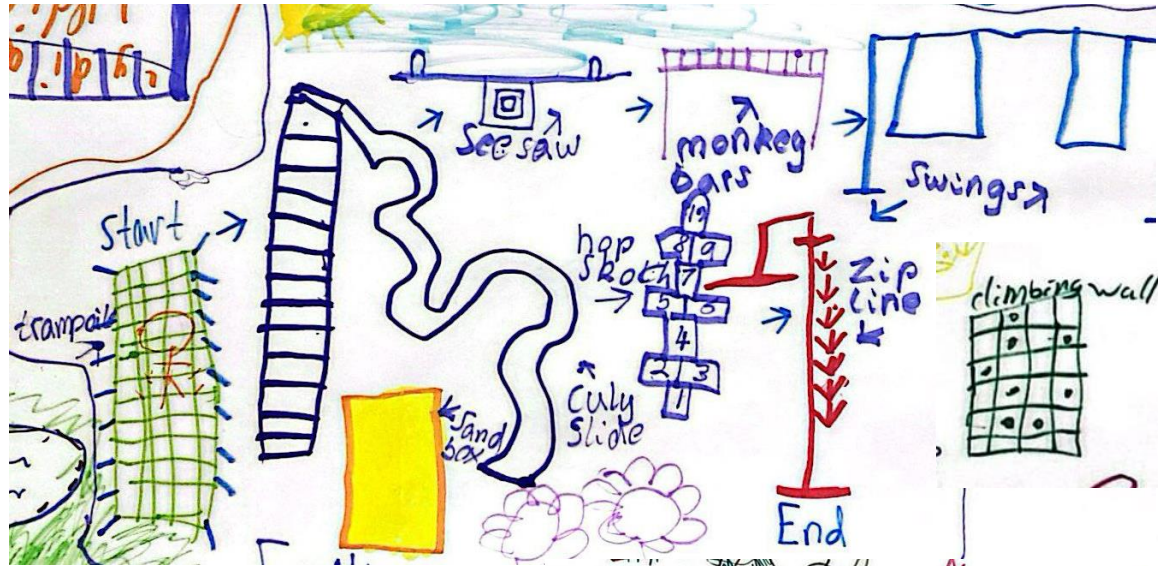
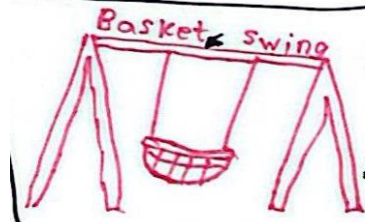
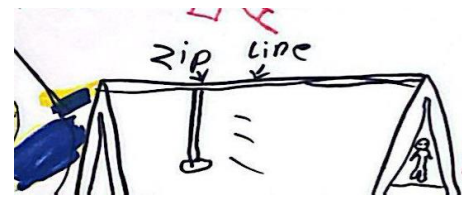
Many of the children expressed a strong desire for play equipment that challenged them with elements of risk and high adrenaline.

- 1. Adventure Play** – Obstacle/race courses, ziplines, climbing frames, monkey bars, twisty slides, swings, roundabouts, spinners, trampolines, seesaw.
- 2. Natural Play** – Treehouses, rope/tyre swings, birdhouses and baths, stepping stones, long grass/planting to hide in, open space, forest school, sand pits, nature education panels.
- 3. Sports facilities** – Basketball hoops, football goals, scooter/bike trail, skate park exercise equipment, gymnastics bars.
- 4. Colour and art** – Colourful murals (that the children could be involved in creating), games and paintings on the path, interactive sculptures, musical interventions.
- 5. Seating** – Benches, sheltered areas, comfortable reading spots, hammocks.
- 6. Facilities** – Bins, toilets, dog park, water fountain, lighting, rental sports equipment, café.



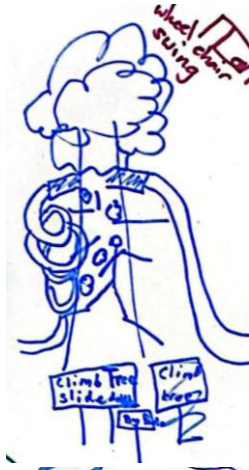
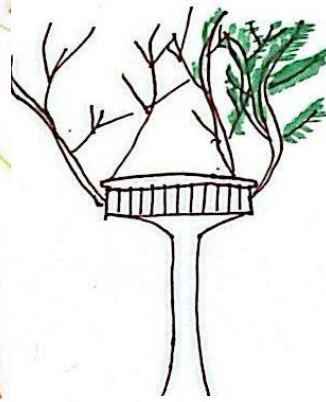
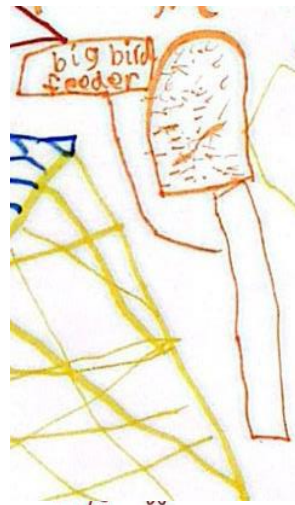
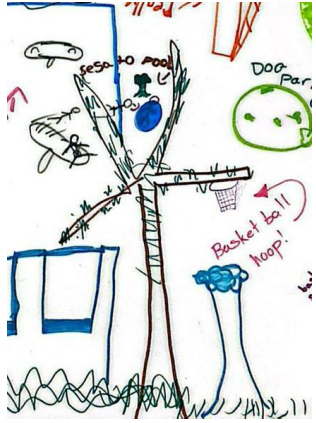
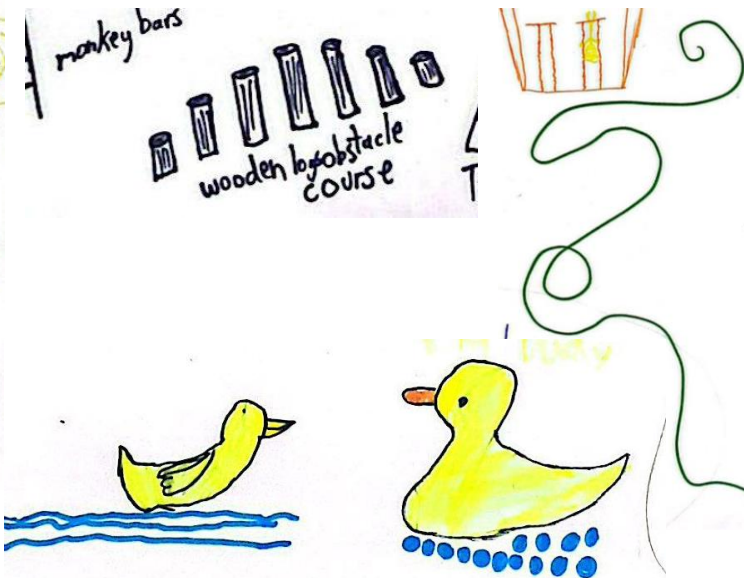


# 1. Adventure Play





## 2. Natural Play

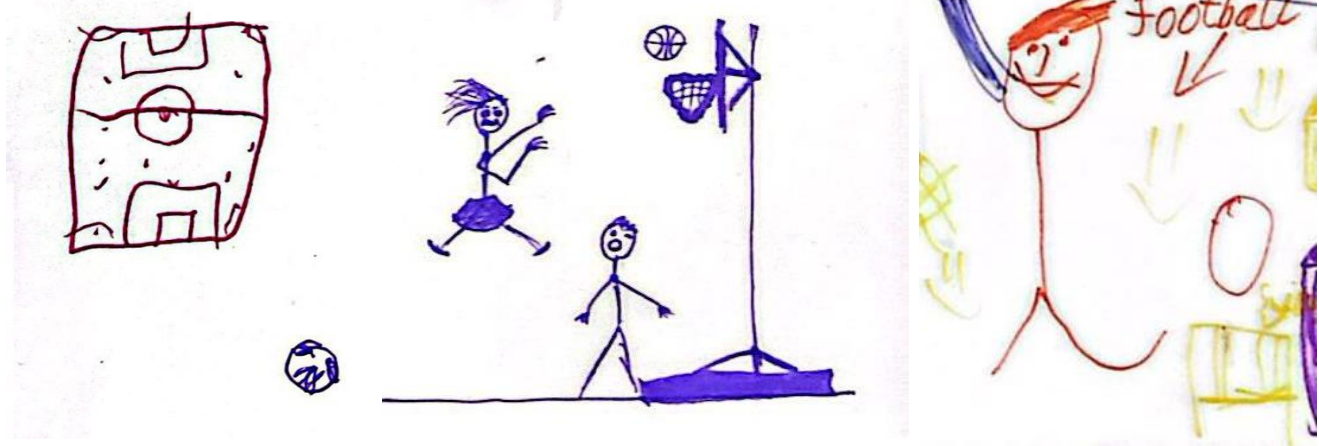
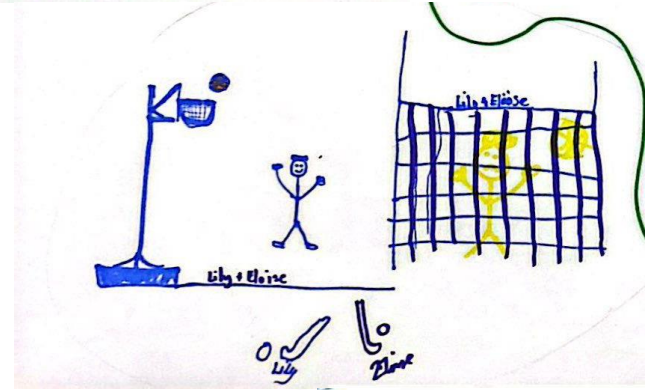
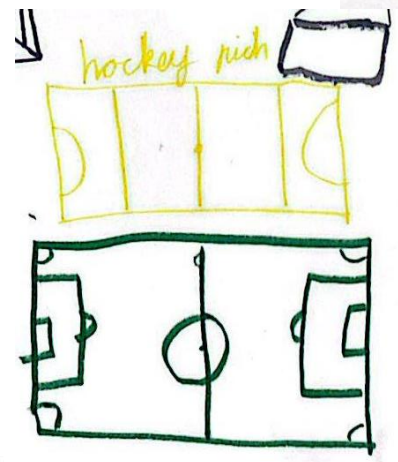
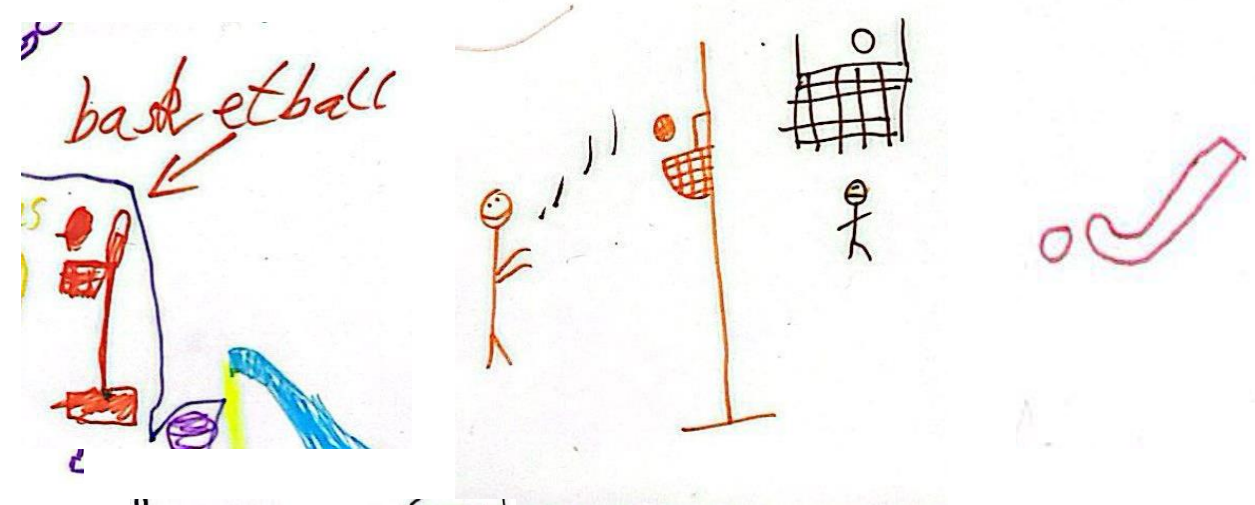
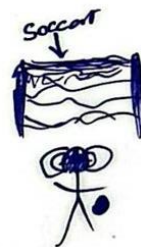




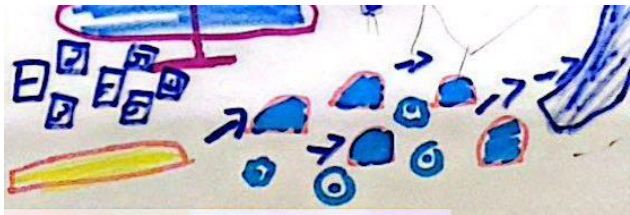
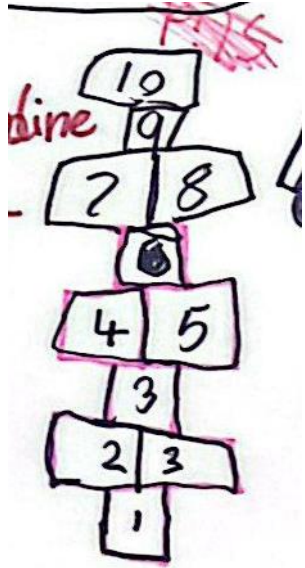
### 3. Sports Facilities



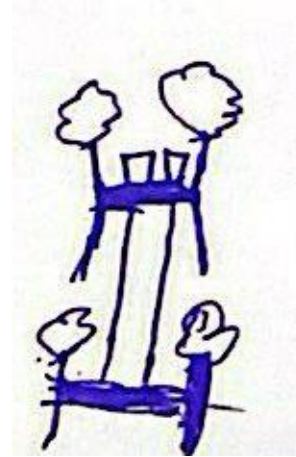
Football nets



## 4. Colour and Art



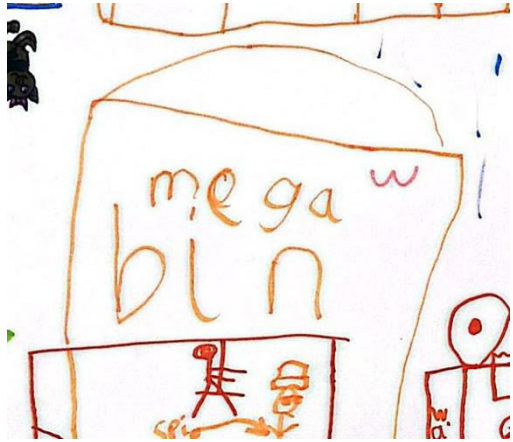
## 5. Seating





## 6. Facilities

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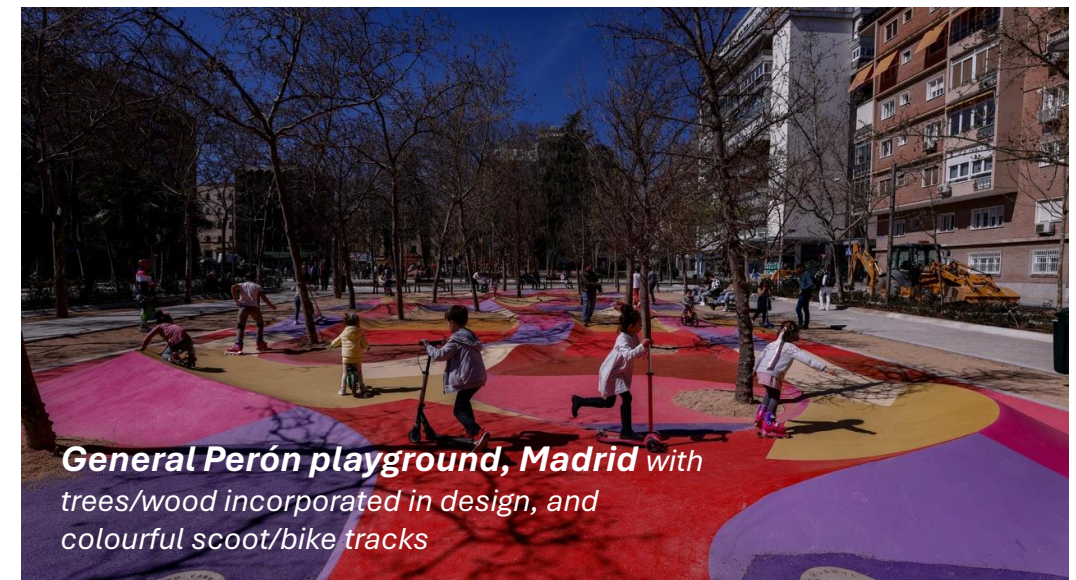
## C. Summary of Play Spaces References

A number of exemplar play spaces from Ireland and Internationally were referenced in consultation submissions as inspiration for the design

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*“Meckesheim in Germany... have a playground with spaces for all ages including an outdoor gym for adults. There are so many positive aspects to their playground; trampolines were mini in the ground ones that multiple people can use at the same time. There is a large tree house for teenagers. There are also multiple picnic tables for families to congregate or friends to gather. There are so few places for older kids to go”*





## C. Summary of Play Spaces References (cont.)



**Merrion Square, Dublin playground**  
*nature-based play in wooded area*



**St Annes park playgrounds, Dublin**  
*wooden equipment in wooded area*



**Covent Lane by Bloomfield, children's playful trail**  
*alongside the walk/cycle way*

*“The obstacle course located at Bloomfield that is integrated along the walkway would be a great idea for the path along Clonkeen Park.”*

## D. Artist Summary Notes

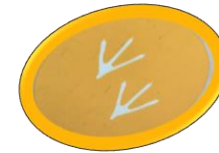
Artist Elida Maiques partnered on this project ([artist website](#)). Her participation included Clonkeen Park site visit and facilitating children's creative workshops at Kill O'The Grange National School. Below is summary of Artist Field Research notes following site visit, November 2024 for reference

In observation of the type of neighbourhood, the parks shape and location

- Linearity of park along stream, perfect for playful trails along cycle/walk way
- Some slopes (with potential for play by adding markers/sculptures/slides)
- Football played here, as well as Existing BMX track, and tennis club
- Leaning into the existing park landscape, using mounds for play.
- Could add circular benches around trees at the top of slopes? (Clonkeen)
- Consider the range of textures in the local nature from tree stumps, to moisture on leaves
- Intergenerational existing use of the area, and enhancing with incidental play
- Moorhen floating in water & Egret nesting
- Are there other wildlife to be observed here; foxes?
- Mounds for play
- Is there a landmark tree, or area of trees?
- The red bridge - a landmark/ playful focal point in the park
- Noticed a need for seating along the football pitch
- Some children swing out of the football goal posts,



- Wildlife Stickers or Children Focused Playful Signage on existing lamp posts along path?
- There are the beginnings of a playful trail already in this park you could build upon
- Mixed use of dog walkers, people with prams seen, also wheelchair users.



### Ideas from Field Trip

- *Markers on footpath, opposite tennis court: possibly wild fauna footprints – building upon those they have in the local school (Kill O'The Grange, see image 1)*
- *There is a small area near the Deansgrange Village entrance which has painted rocks by children that all have encouraging messages for passers by. Why not build on this intervention and encourage the school to work with an artist for a mural or series of murals on the breeze block walls closeby.*
- *Massive logs a possibility:*
  - *Perhaps along with formal playground equipment, some massive logs, with one side painted and carved could provide great nature play possibilities, adding an element of delight and encouraging climbing, hide and seek, engagement with textures...*
  - *Paint on one side of log, or carved with textures, paths for toddlers fingers and eyes.*