

---

# Meadowbrook/Ludford Play Space, Ballinteer

Engagement Report  
Summary of Findings

April 2025



# Contents

---

1. Introduction
2. Relevant Local Policy and Supporting Research
3. Site Context
4. Stakeholder Mapping
5. Engagement Activities
6. Engagement Outcomes and Responses
  - a) Workshops
  - b) Online Survey
7. DLR Parks Recommendations

## Appendices

1. Online Survey
2. School Workshop drawings
3. Summary of Play Space Case Studies and References

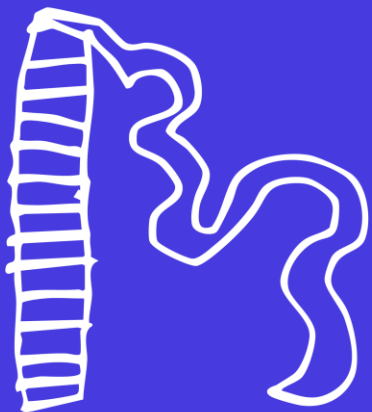




---

# 1. Introduction

---





# New Play Space in Meadowbrook/Ludford

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) have identified a need for a new play space in the Meadowbrook/Ludford area of Ballinteer.

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 2024-2025. It includes

- 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.



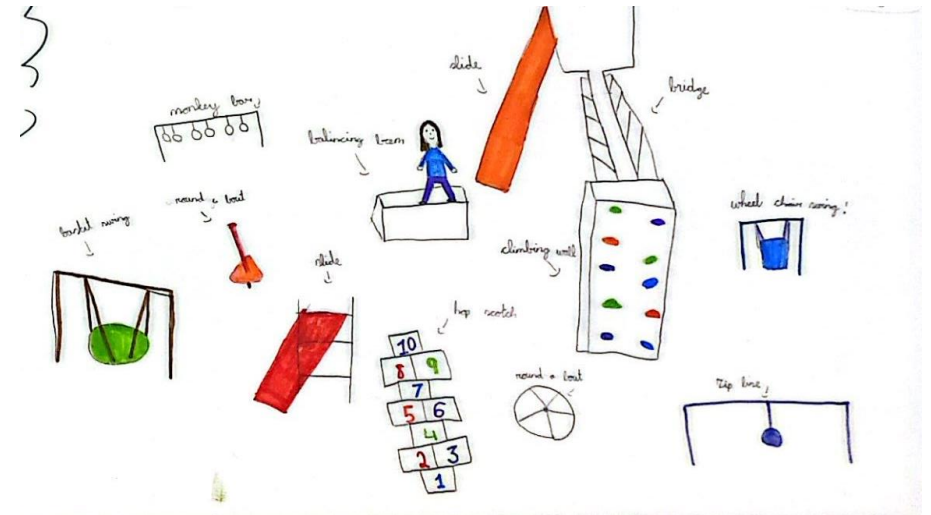
## Summary of Findings

Public engagement activities were carried out in January 2025 by M-CO in advance of the design of the play space in the Meadowbrook-Ludford area of Ballinteer . The engagement activities included:

- DLR CitizenSpace online survey.
- Public workshop in Ballinteer Community School.
- Primary school workshops in St. Attracta's National School and Scoil Naithí.

There was strong support in for locating a new play space. 438 responses to the public survey were received (412 via online survey and 26 email submissions). The majority (83%) expressed support in the submissions for a local play space.

The largest number of submissions related to the location of a play space. A number of these reflected initial confusion that the playground would be located in the green space in Ludford Park. The next most common themes were the equipment design, age range, traffic and parking, and safety and security. Nature and biodiversity, accessibility, the consultation process and dogs also featured in the feedback.



---

## 2. Relevant Local Policy and Supporting Research

---



# Play for All

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



# DLRCC Play Policy 2023-2028

DLRCC 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

---

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 AND 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



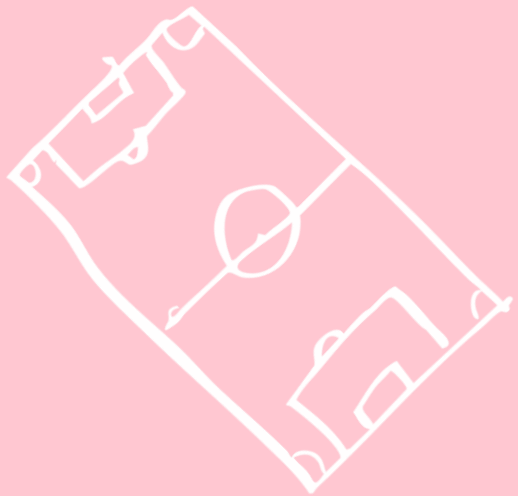
- The concept of **universal design** underpins the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Play Policy.
- Everybody living in the county should experience play and have **access** to play opportunities .
- Children and young people have a **right to play** and to have a **say** in how they play.
- Play and playfulness 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.



---

## 3. Site Context

---





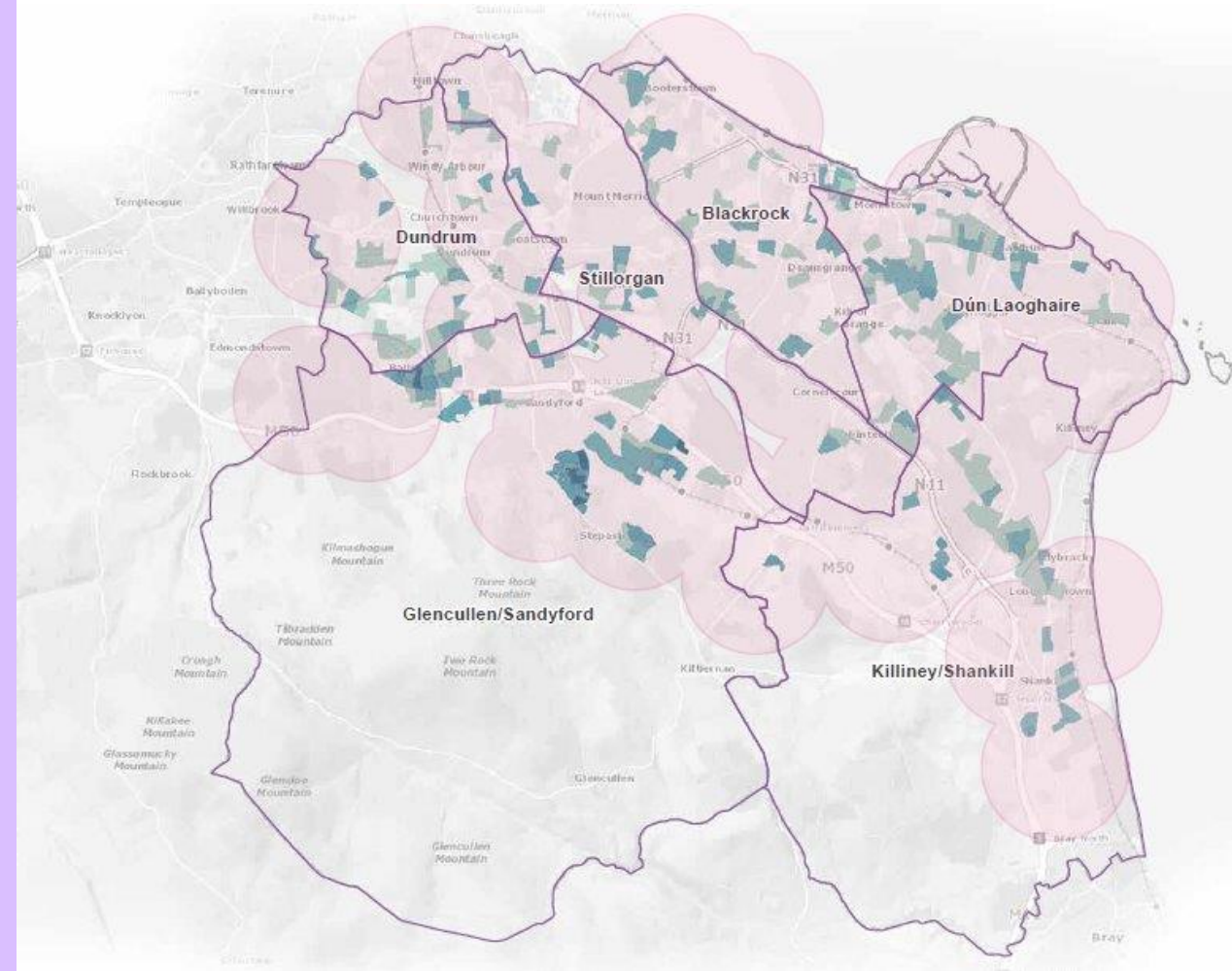
# Demographic Profile: Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown

2022 CSO findings state 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:

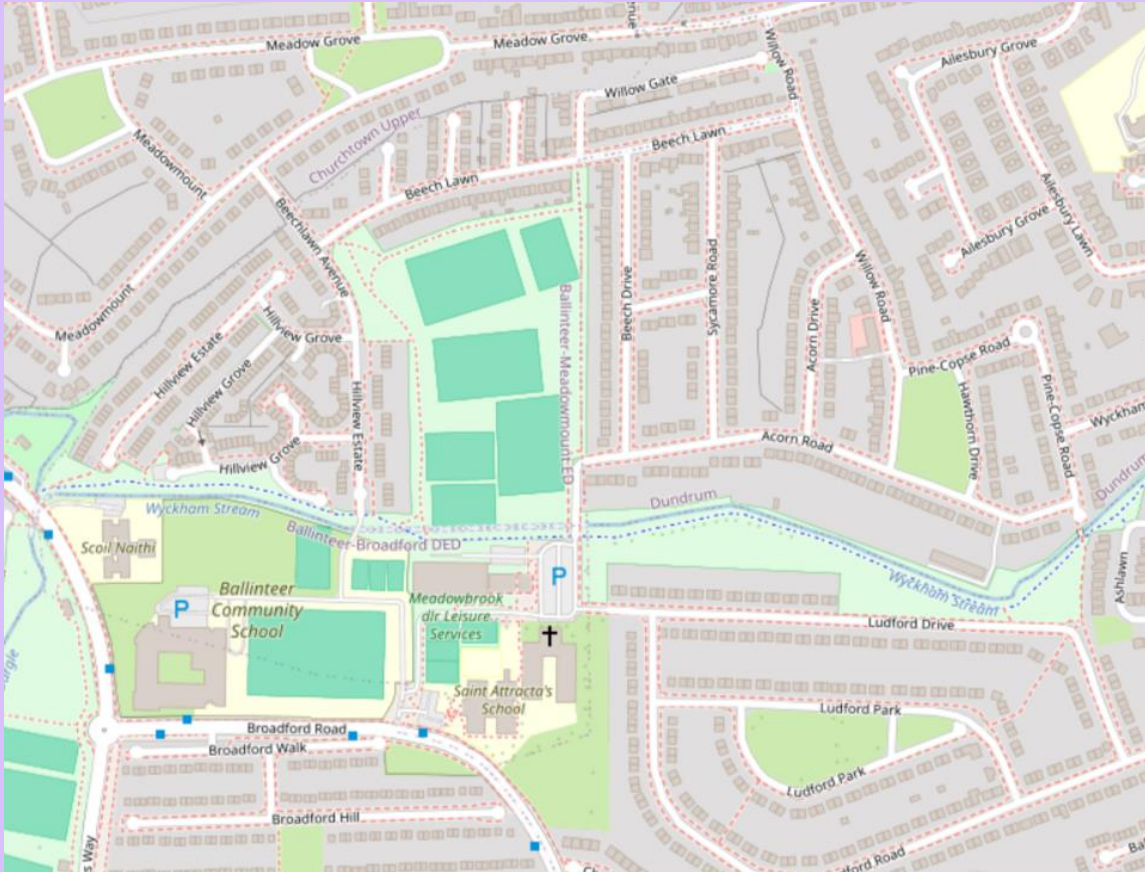
- 0 to 4 years (13,810 or 6.3%)
- 5 to 12 years (21,302 or 9.8%)
- 13 to 17 years (12,682 or 5.8%)
- 18 to 24 years (22,056 or 10.1%)

\* DLR Play Policy 2023 - 2028





# Profile: Meadowbrook/Ludford area of Ballinteer



This area comprises a number of Electoral Divisions (Eds) : Ballinteer/Meadowmount, Ballinteer Meadowbroads, Ballinteer Ludford and Ballinteer Broadford. According to the 2022 CSO findings, the combined population of these EDs is 8114.

There are a number of schools in the area: two primary schools (St Attractas NS and Scoil Naithi) and a secondary school, Ballinteer Community School.

Meadowbrook Leisure Centre contains a swimming pool, gym and astro pitches.

The DLRCC Play Policy identifies the need for a new Play Space in Meadowbrook/Ludford as it is a location that is not served by a playground for younger children. The map below highlights the area beyond 1km distance from a children's playground.





## 2022 CSO data

1,087 or 17% of the population are under the age of 14.



An aerial photograph of a suburban residential neighborhood. A thick blue line outlines a large, irregular area that encompasses several blocks. Within this blue-outlined area, a rectangular section of houses is highlighted in yellow. The neighborhood features a mix of green lawns, trees, and paved streets. Some larger buildings, possibly schools or community centers, are visible within the blue boundary.

The small area statistics from 2022 CSO areas are outlined in blue in the image above. Areas chosen were in roughly 500m radius of location A.



# The Site

---

The primary areas identified as potential sites for a new playground are Meadowbrook pitches and the green space along the Wyckham Stream, running behind Ludford Drive.

Beside Meadowbrook Leisure Centre, Meadowbrook Pitches is dominated by a number of football (soccer) pitches of two full sized pitches and a number of seven-a-side pitches, used by Dundrum Football Club.

An un-named linear park runs alongside the Wyckham stream, to the rear of Ludford Drive and Acorn Park, extending from St Attracta's School and the Parish Centre, the Meadowbrook Leisure Centre car park as far as Ashlawn. This linear stretch is frequented by walkers, dog-walkers, joggers, and children going to and from school.





## 4. Stakeholder Mapping



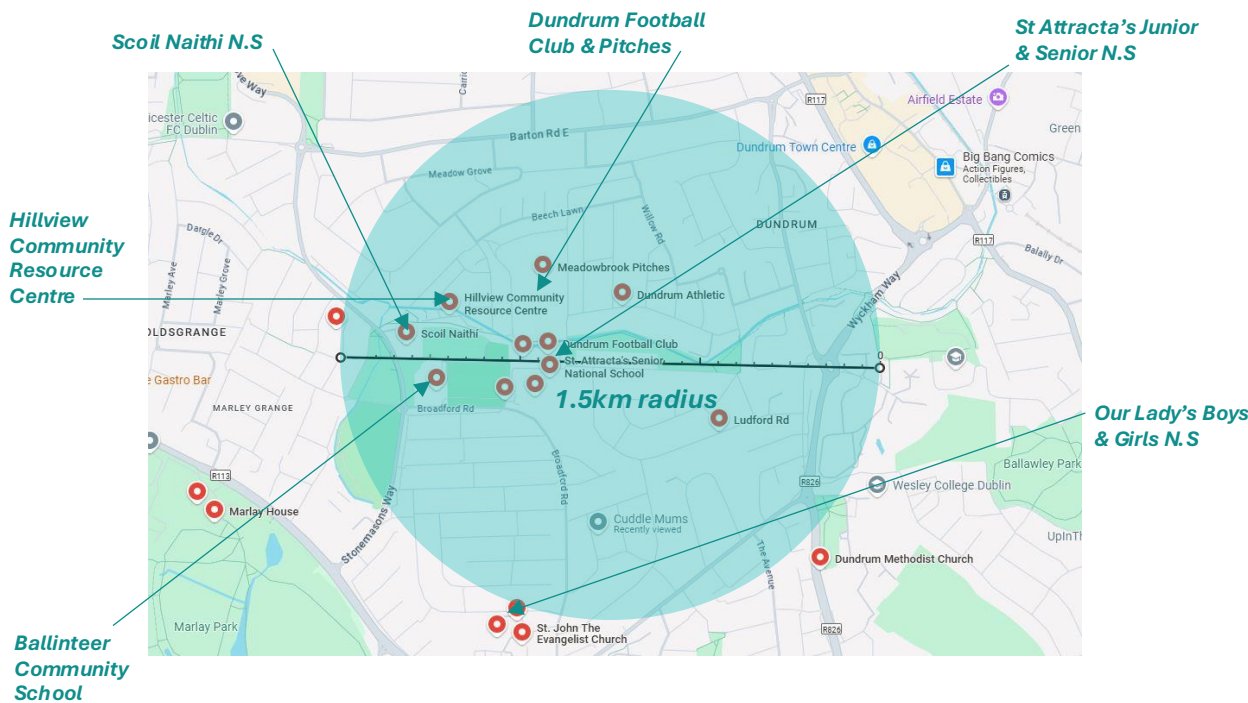


# Stakeholder Mapping

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

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

Local organisations and groups were notified to disseminate consultation information, where contact details were obtained.



Key Local Organisations / Groups	Sector
St Attracta's Junior and Senior N.S	Education
Scoil Naithi N.S	Education
Dundrum Football Club	Community
Ballinteer Community School	Education
Hillview Community Family Resource Centre	Local Service
Ludford Park Residents Association	Community
Our Lady's Boys and Girls N.S	Education
Ballinteer Parish Church	Local Service
Dundrum Methodist Church	Local Service
Meadowbrook Dlr Leisure Centre	Local Service
Once Upon a Time Nursery, Wyckham Way	Local Business

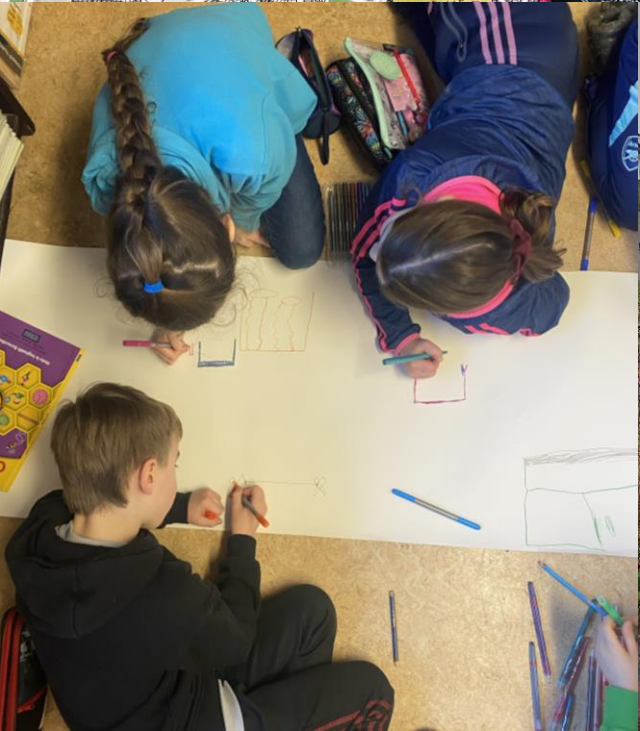
---

## 5. Engagement Activities

---







# Engagement Activities

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

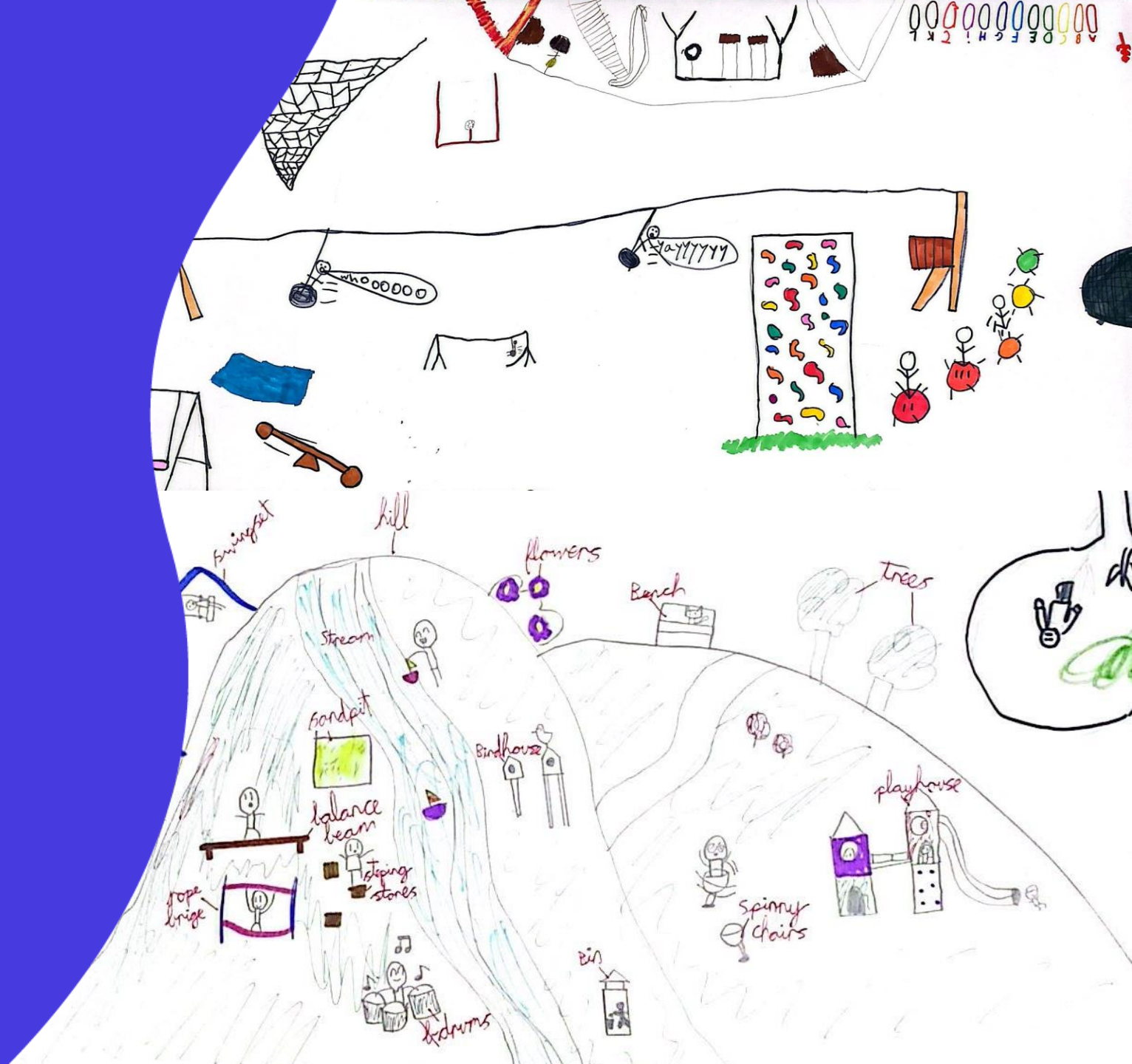
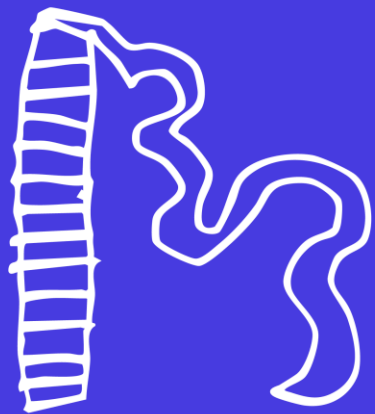
- DLR CitizenSpace **online survey** from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- **Public workshop** in Ballinteer Community School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- **X4 Primary school workshops** in St Attracta's and Scoil Naithí with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes and artist Elida Maiques.

## Promotion of engagement

- DLR CitizenSpace consultation hub.
- Social media posts by DLR CoCo.
- Direct email contact with local Stakeholder groups.
- Online announcement through Dún Laoghaire Public Partnership Network.
- A3 posters in Meadowbrook / Ludford area.
- Leafleting in local in Meadowbrook / Ludford area.
- Emailed updates to local public representatives.



# 6. Engagement Outcomes and Responses







## Workshops in St Attracta's and Scoil Naithí

Four workshops were held in local schools. Two in St Attracta's National School (15.01.2025) and two in Scoil Naithí (16.01.2025) with 2nd and 5th classes and artist and creative facilitator Elida Maiques.

Firstly, the children had a group discussion about what they liked in terms of outdoor play and drew individual drawings of themselves playing outdoors, they then walked from their school to the Meadowbrook/Ludford pitches and greenspace discussing what they saw (animals, plants, people, activities) and where they usually played.

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.





# Children's Play Ideas and Observations

---

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** – Climbing walls, obstacle courses, ziplines, climbing frames, monkey bars, twisty slides, swings, roundabouts, spinners, rockers, trampolines, seesaws.

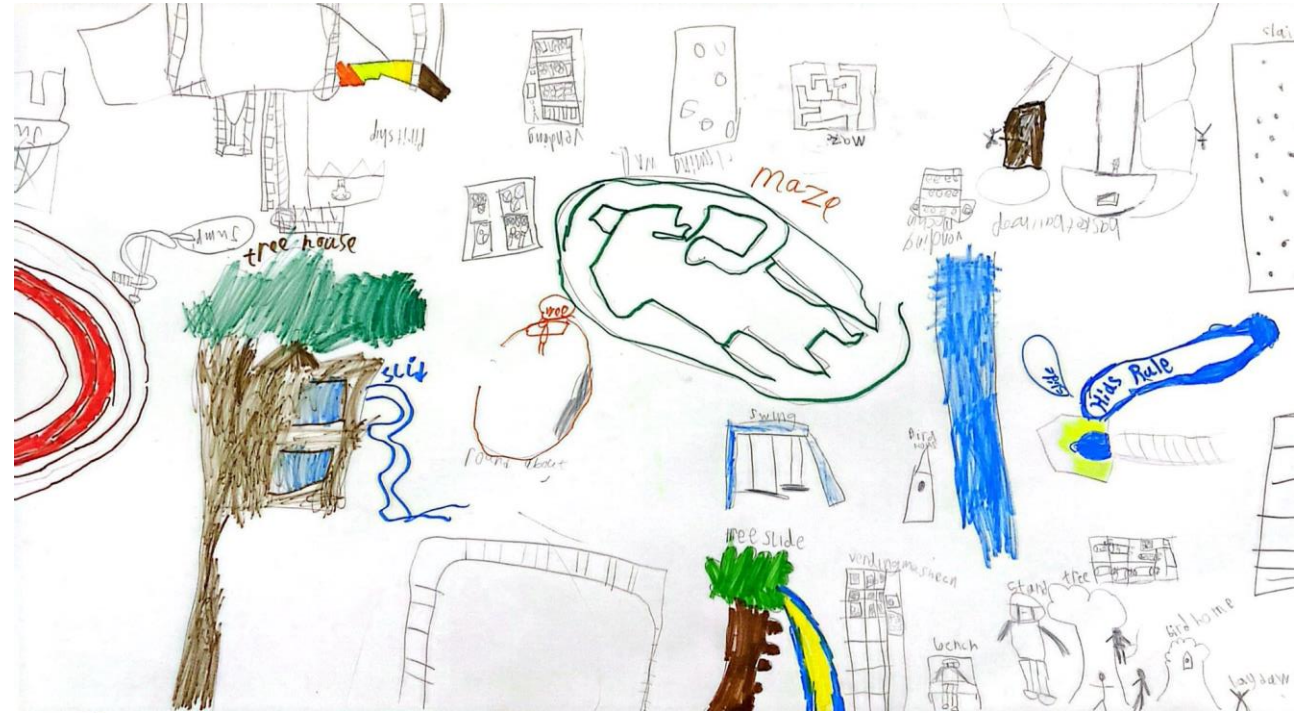
**2. Natural Play** – Treehouses, rope/tyre swings, birdhouses and baths, stepping stones, mazes, open space, sand pit, water features, natural materials, more trees, bug hotels, nature education panels, bird feeders, name tags for the trees.

**3. Sports facilities** – Basketball hoops, football goals, scooter/bike trail, skate park, exercise equipment, running track, gymnastics bars, table tennis, target walls for hurling/football.

**4. Colour, art, music** – Colourful murals (that the children could be involved in creating), games and paintings on the path, interactive sculptures, musical interventions, speakers, stages for dancing.

**5. Seating** – Benches, sheltered areas, comfortable reading spots, hammocks, hideouts.

**6. Facilities** – Bins, toilets, dog park, drinking water fountain, lighting, rental sports equipment, café, accessible equipment.







# Public Workshop in Ballinteer Community School

A public workshop was held in Ballinteer Community School on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from 6:30-7:30pm. The workshop was well attended with over 60 people attending.

The workshop participants were asked for their hopes and concerns about the proposed playground. Participants added post-its with comments to a map of the site with proposed sites labelled A-F. They discussed issues arising in their tables and with the facilitators.

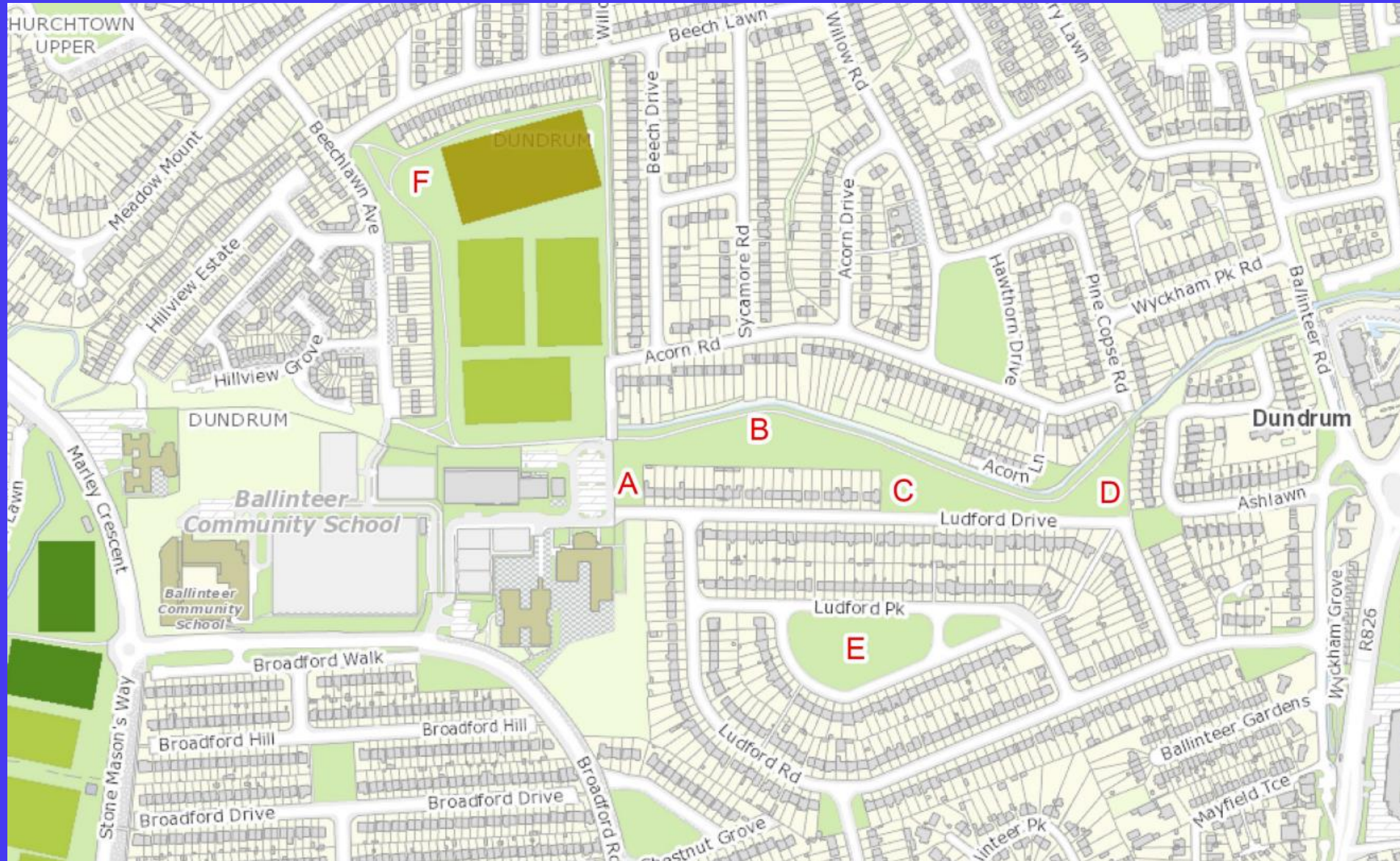
The common themes that emerged in the workshops were:

- Location
- Facilities/Equipment
- Safety and Security
- Project Rationale

The workshop feedback is summarised on the following pages 23-24.



# Workshop Map - Site Analysis and Location Proposals





# Summary of Workshop Feedback

---

## Location – Feedback per proposed location

Locations A and F emerged as the most popular choices among workshop participants, with locations B and C frequently mentioned as second preference. Locations D and E were largely considered unsuitable.

**Location A** was supported for its central position, being close to schools, parking facilities and houses, as well as offering good passive surveillance. The fencing in this area provides additional safety from traffic. However, concerns were raised about its proximity to residences and to the river, as well as the traffic congestion that occurs after school hours and on weekends in this area.

**Location B** was identified as a kickabout space by local children and has a football goal set up. It was noted that this free football space is valued by local children. While it is appreciated for its recreational use, the area's tendency to flood and its proximity to the river were seen as significant concerns, both for the safety of children and for the impact on local wildlife. Workshop participants also highlighted the location's lack of passive surveillance.

**Location C** was seen to offer a large, open space, but it is prone to flooding, is close to the river and has no passive surveillance. Its close proximity to houses was also a concern.

**Location D** was deemed unsuitable by most participants. It is considered prone to flooding, and its proximity to a busy and dangerous road makes it particularly unsafe for children playing in the area.

Feedback on **Location E** highlighted several concerns including the value of the green space as it is to local residents, proximity to houses, increase in traffic and environmental concerns. There were also reports of anti-social behaviour in the area with concerns that a play space would attract more of this behaviour. Many participants felt the space should be preserved as a quiet residential square.

**Location F** received positive feedback as an underused space with significant potential. It is not close to houses, which reduces the risk of disruption to residents, and it benefits from good passive surveillance. The nearby walking and cycling track makes it accessible and encourages local use. Its proximity to playing pitches was raised as a concern.



# Summary of Workshop Feedback cont.

---

## Safety and Security

- There were concerns that a playground could attract anti-social behaviour. Installing proper lighting and surveillance systems should be considered.
- There were concerns that increased traffic could lead to congestion issues and raise road safety concerns.

## Facilities/ Equipment

- Benches should be included.
- Bins should be included to manage waste and keep the area clean.
- Exercise equipment along the river would be welcomed.
- Sandpits should not be included as they attract rats, foxes, cats.

## Project Process and Rationale

- Some questioned the need for a playground in this area and why this location as the demographic of the estate is older.
- Some queried launching a public consultation in late December.
- There was some misperception that there had been a decision that the playground was going to be located in the green space of Ludford Park itself.



# Online Survey Results

An online survey (see Appendix A) was live on DLR Citizen Space platform for a 6-week period from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. During this time, submissions were also received by email and post. The survey questions included:

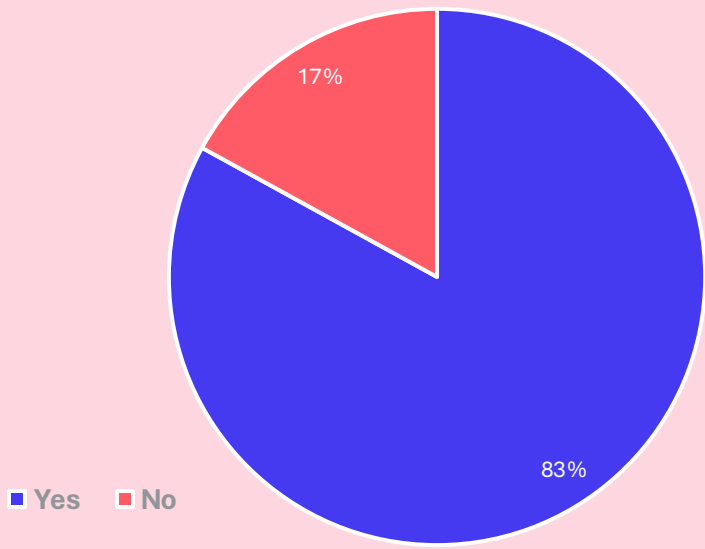
- Are you in favour of a children’s Playground for this area?
- Are children (0-12years) ever in your care?
- What types of play would you like to see provided ?
- What favourite playground features would you or your child would like to see?

The survey also invited any further comments that people may have in relation to a play space in the Meadowbrook / Ludford area of Ballinteer.

**The insights from the 438 responses received (412 via online survey and 26 email submissions)** are detailed in the following section of this report.

In relation to Q1. (*Are you in favour of a children’s Playground for this area?*), the majority (83%) expressed support in the submissions for a local play space.

Are you in favour of a children's playground in this area?



## Support for the scheme

*A local playground has been greatly missed for decades.*

*I think it's a great idea, long overdue in the Ballinteer/Dundrum area.*

*Really hope this goes ahead, would be great to see!*

*Great idea, really looking forward to it, fully support.*

*I think this is a badly need amenity in Ludford and many young families have moved to the area.*

*This would be a fantastic amenity and would help build social circles in the area.*



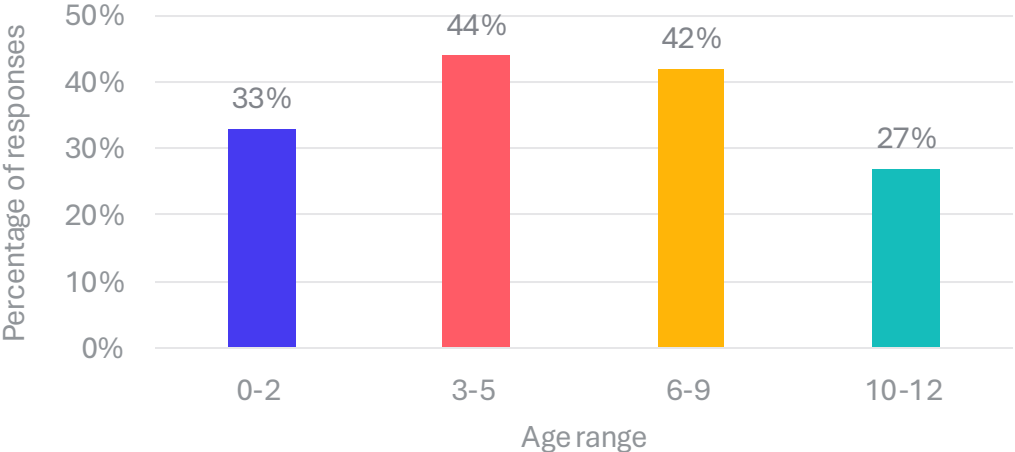
# Children in your care?

The majority of respondents (80%) have children in their care as parents. Smaller numbers care for children as grandparents (10%), through other relations (8%), or as other carers (2%).

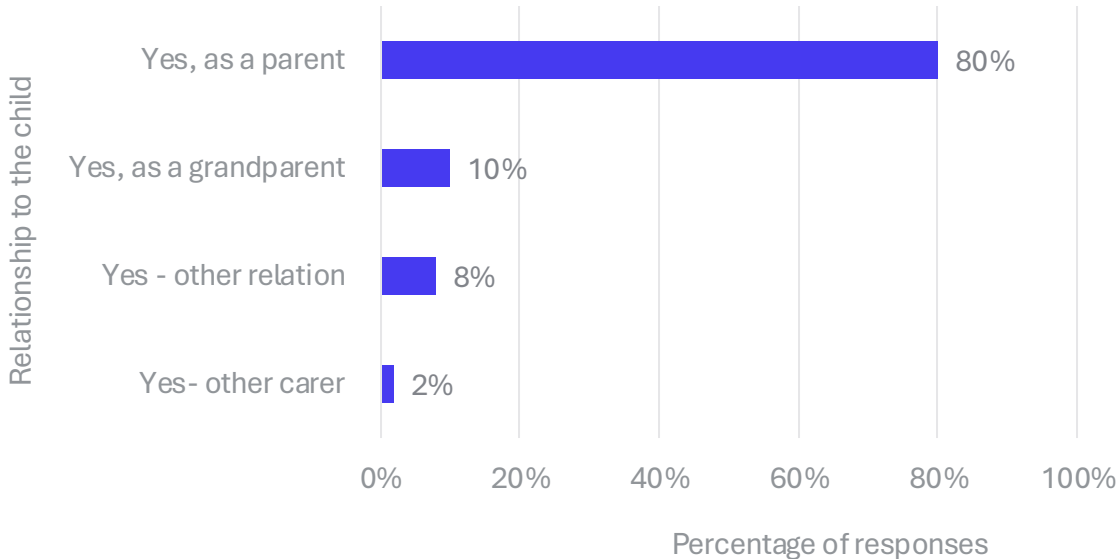
Most respondents (72%) care for children daily, with fewer reporting caregiving more than once a week or on less frequent schedules.

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 and the 10-12 years group.

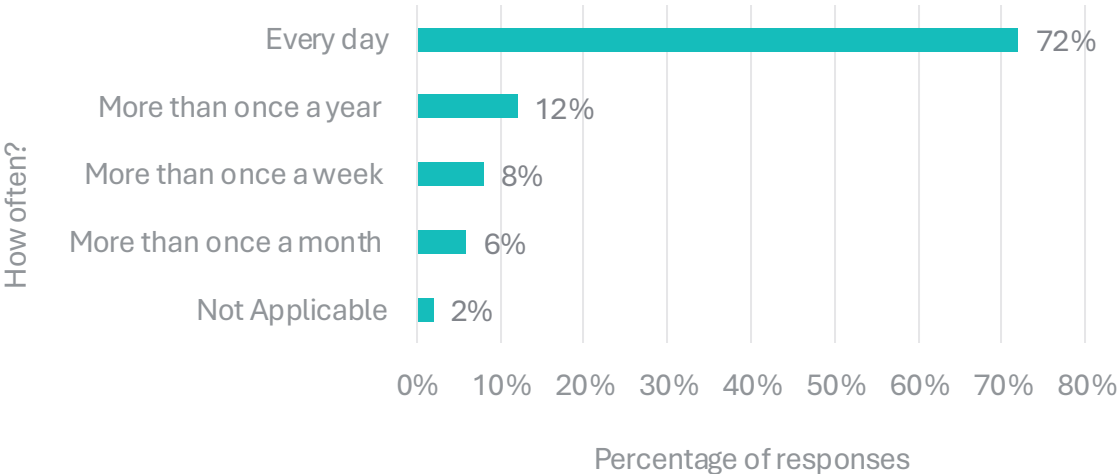
How old are the children in your care?



Are children (0-12) ever in your care?

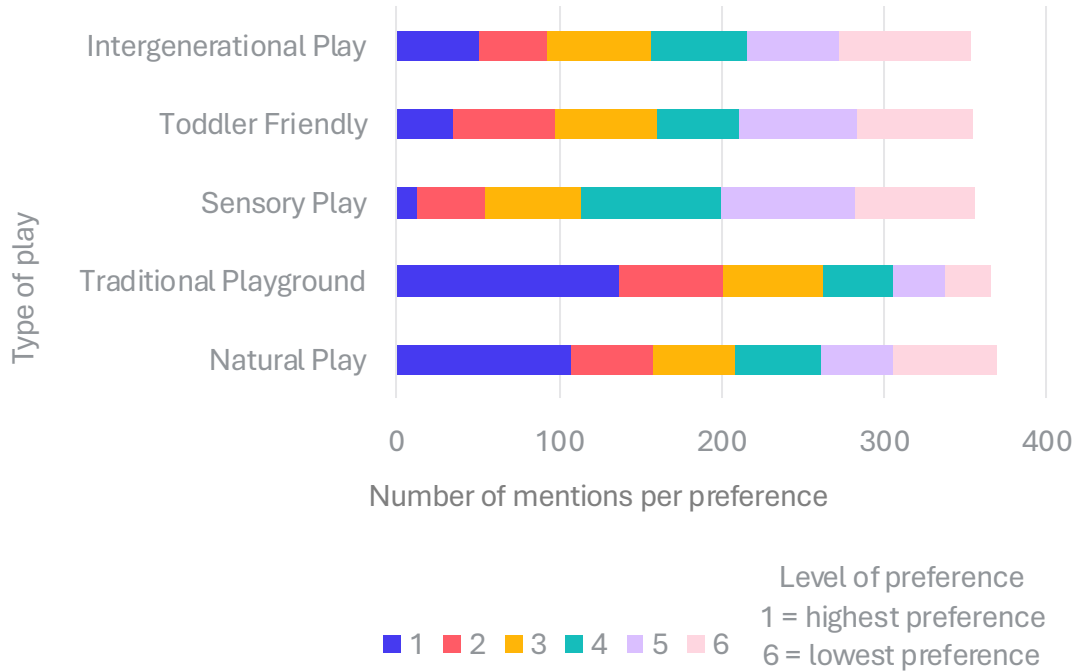


How often are children in your care?



# 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.

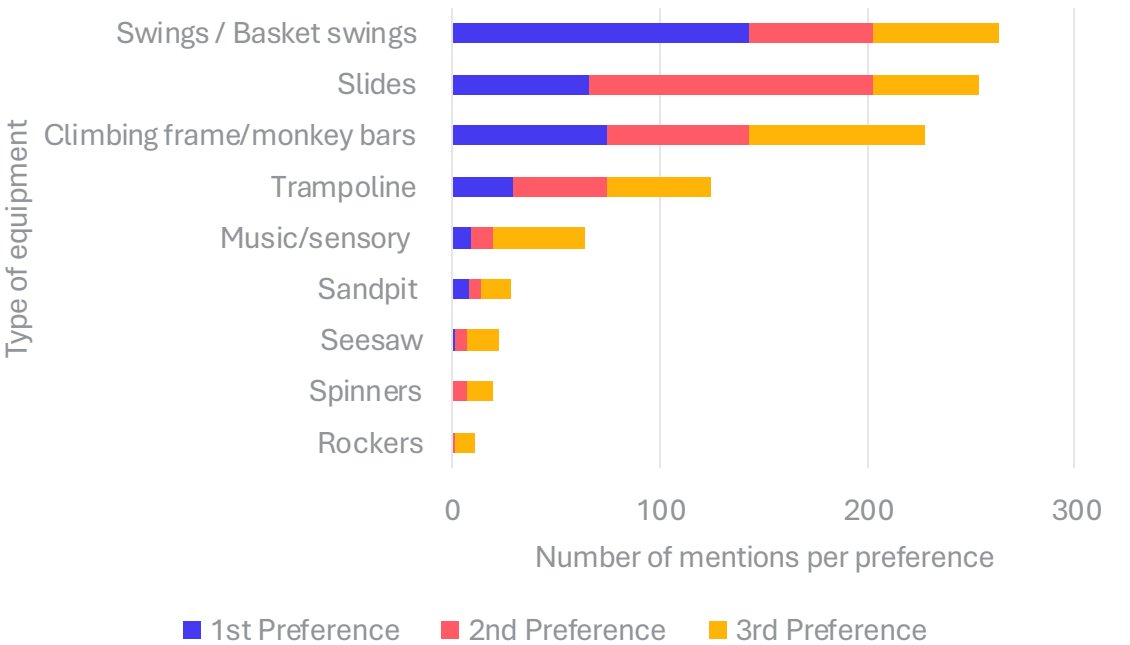


# Preference for features/equipment?

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

Features like **Trampoline, Music / Sensory, Sandpit, 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.





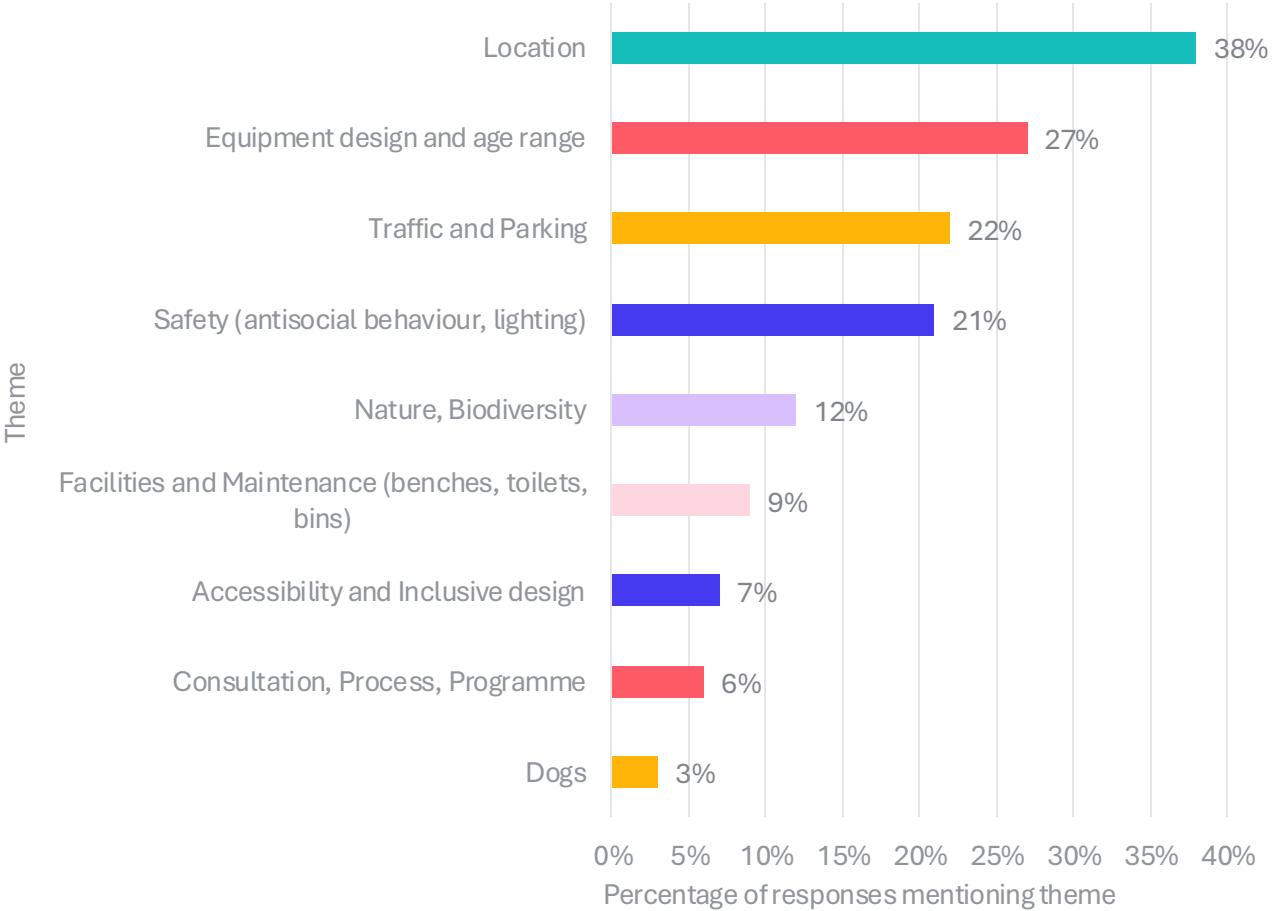
# Most common themes that arose in submissions

## 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 Ludford/Meadowbrook?*’. Out of the 412 survey responses and 26 emails, 234 participants (57 %) added further comments.

The graph identifies 9 key themes which emerged from analysis of the survey responses and the email submissions with their associated weightings.

The largest number of submissions related to the location of a play space. Quite a number of these reflected initial confusion that the playground would be located in the green space in Ludford Park. The next most common themes were the equipment design, age range, traffic and parking, and safety and security. Feedback on each of the themes is presented in following slides.

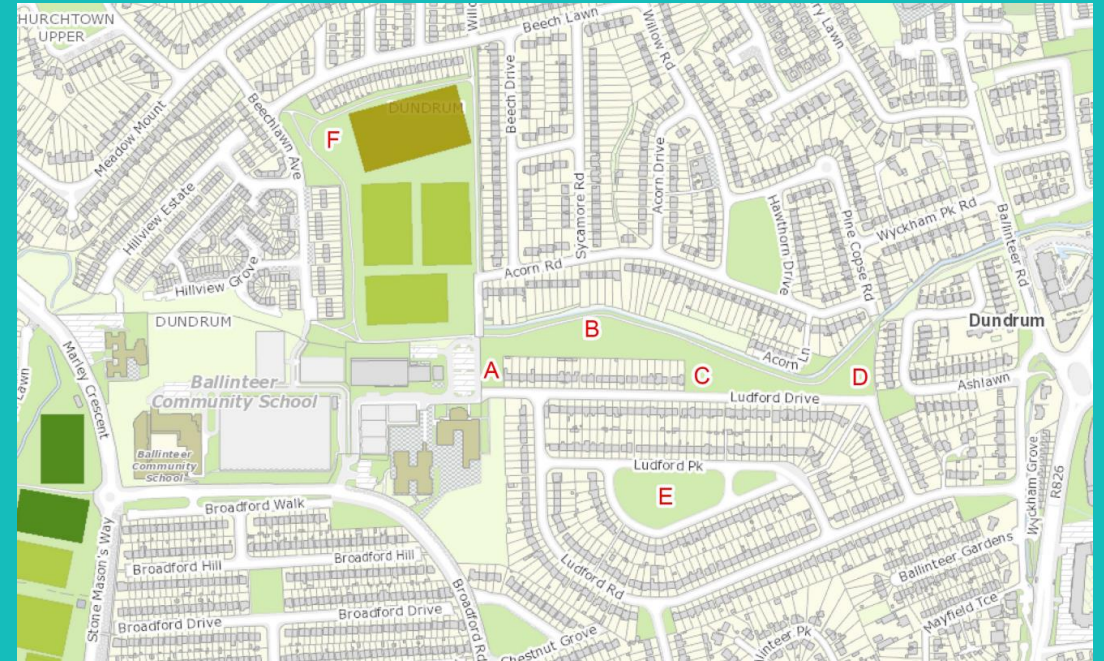


# 1. Location

38% of participants who made comments mentioned a preferred location or expressed concern about the location for the proposed play space. A number of concerns related to a misperception that there had been a decision that the playground was going to be located in the green space of Ludford Park itself. Considerations around passive surveillance, traffic management, environmental concerns, safety, and accessibility for the community were raised.

Locations A and F received the most positive feedback. Location A was praised for its central position, safety features, and passive surveillance but raised concerns about traffic congestion, loss of biodiversity and proximity to residences and to the river. Location F was highlighted as a good option as it is a largely unused space with good passive surveillance and good accessibility, though its proximity to playing pitches was noted. Location B received some positive feedback due to its size and central location. It was also noted to be a valued and well-used as a free football space for local children and concerns were raised around safety due to a lack of passive surveillance and proximity to the back of residences and to the river as well as flooding concerns and impacts on local wildlife. Locations C and D were praised for being overlooked and open but were also considered unsuitable due to flooding, lack of surveillance, and traffic safety risks.

There were a number of comments made in relation to Location E on Ludford Drive. Comments were made about a loss of valuable green space for the large number of elderly residents living in the area, environmental concerns, increased traffic congestion and parking difficulties, and concerns around attracting anti-social behaviour. Some other comments considered Location E a suitable location as it is well overlooked, has less car traffic and parking issues than other proposed locations and is a safe distance from the river and busier roads.



Site A ... There is parking. There are some traffic calming measures already ... There would be an element of community supervision (watchful residents being able to ensure the playground is safe and no anti-social behaviour).

I think locations A and F are probably the best locations in terms of passive surveillance.

As a resident in the park of an elderly age and restricted movement I would strongly disagree with the playground in (Ludford) park. I enjoy a walk around the park like many other residents do and the upset the playground would cause would make it a little difficult.



## 2. Equipment design, age range

27% of participants who made comments mentioned the type of equipment that might be included in the proposed play space and the age range it might cater to.

There were requests for the use of natural materials and the existing trees and landscape in the design of the playground.

There were a number of suggestions for adventure play equipment that encourages climbing, balancing, exploring and risk-taking. Zip-lines, trampolines and climbing equipment were mentioned the most.

While some responses called for a mix of age appropriate equipment, others called for a dedicated, enclosed toddler zone and plenty of baby seat swings.

Including exercise equipment for adults and elderly people was also mentioned by respondents.

*Less plastic and more conscious of the landscape environment would be preferable for these more residential areas.*

*A location that is bright and where the playground equipment does not foster shelter or shadows. Therefore, low to the ground equipment would be ideal.*

*More 'risky' play encourages more imagination, more movement and older children to play.*

*All equipment should be multifunctional so they can be enjoyed at a variety of ages.*

*It would be fantastic to have the toddler area gated within the playground. Allows toddlers to roam freely and explore and also discourages older kids from taking over the space*

*Could there be a hurling wall/ball wall, this would be a huge asset to the community and contribute to the sustainable use of the space as the children grow.*

### 3. Traffic and Parking

22% of participants who made comments mentioned traffic and parking.

There is a concern that a playground will attract more traffic to the area, making it more difficult to park and making the roads noisier and more dangerous for residents.

There were a number of comments around pedestrian safety and the location of the playground in relation to busy roads calling for improved pedestrian crossing and additional traffic calming measures if a playground is to be located in the area.

*Road safety on the roads surrounding the playground. Local children accessing the playground are at risk due to drivers speeding through Ludford en route to Meadowbrook gym/pool/Dundrum FC. Suggest speed ramps and safety crossings.*

*There needs to be better protection for pedestrians crossing roads. The pedestrian crossings are only quasi-zebra crossings. They don't have flashing lights and are not entirely obvious...*

*Location A is quite small. If this location is progressed, traffic management should also be considered to stop cars parking on the footpath or double yellow lines.*

*A playground would also increase traffic and parking congestion in a residential area.*

*It will lead to an increase in on street parking which is already problematic as people from other estates and areas will travel to the playground and park along the roads.*



## 4. Safety, anti-social behaviour

21% of participants who made comments mentioned safety concerns and anti-social behaviour.

Respondents expressed concerns about a play space attracting groups of teenagers to a residential neighbourhood resulting in littering, noise, and an intimidating atmosphere for elderly residents. Many of these concerns related to the possible location of the play space in the green space of Ludford Park itself.

Passive surveillance was mentioned a number of times as a key consideration in the play space design.

*This could be a good opportunity to upgrade public lighting to Ludford Park and the wider Meadowbrook park - its dangerously dark at the moment.*

*It will attract anti-social behaviour to a settled residential area with a large elderly population*

*I think one of the main concerns that people in the area have about a playground is that it would draw anti-social behaviour in evenings / nighttime. Therefore, I think the need for passive surveillance should be one of the most important factors considered.*

*I welcome this but also worry about the upkeep and how we can prevent damage, graffiti, antisocial behaviour.*

*We had an experience over the last few years where a swing was installed on one of the trees in the park and this attracted a lot of teenagers who used this as a meeting point. It led to anti-social behaviour such as drinking, littering, the playing of loud music and general rowdiness.*

## 5. Nature & Biodiversity

12% of survey respondents raised nature and biodiversity. Some of the respondents called for the play space to incorporate natural materials or to utilise natural features such as trees, rocks, hills as part of the play. Some expressed concern that a play space might negatively impact existing native flora and fauna in the green spaces. Other expressed concern of the proximity of the stream and rodents.

*It would be great if area was semi covered with evergreen trees or similar.*

*...it might be more beneficial and environmentally friendly to enhance the green in Ludford by planting trees or creating a small biodiversity haven...*

*Less plastic and more conscious of the landscape environment would be preferable.*

## 6. Facilities and Maintenance

9% of survey respondents raised facilities and maintenance. Many called for benches for parents/guardians, picnic tables, scooter/bicycle parking, bins and toilets. Some called for a sheltered area when it rains. Others raised concerns about ongoing maintenance of the play equipment and litter collection.

*Location should be as close to Meadowbrook as possible to allow for use of facilities such as car park, bins, toilets, access*

*How often will litter be collected?*

*Lots of seating inside and outside playground- so dog owners can sit outside and still watch the kids*



## 7. Accessibility & Inclusive Design

7% of survey respondents raised accessibility and inclusive design in relation to the proposed play space. There were calls to make it equally inviting to boys and girls, and for different age ranges. Universal access was mentioned frequently, seeking to ensure the play space and its equipment is disability-friendly, wheelchair accessible, with minimisation of surface changes and incorporation of dished curbs.

*...make sure the play area is equally inviting to girls as boys...*

*No bark or sand it can be a nightmare for kids with additional needs*

*...hidden and quiet spots for children with sensory issues to observe play and join when they are ready...*



## 8. Consultation & Process

6% of survey respondents raised the consultation and planning process and the project timeline in relation to the proposed play space. Some expressed concern that the initial correspondence and notice about the consultation mentioned Ludford Park as the location which caused confusion. Others questioned whether a decision was already decided upon prior to the consultation.

*..this survey reads as if the decision is already made...*

*.... If all the 6 proposed locations were mentioned a much larger presence of locals from Ludford Drive ...*

*Those unable to attend the workshop have no easy access to details of the proposed location(s).*

## 9. Dogs

3% of participants who made comments mentioned dogs. Some highlighted that the green spaces in the area were frequented by dog walkers at all times of the year. Respondents called for a fence around the play space to protect children from uncontrolled dogs. Some noted that there is an issue of dog dirt in the green spaces, while other called for additional dog dirt bins.

*It is used by locals to walk and exercise their dogs all year round*

*dogs need to be patrolled correctly if inviting children and families into this space for safety reasons*

*there is an ongoing issue with dog poo in this green area...*

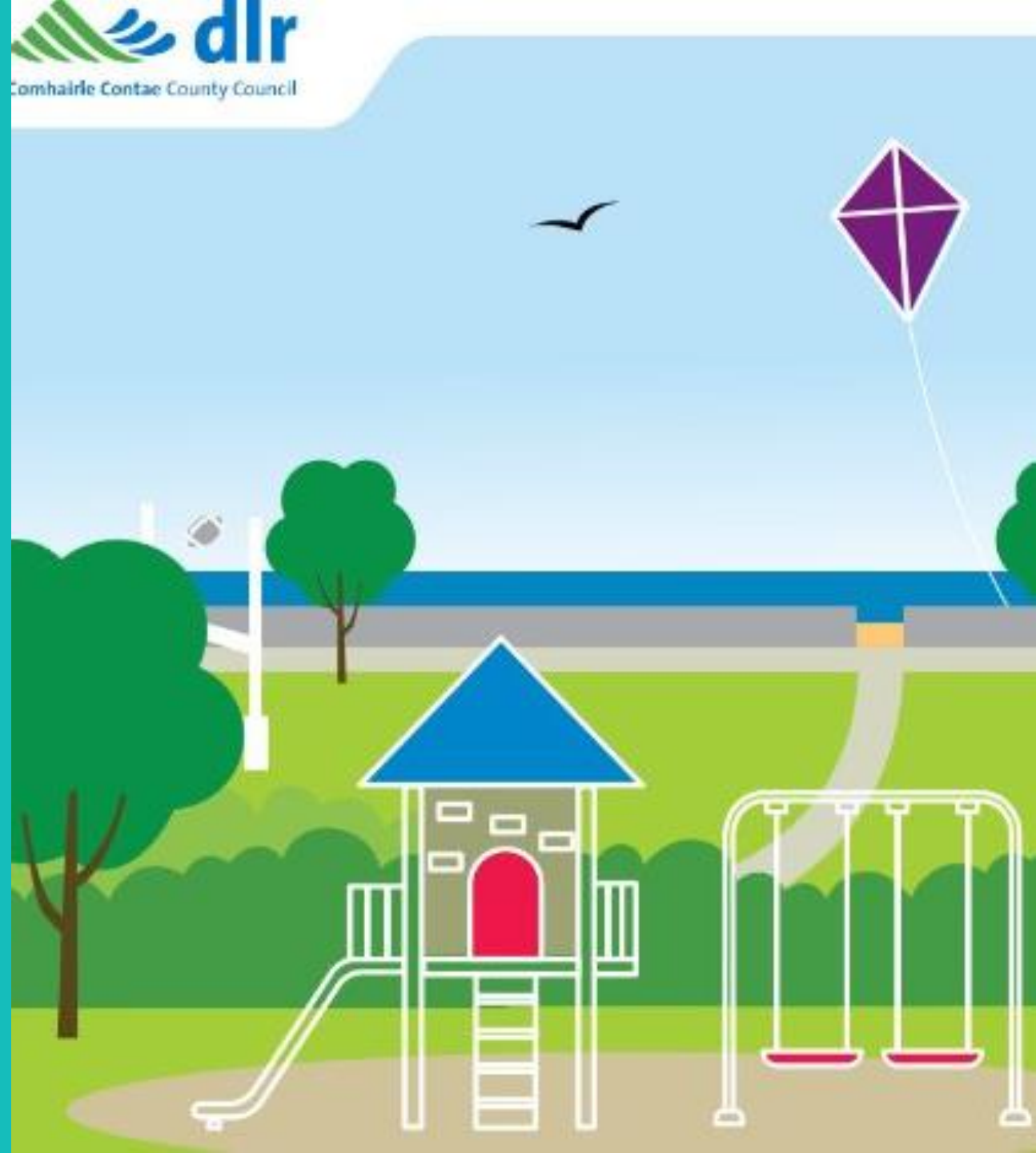




---

## 7. DLR Parks Response to Public Feedback & Recommendations

---



# 1. Location

The proposed location for the new play space is Area A, (Ludford Drive/Acorn Road) with an extension towards Area B. This centrally positioned site was identified through public consultation as a preferred option due to its proximity to existing intergenerational facilities, including the Teen Space, paddle courts, and the DLR Leisure Centre. The area benefits from passive surveillance, inclusive access, and proximity to local schools such as St. Attracta's. It is currently zoned as public open space in the County Development Plan, making it an appropriate location for the project. As a local amenity, no significant increase in traffic or parking demand is anticipated. Other location concerns are safety. As this site has already some traffic calming and the boundary has railings it is considered to be a safe location for the Play space. The area serves as an important route for pedestrians and cyclists and is a popular space for dog walking. Concerns about the nearby river and mature trees have been acknowledged, and we will work with the DLR Biodiversity Officer to ensure biodiversity is preserved.





## 2. Play Space Equipment Design and Age Range

The play space will cater to children aged 0–12 and include a variety of age-appropriate, inclusive, and engaging equipment to support learning and development. Public consultation emphasised a preference for natural play, followed by traditional and intergenerational elements. Feedback from children's workshops indicated strong interest in adventurous and sensory play. The dominate features of play equipment requested were challenging activities followed by music and sensory equipment. The design will prioritise the use of natural materials and integrate existing landscape features. Requests for a dedicated toddler area (0–5) to be enclosed for safety will be considered at design stage. While exercise equipment for older adults will not be included in this project, suggestions have been noted for future development of the green spaces.

## 3. Traffic and Parking

Traffic and parking concerns raised during consultation are recognised. As per DLR planning policy, car parking provisions are limited for leisure facilities. This playground is intended for local use for local families, not as a regional destination, and therefore additional parking will not be provided. Families are encouraged to access the Play space on foot or by bicycle. Any further provision of car parking and traffic management is outside the scope of works of this project and concerns have been raised with our traffic department.

## 4. Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour

The site benefits from strong passive surveillance from nearby amenities such as Dundrum FC, DLR Leisure and St. Attracta's National School. Concerns around anti-social behaviour, lighting, and river safety were highlighted and we acknowledge these concerns. We will be considering these comments at the design stage. Ongoing issues should be reported to the Dundrum Garda Station or raised with the Dundrum Local Policing Forum via the Community and Cultural Development Department (DLRCC: 01 205 4893).

## 5. Nature and Biodiversity

Community feedback emphasised the importance of protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural play elements in the area. The design will incorporate existing trees, natural landscaping, and biodiversity enhancements and features, in collaboration with the DLR Biodiversity Officer. Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening will be undertaken to ensure no significant impact on Natura 2000 sites.

## 6. Facilities and Maintenance

Community requests for amenities such as picnic benches, shaded areas, scooter/bike parking, bins, and improved lighting have been noted. While public toilets will not be included within the play space itself, facilities are available at DLR Leisure. All proposed features will be evaluated in line with the project's local scale and budget.

## 7. Accessibility and Inclusive Design

The public consultations analysis highlights issues and calls for an accessible and inclusive design in the play space that caters to all ages, mobility needs and age ranges. All these ideas and concerns from the consultation will be considered during the design stage. We are collaborating with our DLRCC Sports Inclusion Disability Officer on the development of the play space.

DLRCC 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 play space on this site, which would benefit the community. 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) 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.



## 8. Dog Management

The public consultation process has highlighted the frequency dog walkers in the park as all year round and calls for the play space to be fenced in. 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 noted requests for more dog dirt bins and seating outside of the play space so children can be observed from a distance while carers can sit with their dogs, as there is an ongoing issue with dog fouling and dogs not being kept under effective control. It is a requirement that dogs be kept under effective control and keep on a lead. Incidence of dogs not being kept under effective control can be reported to the Animal control section at DL RCC on ph. 012054700

# DLRCC Recommendations

---

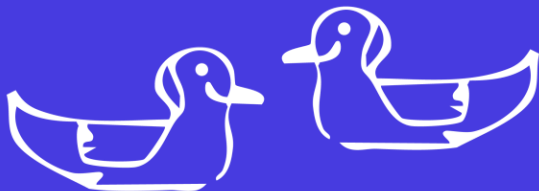
Based on strong community support and feedback, DLRCC will proceed with the development of the play space at Area A with an overspill into Area B, located at the corner of Ludford Drive and Acorn Road. The space will include equipment for children aged 0–5 and 6–11, prioritising natural and traditional play, adventure features, inclusive access, and intergenerational use. The suggestions from community consultations, including requests for creative play, musical, sensory elements, incorporated in landscape design and protection of biodiversity features will guide the design process.





# Appendices

- a. Online Survey Questions
- b. Other Policy and Play Principles Research
- c. School Workshop Drawings



# A. Online Survey

## Demographic Questions

---

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

- Yes
- No

**Q2 . Where do you live?**

- Acorn Road
- Acorn Drive
- Acorn Lane
- Ashlawn
- Ballinteer Park
- Ballinteer Drive
- Beech Lawn
- Beech Drive
- Broadford Road
- Broadford Hill
- Broadford Drive
- Hawthorn Drive
- Hillview Estate

- Ludford Drive
- Ludford Park
- Pine Copse Road
- Sycamore Road
- Sycamore Drive
- Willow Gate
- Willow Road
- Wyckham Park Road
- 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

---

**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.
- **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. Other Policy and Play Principles Research

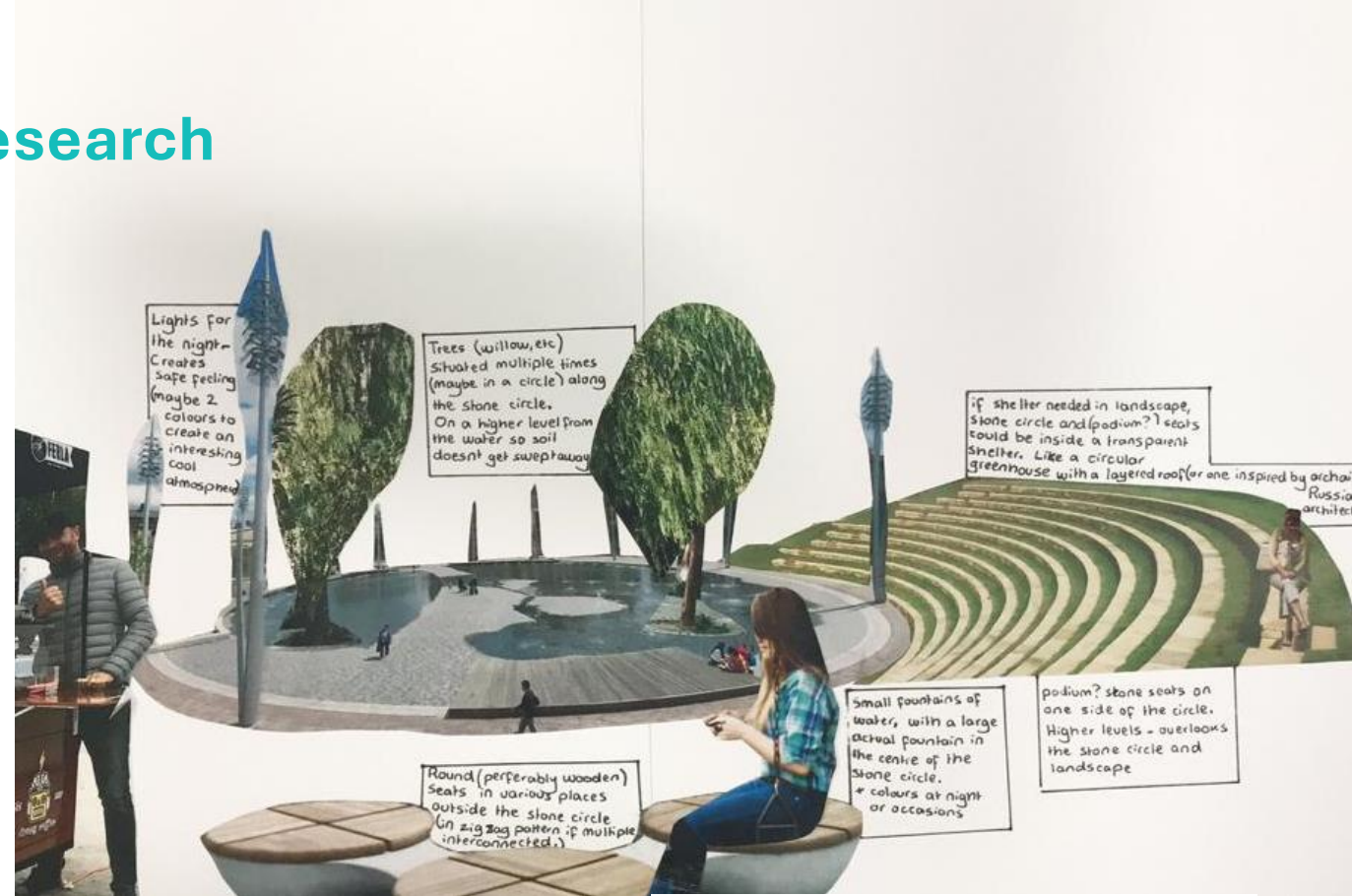
*makespaceforgirls.co.uk*

UK Campaign for parks and public spaces to be designed for girls and young women, not just boys and young men. They raise awareness of the issue, as well as using research and campaigning to ensure that the voices of girls and young women are heard in the planning process.

When facilities are provided for teenagers in the UK, these usually take the form of multi-use games areas (MUGAs), skate park and BMX tracks. Their research shows none of these feel inclusive for teenage girls. [Here is a link](#) to guidance from the campaign.

### Key Learnings for Councils from Make Space for Girls

- Understand what teenage girls want from parks and public spaces - a wide range is much more inclusive.
- Create parks which are more inclusive for all - Better spaces can promote healthier lifestyles and add social value.
- Make sure teenage girls are heard - Reaching girls and other minoritized genders can be difficult but their voices are essential for change.
- Recognise the barriers to change - Lack of information and policies that don't recognise the issues both embed unequal treatment for teenage girls into practice.



*This Research  
was  
recommended by  
online Survey  
participants*

**MAKE  
SPACE  
FOR  
GIRLS**

**WE WANT TO SIT  
ON SWINGS BUT  
FEEL BAD WHEN  
SMALL KIDS  
WANT THEM.**



## C. School Workshop Drawings

---

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

1. **Adventure Play** – Climbing walls, obstacle courses, ziplines, climbing frames, monkey bars, twisty slides, swings, roundabouts, spinners, rockers, trampolines, seesaws.
2. **Natural Play** – Treehouses, rope/tyre swings, birdhouses and baths, stepping stones, mazes, open space, sand pit, water features, natural materials, more trees, bug hotels, nature education panels, bird feeders, name tags for the trees.
3. **Sports facilities** – Basketball hoops, football goals, scooter/bike trail, skate park, running track, exercise equipment, gymnastics bars, table tennis, target walls for hurling/football.
4. **Colour, art, music** – Colourful murals (that the children could be involved in creating), games and paintings on the path, interactive sculptures, musical interventions, speakers, stages for dancing.
5. **Seating** – Benches, sheltered areas, comfortable reading spots, hammocks, hideouts.
6. **Facilities** – Bins, toilets, dog park, drinking water fountain, lighting, rental sports equipment, café, accessible equipment.

# 1. Adventure Play





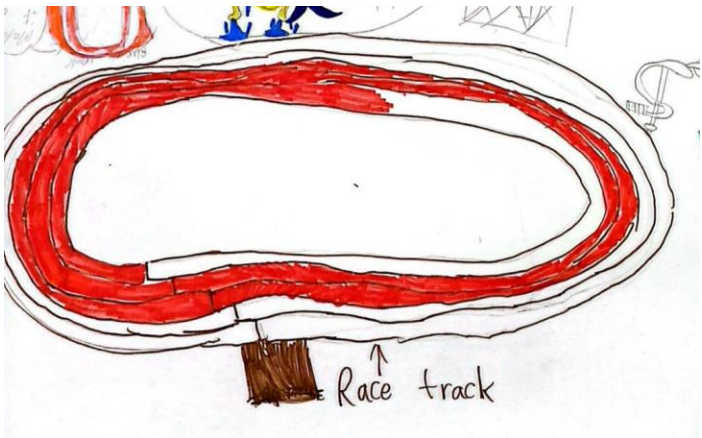
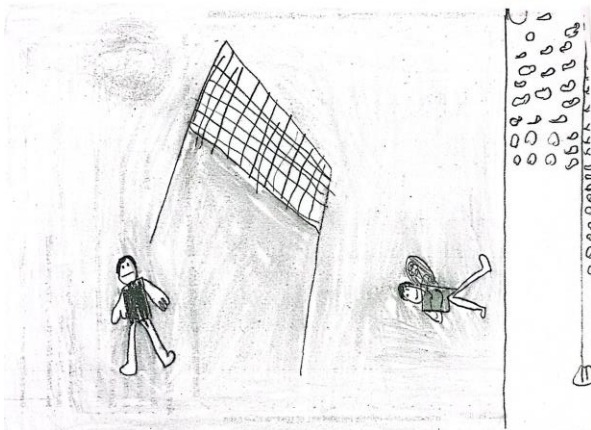
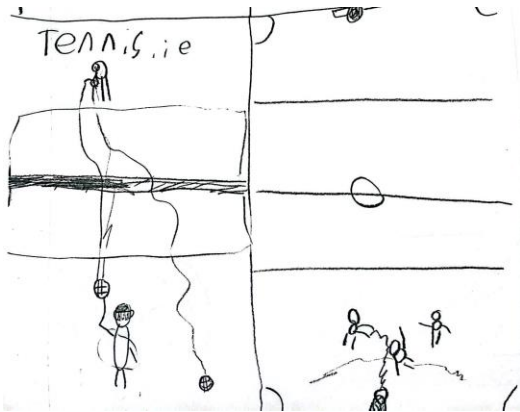
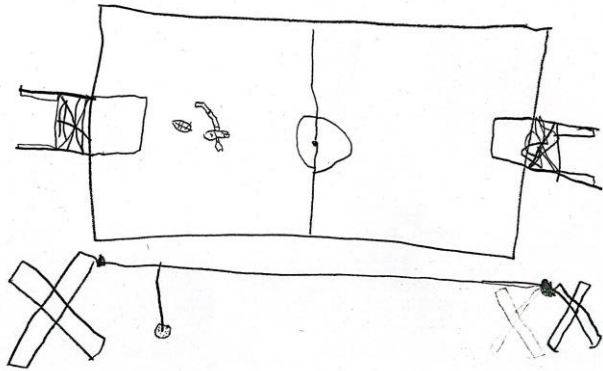
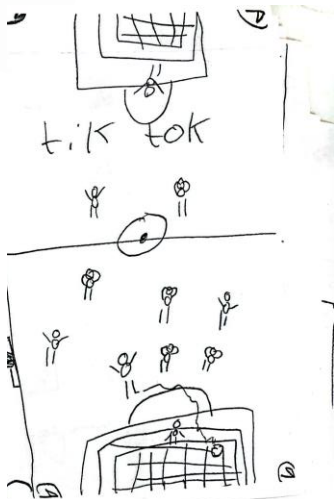
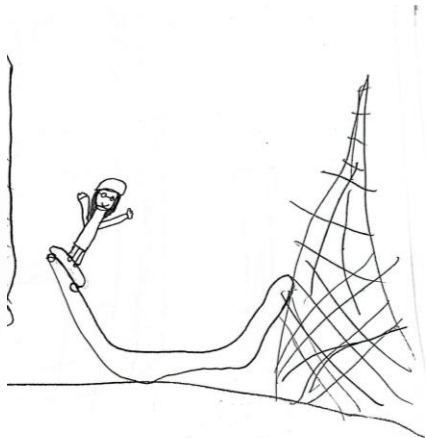
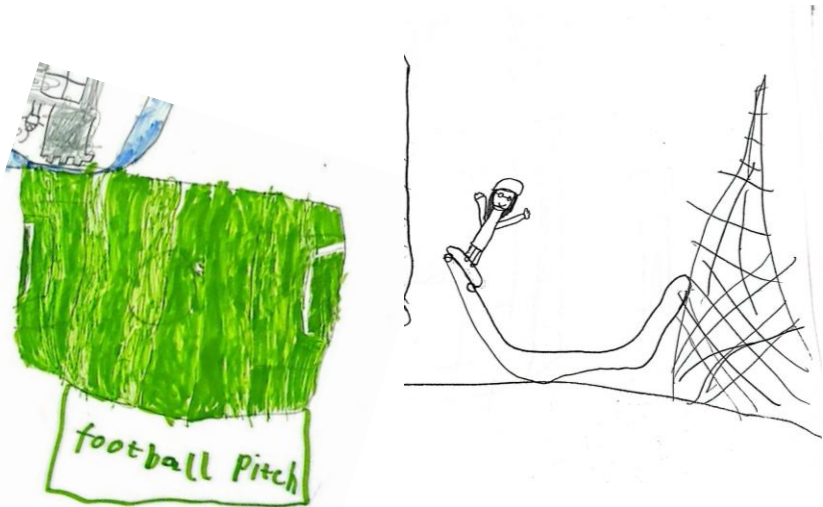
## 2. Natural Play

---





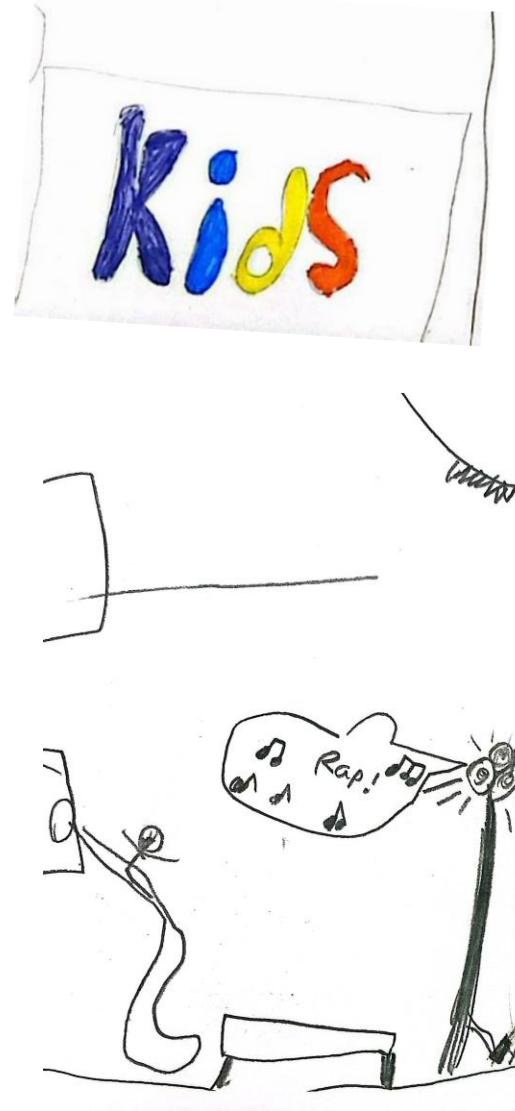
### 3. Sports Facilities



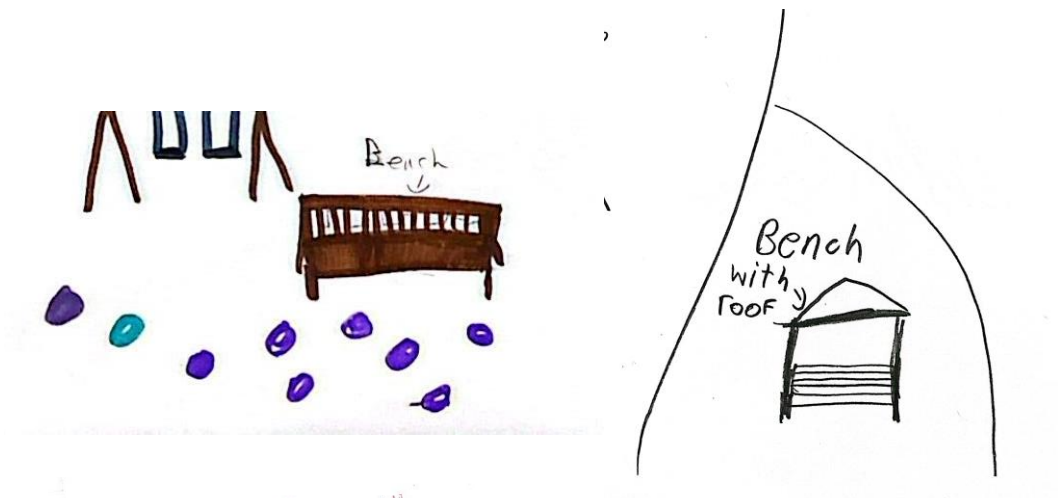


## 4. Colour, art, music

---



# 5. Seating



# 6. Facilities

