



Parks, Municipal Services Department

Marlay Park Masterplan 2018

Have Your Say Report

Prepared by: Paul Conlon, Assistant Parks Superintendent

Approved By: Eoin O'Brien, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

Revision: 0

Date: 3rd December 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A public consultation “Marlay Park Masterplan- Have your Say” was carried out from the 6th July to the 31st August 2018. A total of 332 submissions were received consisting of 320 digital submissions and 12 hard copy submissions.

A complete site analysis of the park was carried out which formed the basis of the Masterplan proposal. Documents were made available on the DLRCC citizen space website (<https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/>) and the documents included in the consultation are as follows;

- *Site Analysis*
- *Masterplan*
- *AA Screening*
- *Built Heritage Inventory**

**At the request of a number of our citizens, The Built Heritage Inventory report was uploaded to the website during the public consultation process and the deadline was extended.*

As part of this process, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) undertook a presentation followed by questions and answers in Marlay House on the 9th August 2018.

The submissions were made up of many different comments/observations on a range of issues. In order for clarity, these observations have been reported on under a range of headings arranged alphabetically and summarised. Where multiple people made same observation, the number of people is indicated in brackets.

The response of the design team is provided in relation to the headed item under the observations received in relation to that item.

Where changes to the Masterplan are proposed, these are outlined in red in the design team response. Where changes are not proposed, the reasons have been addressed in the design team response

The majority of the submissions were by private individuals whom are not listed in this report. Organisations/Public Reps who made submissions were as follows –:

*An Taisce
South Dublin Protect Our Parks
Dundrum South Dublin Athletics Club
Marlay Soft Ball Club
Blackrock Athletics Club
Ballinteer St John GAA
Irish Georgian Society
Bill Hastings Architects
Churchtown Residents Association*

SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS:**Biodiversity**

There were a total of 14 specific requests relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Marlay Park. The comments submitted in relation to biodiversity are as follows:

- Conserve wildlife and plant life and leave some areas with limited public access*
- Preserve & enhance existing biodiversity (2)*
- Bee friendly areas, pollinator plan (3)*
- No glyphosate*
- Disturbance of bats*
- Disturbance of Little Grebes*
- Disturbance of Mallards*
- Planting of native woodland/trees (2)*
- Planting food crops. Apple Trees etc*
- Rainwater collection and water recycling*
- Grass paths*
- Wildflower meadows*
- Threat of concerts on the biodiversity within the park*
- Encourage bats*
- The Council under takes a long term scientific bat study*
- Encourage birds*
- Assessment required on the Impact on wildlife through noise and light pollution*
- How the plan will have coherence with the DLR biodiversity plan*
- Include tall grass margins*
- Provide brushwood piles throughout the park*
- The robustness of desk AA Screening assessments carried out*
- SPA Wicklow Mountain region to be considered as part of assessments*
- Provide bug hotels*
- Make the park herbicide and pesticide free*
- Make it an example of botanic harmony*
- Grow edible fruit and vegetables*
- Native hedgerow over monoculture of beech hedging*
- Reduce the usage of plastics. Vendors to provide alternative packaging*
- What species are protected within Marlay Park*
- Carry out annual Environmental Assessments*
- Improve culverts under M50 to encourage wildlife movement*
- Provision of food dispensers for wildfowl*
- Manage Invasive Alien Species in the park*

The following should be incorporated into the masterplan:

- 1. a Biosecurity Protocol for the staff and contractors that work in the park*
- 2. a Biosecurity protocol for public visitors to the park*
- 3. a map of the invasive alien species locations in the park*
- 4. a protocol to eradicate, reduce and contain invasive alien species in the park*

5. *The inbound and outbound moving of gravel soil bark mulch and compost and other similar risk material should be assessed before its movement for the potential to harbour invasive alien species. Quarries and nurseries suppliers should be visited before purchasing risk material*
6. *The inbound and outbound moving of plant species into the park and the walled garden should also be assessed for their potential to be invasive alien species.*
7. *A public awareness campaign to combat invasive alien species should be promoted including the cleaning and drying of footwear at entry points.*
8. *The regular auditing and monitoring of staff and contractors and their machinery that enter the park and may harbour risk material outlined in point 5 on their boots or vehicle tyre and tracks.*
9. *That all delivery of goods and materials to the park are on bark free timber pallets or pallets to the ispm no 15 standard.*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Given the varied habitats that are present in Marlay Park, the on-going Management Plan of the Park will seek to preserve the existing habitats and enhance them where possible. The species rich grassland meadow will be continued existing nesting areas will be maintained and expanded where possible.

It is proposed that access through the woodland will be restricted through a reduction of paths to restrict the negative impact of visitors on existing woodland habitats and biodiversity. Deadwood, including standing deadwood will be retained on site as much as possible except for areas where its removal is required for safety and to facilitate replacement planting. Ecological surveys have been on-going to provide input into the management of the Park and to establish a baseline of information on the biodiversity of the Park.

Dogs must be kept on a leash outside of the off leash area/Dog Park to protect mammals and ground nesting birds.

Bird species that have been recorded in the park or surroundings include common resident species along with other important species such as Sky Lark (BOCCI Amber listed), Kingfisher(BOCCI Amber listed and EU Annex I), Teal (BOCCI Amber listed), Swift (BOCCI Amber listed), Tufted Duck (BOCCI Red listed), Common Linnet (BOCCI Amber listed), Mute Swan (BOCCI Amber listed), House Martin(BOCCI Amber listed), Barn Swallow (BOCCI Amber listed), Coot (BOCCI Amber listed), House Sparrow (BOCCI Amber listed), Cormorant (BOCCI Amber listed), and Little Grebe (BOCCI Amber listed).

All bird species occurring in Ireland are listed in the Wildlife Act 1976 (amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) as protected species. This legislation makes it illegal to kill or injure nearly all birds, nests and eggs in the wild and also places restrictions on clearance of breeding bird habitats.

Marlay Park supports several bat species and otter, both of which are protected and listed in Annex IV of the EC Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 (S.I. No. 38 of 2000).

Other terrestrial mammals such as badger, fox, rabbit, rats and grey squirrel. Fox and rabbit are not considered endangered in Ireland and rats are considered pests. Badgers and their setts are legally

protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended. Grey squirrel is an invasive species and is on the List of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern.

Footnote:

BoCCI - Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland (2014-2019)

<https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VcYOTGOjNbA%3D&tabid=178>

EU Annex I Bird Species

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm

Bird Sanctuary/ Aviary

Contained within Marlay Park was an aviary until it was damaged during a storm. There were requests related to the reinstatement of the aviary and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Reintroduce aviary*
- Broad variation of birds*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is proposed to reintroduce this amenity within the walled garden as part of the masterplan.

BMX PumpTrack

Previously Marlay Park was a destination for BMX users as it had a dedicated track. This was subsequently replaced by the Regional Playground. There were 11 requests related to BMX tracks and cycling throughout Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Reopening of the BMX track (5)*
- Provision of children's cycling facilities*
- Great facility for children to progress biking skills*
- Cycling adventure park/trail in the North West field.*
- BMX and skate park in the North West Field*
- BMX track would be a great outlet for youth fitness*
- BMX track collapsed after grant was lost.*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

There are no plans to introduce a BMX track as part of the long term development of Marlay Park. This amenity is proposed as part of the development of Jamestown Park.

Bridges/Structures

Bridges form an integral part of Marlay Park which varies from local to regional significance. There were 35 requests relating to existing and proposed bridges and structures throughout Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Have climbable structures instead of sculptures (2)*
- Upgrade 'temporary' bridges within the park*

- The proposed bridge will be detrimental to the park's original layout (6)
- Do not build a new bridge across the central pond (21)
- Not in keeping within bridge locations of 18th century serpentine ponds
- The bridge will impact the vista from the existing viewing deck
- Do not augment existing bridges to make them more accessible
- What is the reason for the proposed bridge?
- Bridge will irreparably damage the aspect from Marlay House (2)
- Bridge is proposed to facilitate concerts (4)
- Do not disturb existing views and vistas (2)
- Pontoon bridges disturb wildlife (3)
- Single span bridge is welcomed
- The old bridge to the island should be restored
- A new bridge would bring greater engagement with the lake as a focal point
- The bridge will further damage the tree line
- Folly type structure at the end of the north south avenue

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The feasibility of a new bridge is being explored in order to improve circulation throughout the park and to provide a feature walkway across the pond. Should the bridge be feasible, it would be of the highest design standard and would meet the current demands of the park and its ever increasing users. It would provide a new link with the meadow fields and new create views and vistas. As part of the masterplan existing bridges will be restored or upgraded where necessary.

Café/Tearooms

There were 11 requests for café/tearooms to be located within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- coffee shop adjacent to the playground
- coffee shop within the Depot area
- Marlay House to be turned into restaurant
- Larger café (2)
- Reduce cafés in the park
- Café with a local vibe & enthusiastic person to run it (not a franchise) (2)
- "Avoca" style cafe
- Link with fresh produce in garden
- First 'plastic-free' café
- Disappointment at the downturn in quality of Boland's Café

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Is it not proposed to introduce new cafés as part of the masterplan. A new extensive seating and gathering space is to be developed to the rear of Marlay House adjacent to the craft courtyard that will accommodate picnics, the Marlay Park Markets and Boland's Café. The option of sourcing some locally grown produce from Marlay Walled Gardens will be explored. The management of this

amenity will be decided during contract renewal process taking into account the observations made to promote a 'greener' café.

Car parking and Access

Following the recent closure of the car park adjacent the Regional Playground in the interest of safety, car parking and vehicle management within the park will form a significant section of the masterplan. The comments and observations are listed below:

- Replace removed car park adjacent the playground (2)*
- Ingress and Egress from the Grange Road entrance is slow and difficult (4)*
- Improve Grange Road entrance for pedestrian safety*
- Adding an entrance to the overflow carpark on Grange Road*
- Enlarge existing car park (2)*
- Provision of more bicycle parking*
- Address illegal parking on Grange Road along grass verges*
- Erect bollards to stop parking on grass around car parks*
- Prevent parking on grass around Marlay House*
- More car parking to reduce wait time for spaces*
- Provision of traffic lights at the Grange Road entrance to assist traffic flow (3)*
- Provision of a pedestrian entrance to the park from the overflow car park on Grange Road*
- A further reduction in the number of car parks (3)*
- Extend scope of parking for masterplan outside of park to assist in the management of parking in neighbouring areas*
- Do not introduce an over flow car park at the College Road entrance*
- Reopen car park beside playground (3)*
- Box junction at the Grange Road entrance*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The extensive vehicular movements in Marlay Park present potential dangers and efforts to rationalise this within the bounds of the park are presented within the masterplan. It is proposed to remove the car park adjacent to the Regional Playground to reduce vehicle movement within the park.

The masterplan focuses solely on improvements within the park; however efforts will be made to improve the ingress and egress from the park along Grange Road. A new pedestrian entrance is proposed at Grange Road.

In addition, the provision of additional parking within the park is not seen as a priority as the introduction of more hard surfacing will reduce the quantity of green space. The Council will encourage pedestrian /cyclist/ public transport as the favoured mode of transport to Marlay Park. The route from the LUAS and from adjacent bus stops will be clearly signposted and information on all routes will be publicised on the dlr website.

Masterplan Change: *It is proposed to review the feasibility of introducing a yellow box to improve vehicular access and egress from the Grange Road car park. Further interventions will be explored as required.*

Carbon Emissions

The following comments and observations have been made in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions are listed below:

- *Detail how exactly it is going to have coherence with DLRCC climate change adaption and CO2 emissions policies*
- *Detail an estimate of the current emissions of the park and what the projected emissions are.*
- *Provide a limit or emissions targets over the lifetime of the plan with a view to having a goal of almost zero emissions*
- *Provide opportunities for the park to cut its emissions and for the public to learn how to cut their own emissions via inter alia*
 - a. *electric charge points for e-vehicles*
 - b. *bike parking facilities*
 - c. *solar panels where appropriate*
 - d. *promoting grow your own activities*
 - e. *promoting local source food and goods*
 - f. *promoting lights off policy*
 - g. *reducing the quantity of lights per pathway*
 - h. *avoiding the installation of flood lights, or high energy intensive units such as air conditioning and large screens*
 - i. *shade areas for heat waves*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is proposed to introduce many of these requests through both the Masterplan and the Management Plan. DLRCC is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and a bottle refill station has been recently installed in the craft courtyard on a trial basis.

Courtyard/Craft Centre

Craft making is clearly recognised to have an important role in Marlay Park allowing talented crafts people to exercise their skill. They meet the public demand for quality, creativity and authenticity. There were 10 requests related to the courtyard to be located throughout Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Reasonable rent charged (2)*
- Complete craft courtyard.*
- Using other buildings within Marlay for crafts people*
- Hosting a crafts festival*
- Hosting crafting classes to promote the arts*
- Introduce yoga studio and wellness classes*

- New planter boxes clutter the space
- Seating required
- Have an out of sight area for wheelie bins

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The Marlay Craft Courtyard has undergone large renovations and was officially opened on the 20th September 2018. The new facilities include a changing places toilet facility and upgraded units. There are currently 15 tenants occupying studios/shops over two floors and DLRCC are actively seeking additional tenants. The management of the craft courtyard does not form part of the masterplan.

Covered Shelters

There were 2 requests for covered shelters to be located throughout Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- covered sheltered to shield from rain
- Shelter within the playground

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Sheltered areas will be considered in appropriate locations during the detailed design of destination points throughout the park.

Concerts (Longitude)

Marlay Park hosts a variety of events annually. The largest of which is Longitude, hosted over 3 days in the month of June, 52 associated comments received in relation to concerts are outlined below:

- Large events detract from amenity value of the park
- Concert noise (8)
- Litter (4)
- Antisocial behaviour (4)
- Public urinating (1)
- Underage drinking
- local traffic effected
- Road closures effect locals
- Local people negatively impacted (2)
- Reduced amount of concerts within the park
- Damage to flora/planting around Marlay Park (2)
- Disruption to fauna
- Reduced access for the public during the construction of the concerts (4)
- Construction of the Longitude event poses dangers to small children
- Danger to existing wildlife within the park
- Hoardings block hunting paths
- Paths were upgraded to facilitate concert vehicles

- Concerts are welcomed and encouraged (3)
- Single performers instead of a festival
- Well managed
- The concerts are effecting bat populations within the park (3)
- Concerts detrimental to park (2)
- Continue concerts to fund redevelopment
- Marlay Park should not be a venue for concerts
- Scale of festival is intensifying
- Reduce festival scale to protect the park's character from further degradation (2)
- Parks character is being altered to facilitate concerts (3)
- Confine size and scale of concert
- Concerts are for stadiums only
- Keep concerts but invest into park and locality
- Continue concerts to promote and share park with users from other counties (2)
- Hosting of concerts is an abomination
- Concerts paraphernalia causes a visual intrusion
- Restricted to one stage in the ha-ha field
- Development should focus on original layout of Marlay Park and not what concert organisers want
- Park to be retained as an amenity area
- Protection of last surviving 18th landscape garden by Thomas Leggett
- To be more focused on promoting arts and crafts and smaller scale events
- Promote local clubs and activities (Men's Shed, Scouts/Guides)
- Disruptive to regular park users
- Strongly object to concerts in a residential area
- Events shared between other Regional Parks in DLRCC (2)
- Concerts are in direct opposition to Aims & Objectives set out in the Masterplan (3)
- Damage to grass from concert goers and concert paraphernalia
- Concerts should be reserved for specified arenas

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The majority of submissions related to concerts within Marlay Park focused primarily on the annual Longitude festival. Although Longitude is the largest festival held within the park annually it has not been included within the masterplan. The Marlay Park Masterplan focuses primarily on the long term planning layout of the park to guide future use and development whilst retaining and restoring the parks original features. The income received from the concerts in Marlay Park allows for the continued upgrade of the park in a sustainable manner.

There is currently no intention to discontinue the use of the park as a concert venue as it has proved a successful location within the county to host such events. DLRCC is committed to ensure that any development within the park will be in keeping with its 18th Century Landscape Garden style which will be maintained as far as possible throughout.

It is important, in terms of management, that the correct balance is attained between facilitating varying events in the park while maintaining its tranquil sylvan character, for park users and wildlife alike. Due cognisance and management controls are taken annually to protect the original layout of

the park and the local wildlife while providing a multifunctional space capable of hosting large scale events.

Cyclists/Cycle Track

Marlay Park forms part of the Slang Greenway that links the park with Sandyford Road. There were 48 submissions related to cyclists and cycle tracks for Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Increase proposed length of cycle track (2)*
- Proposed shared surface for cycling will encourage cycling throughout the park*
- No signs for cyclists to dismount*
- Increased cycling will discourage walkers*
- Will the proposed pedestrian entrance cater for cyclists*
- Increased/Improved bicycle parking*
- Designated cycle path for children (3)*
- Prohibit bicycle usage (4)*
- Only children to cycle in the park (2)*
- Danger of collision between pedestrians and cyclists (9)*
- Danger to the elderly (4)*
- Park is too small to accommodate cyclists*
- Designated cycle lanes are not necessary*
- Regulation and supervision of cycling within the park*
- Designated cycle track similar to Corkagh Park*
- Increase accessibility for cyclists to reduce car dominance*
- Segregated cycle paths throughout the park (8)*
- A family cycle route in the park (4)*
- Secure and well located bicycle parking (3)*
- Better practical access and facilities for cyclists*
- Parks should encourage healthy modes of travel to an within the park*
- Cycle hire scheme provided within the park*
- Retain cycling to proposed cycle track in masterplan*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

As part of a sustainable approach to public realm, DLRCC is committed to encouraging the usage of alternative transport methods. In an effort to promote this, it is proposed to improve the location and security of bicycle parking within the park. At present, cycling within the park is managed by park rangers.

Masterplan Change: It is proposed to omit the proposed shared surface cycle route running within the park parallel to Grange Road

Dog Running Area/ Dog Control

Marlay Park was the first park in DLRCC to introduce a dogs-off-leash area and it has proved to be a popular destination for park users. There were 13 specific requests related to the dogs-off-leash area or dog control and the comments submitted are listed below:

- What is proposed for the dogs-off-leash area*
- Enforce dogs on leads*
- Improved off-leash area*
- Water facility (4)*
- Sheltered area*
- More litter/Dog bins throughout the park (2)*
- Improved facilities/more exciting (2)*
- Increased off-leash area*
- Continued off-leash area (3)*
- Ensure dogs are kept on leash outside of Dog Park*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The Dog Park/dogs off-leash area has been well received since its installation and DLRCC will look to improve the facility as part of the masterplan. The provision of a water facility is pending on access to a water source but will be considered. It is not proposed to increase the scale of the Dog Park and dogs will have to be on a leash at all times in Marlay Park outside of this area. Dogs will continue not to be permitted in the walled garden.

Events in Marlay Park

As the largest Regional Park in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Marlay Park's scale, location and facilities make it a popular location to host varying events throughout the year. There were 14 requests related to events in Marlay Park and the comments submitted are listed below:

- More children's festivals like the Samhain festival (2)*
- Teddy Bear picnics*
- Seasonal hunt*
- Gardening talks*
- Christmas Carols*
- Children's markets*
- Outdoor cinema screenings (2)*
- Fitness classes*
- Culture night*
- Halloween movies and activities in Marlay House*
- Talks*
- Educational Centre for children and adults*
- More family events*
- Parkrun organisers request a storage area where the decommissioned car park is*
- Non-commercial events*
- Encourage free community events*

- More events within the park
- Concerts
- Food festivals
- Youth Theatre

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is proposed to retain and encourage community uses for Marlay Park for the benefit of all ages. DLRCC have dedicated staff that are present to assist with suitable events within the park throughout the year.

Marlay Park is a valued educational resource and DLRCC will engage with colleges, schools and the community in order to enable as many people to benefit from this important resource as possible.

Fairy Tree

There were 5 requests related to the Fairy Tree within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- the fairy tree is a great focal point for families and should be expanded upon
- Replace the fairy tree (2)
- Have a fairy trail similar to Malahide Castle
- Setup Tree Art around the Fairy Tree

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The fairy tree has proven to be a popular destination within Marlay Park and consideration will be given to the feasibility of expanding upon it.

Farmers Markets

There were 6 requests related to Farmers Markets held within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Farmers Markets should be zero waste
- Return the farmers markets to the courtyard (2)
- Community Garden for growing vegetables

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The farmers markets have proven a popular destination for park visitors and DLRCC will continue to facilitate them in conjunction with the Marlay Craft Courtyard. The development of Marlay Park will be focused on sustainability and this encompasses the reduction of single use plastics, coffee cups and food wastage. DLRCC is committed to working with new and existing vendors on sustainable alternatives while delivering the same popular services.

It is envisaged that some garden produce may be available to the proposed adjoining café/tearooms in order to create a viable and sustainable connection between the park and a café kitchen and that this forms part of the ethos.

Golf Course

There were 23 requests related to the par 3 golf course within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Very happy for golf course upgrade and crazy golf*
- Price is a deterrent*
- An affordable place for young people to play*
- The feasibility of retaining the golf course given its use*
- Golf course should revert back to park land (4)*
- Create a wildlife habitat instead (Sitka Deer suggested) (3)*
- Create a sensory trail instead*
- Return the golf course to park land*
- Used as a family picnic area*
- Crazy golf for families with children too old for playground (3)*
- Revert to synthetic putting greens to grass*
- It has been closed a long time. Is it needed? (2)*
- Not necessary given proximity of golf courses (2)*
- An alternative walk to the regency gardens*
- Improved marketing of the course (2)*
- Forge partnerships with adjoining golf clubs to encourage usage*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The golf course offers is a family friendly and inclusive facility. Currently, golf in Ireland is seen an inaccessible, exclusive and expensive. The golf course adds significantly to the park facilities and enhances its attraction as a destination. It provides an opportunity for children and adults not engaged in team sports to play a more individual sport in a safe environment. Golf is a sport that can be played at any age and therefore, it is seen as a family friendly facility. The Marlay golf course is considered a stepping stone to the Stepside Golf course.

Masterplan Change: As part of the long term use and sustainability of the golf course, an option to open the land for public access during certain times will be explored. This could include certain days of the week or seasons, depending on the usage of the golf course once the golf greens are reinstated to natural grass greens.

Ha-Ha

The ha-ha within Marlay Park forms an integral part of the original garden layout. First conceived during the 18th Landscape Garden movement in England the ha-ha was designed to keep livestock from the house while providing uninterrupted views from the house. There were 6 requests related to the ha-ha within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- The ha-ha is a risk to small children (2)
- Reseeding the gravel area a top of the ha-ha
- Loss of habitat in this drainage ditch. They may provide refuge habitat for aquatic flora and fauna that are not abundant in the locality e.g. craneflies, newts water cress, etc
- The restoration of the ha-ha will inevitably mean the disturbance and loss of the aquatic habitat.

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is proposed to faithfully restore the ha-ha to its original profile. The research on the feasibility of the works is currently being overseen by an experienced team of archaeologists and conservation architects.

While there are threats posed by the design of the ha-ha, any material changes to its form, such as the erection of a visible boundary would undermine this regionally significant example of built heritage and will not be considered.

Heritage

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown contains significant areas of landscape heritage. Within Marlay Park there are many features associated with 18th and early 19th century demesnes. There is a clear presumption in favour of conserving, maintaining and enhancing this landscape heritage to enable visitors to reap the benefits of the high quality amenities. There were approximately 17 requests relating to heritage within the park, comments submitted are listed below:

- Marlay Park should be conserved as it is
- Informational signage providing a history for the built heritage within the park.
- Repair the weirs (2)
- The designed landscape forms and intrinsic link and setting to the protected structures within the park.
- Inform the tour-guides that the star-shaped element on the coat of Arms is not a pomegranate, but an estoile (A typical star-like symbol with 6 wavy arms often used in French heraldry).
- The unlawful erection of steel railings on an original granite bridge (2)
- The heritage of the park is a favourite among older visitors
- A commemoration for the workers from Marlay Demesne who lost their lives during the rebellion of 1798.
- Evie Hone Studio – DLRCC should consider setting up a replica Evie Hone studio within the Craft Courtyard
- Restoration works are welcomed
- Marlay Park should be designated a National Monument
- Provide interpretive centre detailing the history of the demesne and its former tenants (2)
- No works should be carried out on elements of historical heritage value without consultation. A detailed architectural and landscape survey should be carried out and works open to consultation to prevent unsuitable development.
- A Historic Landscape Assessment should be carried out by an independent professional.
- The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht prepared their list of elements of the landscape that should be preserved

- The clock tower should be restored (2)
- Educational programmes regarding the Park's natural and historic heritage should be put in place.
- The park needs an architectural and landscape consultative committee to review all works before being put forward for consultation.
- Introduce new pathways in the park leading to focal points with information boards
- Host a sculpture competition linked to the past residents of the house
- All structures recommended by the DoCHG for inclusion on the RPS should be done so, and expanded where appropriate.
- Works carried out should be subject to a Part VIII application

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Following the successful restoration projects completed in Marlay Park; including Marlay House, the Walled Garden, Boland's Café and Laurelmere, DLRCC is committed to continued faithful restoration works in Marlay while balancing the competing priorities and modern demands of delivering a Regional Park.

It is proposed to faithfully restore the ha-ha to its original profile. The research on the feasibility of the works is currently being overseen by an experienced team of archaeologists and conservation architects. The provisions of an interpretive centre detailing the rich and varied history of Marlay Demesne is under consideration as part of this masterplan

Irish Language/Signage

There were 27 requests related to the use of the Irish language within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- More Irish language signage throughout the park (4)
- Glór na Gael and Ceantar Naithí Committee are local professional living in the area who would like to support the translation required for the park.
- All signage in the park should be bilingual. For example 'Páirc Spraoi' for playground. (12)
- That various areas of the park should be named in Irish and English e.g. An Fhaiche Mhór/ Big Lawn, Long Western Walk/ Siúlóid Fada Lair and so on.
- Signage to promote the Irish language (2)
- There is a vibrant Irish speaking community in the area
- Support the Gaeltacht na nÓg held monthly in Marlay Park
- Organise tours as Gaeilge during Seachtain ne Gaeilge
- Tea rooms should have menus and signage in Irish and English
- Create a welcome environs for the Irish language
- Bilingual signage with both languages of equal size and prominence
- Ensure written Irish is correct on signage
- Rustic wooden fingerposts to highlight facilities in the park
- Support Gaeilge and meetings as Gaeilge within the park

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

DLRCC is committed to the promotion and development of the Irish language. All materials and signage must comply with the Official Languages Act 2003. The Irish Language Scheme developed by the Council applies to all materials. DLRCC will support events promoting the Irish language.

Improved signage detailing and marketing for the demesne history and historic views will be considered as part of the masterplan.

Litter/Rubbish

There were 13 requests related to the presence and management of litter within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Uncollected rubbish is encouraging rodents*
- The rivers and streams are collecting rubbish*
- Segregated bins for recycling*
- Reduced areas where the public can go to manage areas littered*
- Improved litter management*
- The park is constantly littered*
- DLRCC staff do not collect litter*
- Litter from the cafés is a problem*
- Café operators should be required to clean litter from their establishment*
- Football clubs who use the pitches should be responsible to manage litter caused during matches*
- DLRCC yard has low standards in terms of hygiene*
- Implement 'clean as you go' policy*
- Have post investment reviews been carried out to confirm big belly bins are justified?*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Litter within Marlay Park is currently managed through the Marlay Park Management Plan and efforts will be made to improve on the existing quality of service delivered. Park users will be encouraged to 'leave no trace' and either use the bins provided or bring their rubbish with them.

Management Considerations

There were a wide range of comments and observations which relate to the management of Marlay Park and not specifically to any one aspect and these are recorded below:

- Walled garden is neglected and often unavailable because of filming*
- Enforcement of litter disposal with more bins provided (2)*
- Longer opening hours in winter*
- Employ more park staff, litter wardens*
- Provide more bins and recycling bins*
- Place medical emergency contacts in areas within the park*
- Earlier opening hours in the summer*
- No plastic sold within the park*

- Manage without herbicides or pesticides
- A lost property office
- Marlay Park staff need customer service training
- Marlay Park staff need badges
- Improved maintenance: Nettles, rodents
- Park is kept open too late in the summertime
- Increase supervision in the park
- Manage weeds on paths
- By-laws on display when entering the park (3)

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The future development of the park will focus on environmental sustainability and the refurbished buildings will be powered by renewable energy when possible. The on-going management of the Park is ecologically sensitive with minimal herbicide used. Dead wood as far as possible is retained on site as habitat material. The ecology of the site is very important and is of upper most importance in the development and management of Marlay Park. Visitors will be encouraged to use public transport (LUAS and Dublin Bus) and to come to the park on foot or bicycle. Relevant information to inform people of the public transport links to the Park will be on the DLRCC website.

The Council has staff in Marlay Park trained to carry out on-going management and maintenance; consideration will be given to partnering/liasing with other interest groups such as students, community groups and volunteers to assist with the maintenance requirements.

The Council in the development of the Marlay Park Masterplan are very mindful of the local demographics and have aimed to provide facilities to suit all ages in so far as possible.

Marlay House

As part of the consultation the public have submitted 12 requests related to the potential community and revenue based uses for Marlay House and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Small Boutique Hotel
- Wedding venue (3)
- Art Gallery
- Lunch time music
- Conferences
- Provide an area for young, emerging musicians to play and practice
- Recital practice provided in Marlay House
- Restaurant (Similar to the People's Park)
- Local functions
- Consult with Francis Brennan (Hotelier) to find a suitable community use for Marlay House
- Make the house more accessible

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The value of Marlay House as a community resource is valued and DLRCC will engage with interested parties in to enable as many people as possible to benefit from this resource for its future use.

Miniature Railway

Marlay Park has been home to the DSMEE miniature railway since 1981 and it is recognised as an important feature within the park. The following request relating to the miniature railway is as follows:

- Amend draft masterplan from 'Model Railway' to 'Miniature Railway'*
- Technical and design limitations associated with gradients and radii will affect the proposed plan for the rail extension and further consultation will be required.*
- Land within the tracks used for boules*
- Children's Bella Tori Family Train: The driver has been spotted using his mobile phone while operating the service through pedestrians*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The retention and expansion of the miniature railway into the North West Field is proposed as part of the Marlay masterplan and proposed works carried out will be in conjunction with DSMEE.

Masterplan Change: *Model Railway to be changed to Miniature Railway*

Other Issues

The Marlay Park Masterplan has drawn a varied and expansive list of observations. There were a total of 69 general requests relating to the proposed masterplan for Marlay Park. The comments submitted in relation to the park are as follows:

- Decentralised decision making*
- Retain Marlay Park as a green open space (5)*
- An interactive water feature similar to the onion flower installation in the Sensory Garden, Carlow*
- Ensure all developments within the park add to local amenities and don't affect wildlife.*
- Maintain as free public park (2)*
- Improved signage to bus corridors*
- Run horticultural classes in Laurelmere*
- Environmental information centre with STEM based workshops*
- Small, affordable, accessible studios for short-term lease*
- More seating and picnic areas*
- Ensure public transport to and from the park is as accessible as possible*
- Be aware of its historical and environmental aspects*
- Provide more areas to sit of good quality*
- Make Marlay Park a National Park, collaboratively managed with the OPW*
- Increase Ranger patrols, in a sustainable mode of transport.*
- Is there a problem with the lake as there are no visible signs of aquatic life*
- No zip line (2)*

- Develop other parks in the area to reduce weekend pressure on Marlay Park*
- Do not change the character of the park*
- Consider wheelchair access around the park*
- Reduce scale of car parks in all parks*
- Consult estates and in the borough about proposed plans for Marlay Park*
- Will there be sustainable project recognition for the annual concerts*
- Recognition of clubs who use the park*
- Describe what an adventure running route is*
- Marlay should be recognised as a greenway to the Wicklow Way*
- Maintain passive areas within Marlay Park*
- Education in the park: Provide woodland classrooms; identify wildfowl in the lakes, species in the meadows, and nature guided trails of the park (2)*
- Interactive guided walks*
- fully restore and reintegrate the depot storage area beside the toddler playground back into the park*
- Restore boundary wall along College Road*
- Vehicles within the park are a hazard*
- Rest areas to be suitable for buggies and bicycles*
- Traffic ramp is too far from entrance on Grange Road*
- Why was the gate lodge along Grange Road demolished?*
- Provide a quiet zone within the park*
- Increased workforce in the park*
- Appropriate and sensitive commercial opportunities to be explored*
- Allotments within the walled garden*
- Garden centre in enclosure next to the walled garden*
- Employment and training opportunities within horticulture in partnership with established organisations*
- Develop Marlay Parks as an artisan food enterprise location. Similar to Thomastown Food School, Kilkenny*
- Open the Orangery for afternoon tea*
- No provision of poor quality hardscaping or furniture*
- Park has become over manicured*
- Increased commercial activities within the park have put further pressure on the park*
- Too many sports pitches*
- Detail required on visitor numbers to all events held in Marlay Park*
- Increase passive recreation*
- Conduct an EIA for the park as a whole*
- Revise AA conducted*
- Lighting in the park*
- Buildings available for use in the evening*
- Twin Marlay Park with a similar park, such as Sean Walsh Park in Tallaght*
- Transport audit to ensure that public transport to Marlay Park is easy and accessible*
- The park no longer represents the local community*
- Parks staff to use eco-friendly vehicles*
- Don't base the masterplan on monetary return*

- Too much focus on active recreation
- Plan does not provide sufficient detail
- Park is for relaxation and not only active recreation
- Cost of energy; lights left on in various locations throughout the park
- The Park is a communal facility which should be accessible to all citizens.
- Provide more clarification on the proposed development
- Emphasis on community and the corporate plan
- No particular user group should have a greater say on its use over a less vocal group. I have noted the strong opinions being voiced by the older users about the use and management of the Park. While acknowledging their concerns we cannot lose sight of all Park visitors such as young families, teenagers and sporting clubs. Any future development should, insofar as is possible, attempt to meet the requirements of all users in a fair, balanced and democratic way.

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

All of these will be considered in the detail design and in formulating the Management Plan for Marlay Park.

Pathways

Marlay Park is clearly recognised as an ideal setting for walkers as it contains wide variety of walking routes throughout the park. Its location in the foothills of the Dublin Mountains forms an ideal location for the beginning of the Wicklow Way which traverses the site. There were a total of 64 specific requests relating to the pathways within the park. The comments submitted in relation to them are as follows:

- Welcome new pedestrian access (2)
- Maintain woodland trail (10)
- Woodland trail has vistas every 25m
- don't include a zip line along the woodland trail
- Carry out survey of footfall
- Parallel paths on the east side of the ha-ha field
- Additional pedestrian entrances away from motorised vehicle entrances
- Separate pedestrian and vehicular routes
- Expand on how the proposed entrance will improve pedestrian and cyclist accessibility
- Define entrances to segregate vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Detail design to show how new entrance will mitigate accidents
- New paths to facilitate walkers and adventure runners
- Do not remove historic path (10)
- Do not put a tarmac path in meadow area (3)
- Do not remove woodland path (16)
- Have grass paths and compacted dirt tracks (3)
- Signage to notify users if the path surface changes from tarmac to woodland
- Signage to warn if park vehicles use the route

- Close lane to pedestrians and reserve for cyclists and vehicles
- All paths need to be tarmacadam
- Path around the entire perimeter of the park
- traffic ramp at Grange Road entrance is too far from the gate
- Put pedestrian access beside the Grange Road vehicle entrance
- A new pedestrian entrance will encourage people to the road
- CCTV on secluded paths
- More seating along paths around the park
- Widen paths to ease congestion
- Pedestrian entrance will become a drop off point and increase traffic along Grange Road
- No more widening or tarmacdaming footpaths
- All paths should be named using historic names associated with the demesne. Helpful to be able to report a location in the event of an emergency

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Following public consultation it is proposed to retain the historic and woodland trails within Marlay Park. A small section of paths will be constructed to maximise the walking and running routes within the park. It is not proposed to resurface the woodland paths that follow the natural terrain of the site. Marlay Park is celebrated for varying path types which range in levels of accessibility due to the sites natural topography and rest areas with seating will be provided along the routes. There will be additional seats, picnic benches, bins, shelters and signage located as required within the park that will supplement designated 'Destination Points'.

A review of existing paths and accessibility within the woodland will be undertaken to ensure ample space is provided to improve and encourage biodiversity within the park.

Masterplan Change: Paths as shown for removal through the woodlands will be retained. These may be retained as woodland trails and a hierarchy of paths will be considered.

Picnic Areas

There were a total of 3 specific requests relating to picnic areas within the park. The comments submitted in relation to them are as follows:

- More picnic areas within the park (2)
- Open up the golf course as a family picnic area

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

An extensive seating and gathering space is proposed adjacent to Marlay house which will provide opportunities for picnicking. Additional areas will be provided throughout the park including at some proposed 'Destination Points'.

Playground Facilities

Marlay Park currently contains the largest Regional Playground in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. Completed in 2009 it contains 6 main zones including; Seating area with outdoor classroom space, tables and shelters, Toddler area (age 18 months – 4 years), Young child's play area (4 – 10 years), Older child's area (8-14 years), Adventure play area (teens), Sensory area (all ages). A secondary Toddler Playground is located in the South East corner of the site in close proximity to the Dog Park There were 10 requests related to the playground facilities within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- Reinstate parking adjacent playground*
- No toilet facilities at Toddler Playground (2)*
- Toddler playground in need of refurbishment (4)*
- Adequately repair facilities in the Toddler playground (4)*
- Pay tribute to the 'Old Shoe' from the former playground*
- Improve area for small children*
- A new kiosk or café adjacent the Toddler playground*
- Welcomed proposal for the old playground area*
- Picnic area close to the playground*
- Baby changing facilities*
- Accessibility of playground*
- Shelters provided at the playground*
- Improve toilet facilities at the Regional Playground*
- Adult playground*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Given the accessibility and the toilet facilities already available within the Regional Playground, it is not proposed to provide toilet facilities or a café at the Toddler playground. This area is in a secluded part of the park and may be subject to anti-social activity.

Further upgrades to the toilet facilities within the Regional Playground will also be provided. The car park adjacent the playground shall remain closed with the intention of replacing the hard surfacing with grass.

Masterplan Change: It is proposed to improve the Toddler playground facilities and provide additional seating as required.

Security

There were 2 requests related to security within Marlay Park and the associated comments are outlined below:

- More CCTV within the car parks*
- Improve security*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The safety and security of park users is paramount to DLRCC and improved efforts have been made to manage the security of the car parking facilities.

Sports and Activities

There were wide and varied views on sporting facilities contained in the submissions as outlined below and placed under relevant headings:

Basketball Courts

-Are any basketball courts included in the plan

Boules/Patenque

-Are there plans to build a new larger piste

-Boules is a good outlet socially and for exercise, particularly among local retired residents

Calisthenics / Yoga

-Calisthenics Park opposite St John Balinteer GAA

-Outdoor yoga classes in the park

- Calisthenics Park in Marlay

-Provision of sports facilities is unbalanced

Padel Courts

-Include padel courts

Parkrun

-Maintain support for Parkrun

-Good resource for South Dublin

Running Tracks

-Include a running track

-Running Track instead of Golf

-Milestones placed every 500m on certain routes for runners

-Full size running track or indoor facility

Softball

-Allocation of a dedicated space for softball activities

-Provision of a dedicated storage facility for Marlay Softball Club

-Development of a dedicated softball diamond

Club House / Dressing Rooms

-Rooms suitable to accommodate 21/22 persons

-Separate dressing room and shower area for match officials

-Need to accommodate players sheltering from the elements

-The completion of new changing areas prior to the demolition of any adhoc changing areas in the park

Handball Court

-A couple of handball courts to facilitate possible national tournaments

Tennis Courts

- Upgrade Tennis Courts (10)*
- Floodlit courts (8)*
- An accompanying club house (7)*
- Shelter (6)*
- Upgraded courts to encourage community participation (8)*
- Multi line court to be used for volleyball and badminton*
- Table Tennis courts (Outdoor)*

Hardwall

- Hardwall for striking practice (Gaelic, Hurling, Football)*
- Install beside GAA grounds*

Gaelic Football/Soccer

- Ensure small pitches are marked as 7 a side pitches*
- Install Ball Wall beside GAA grounds (2)*
- Provision of Ball stop nets*
- Provide better protection along eastern paths from sliotars and balls*
- Is it feasible to have soccer pitches on sloping site from College Road carpark*
- Improve drainage on GAA pitches*
- Additional pitches for GAA*

Boules

- Encourage elderly participation in games*

Skate Park

- North West Field should be a skate park*
- Activities to encourage teens*

Outdoor Gym

- North West Field should be an outdoor gym*
- Install beside GAA grounds*

Running Track/Athletics Track

- A new running track as per the previous masterplan (6)*
- Designated walking/running loop with kilometre markers*
- A running track for all abilities (3)*
- 8 lane 400m running track for the North West field (7)*
- Do not introduce adventure running in the North West field and leave as is*

-Athletics track within the park

Cricket

- Don't relocate cricket*
- Needs 100m circle from the centre of the circle*
- The ground has to be flat like a bowling green*
- Resting area for players and umpires*
- New changing areas for cricket players*
- Retain cricket in its current location*

Mountain Bike trail

- Children's mountain bike trail within the woodland*

Wicklow Way

- Promotion of the Wicklow Way as a tourist amenity*
- Better signage throughout the park for Wicklow Way users*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

There have been numerous requests for a variety of sporting amenities. Playing pitches in particular have been requested and it is proposed to accommodate varied active recreation in the "Farmed Landscape".

The North West Field will accommodate an informal play area, lawn sports, cricket and the miniature rail. Significant alteration of the ground to include a swale and mounding will create focal points, viewing areas and spectator provision.

The relocation of the tennis courts to be adjacent the existing all weather pitch will allow for floodlighting to extend its usability beyond daylight hours. It is envisaged to include a multi lined court that can accommodate additional sports, such as padel, basketball and badminton

There will be a sports building to the south of the all-weather pitch and tennis courts accommodating changing rooms, storage and toilets to serve both sports grounds and the park generally. The redevelopment of the existing staff depot area will introduce new changing facilities, and studios spaces for yoga or similar.

The existing GAA pitches will be examined and improved drainage will be introduced if necessary. It is not proposed to include a Ball Wall within Marlay Park.

It is not proposed to accommodate bicycle sports within Marlay Park due to the existing terrain, sensitivity of the site and impact on other park users. However ample bicycle parking will be provided at all entrances.

DLRCC is currently in discussions with a local running club to ascertain the feasibility of constructing a running track on their lands in partnership with this club. Should this be considered feasible, the facility will be open for other public and community use.

It is not proposed to accommodate a skate park within Marlay Park.

Masterplan Change: *It is proposed to introduce a multi-use court at the re-located tennis courts. It is proposed to remove one of the proposed playing pitches on the slope at College Road to improve its usability and flexibility for running, group picnics and events.*

Toilet Facilities

There were a total of 57 specific requests relating to the provision of toilet facilities in Marlay Park.

The comments submitted in relation to biodiversity are as follows:

- Toilet facilities at Toddler Playground with changing area (13)*
- Why demolish toilets at Grange Road carpark*
- Replace proposed demolished toilets (13)*
- Toilet facilities are in poor condition (3)*
- Toilet facilities at the Regional playground to be better managed (2)*
- Toilets are not managed as well as Pearse Park*
- Modern, usable toilets are missing from the masterplan*
- Upgrade toilet facilities (5)*
- Maintain toilets to a high standard (9)*
- Provide a Changing Places toilet facility (2)*
- Additional toilets required (3)*
- Grange Road toilets have bat roosting potential (4)*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The refurbishment of the Craft Courtyard includes new public toilet facilities, including a 'Changing Places' facility. These facilities will provide an upgrade and replacement to the existing toilets at the Grange Road car park. A bat survey was carried out on the toilet block and there were no indications of bats currently or previously roosting in the eaves.

A toilet facility adjacent the Toddler Playground has been explored, however its location and accessibility to services indicate that this would not be feasible.

It is proposed to provide signage to indicate the location of public toilets within Marlay Park, currently located at; The Craft Courtyard, Boland's Café (Brambles), The Stableyard Depot, The Regional Playground and the Wicklow Way Café

Water/ Ponds

Augmented water channels and the creation of ponds within Marlay Park formed an integral part of its original 18th Landscape design. Today these ponds and water channels provide important habitats for a variety of flora and fauna. There were a total of 10 general requests relating to the water courses in Marlay Park. The comments submitted in relation to the park are as follows:

-How will the masterplan contribute to the goals of the water framework directive. The plan should inter alia:

- 1. Detail how exactly it is going to have coherence with DLRCC policy relating to the water framework directive*
- 2. Detail how the plan is going to manage the new development's soiled water resources and retrofit current pipes and systems to treat soiled waters before it enters the aquatic water courses.*
- 3. detail how it will enhance the natural water course of the little Dargle by*
 - a. prohibiting canalization of the watercourse*
 - b. providing space for flooding which will benefit flood attenuation for the city*
 - c. removing barriers such as weirs to allow the natural removal and depositing of silt sand and gravel downstream which is a natural river process and fish migration*
 - d. providing appropriate quantity and variety pools runs and riffles along the river and shaded areas to allow for climate adaptation along the rivers watercourse and to provide variety of refuges for aquatic fauna.*
- 4. detail how it will manage Invasive alien species within the watercourse and along its margins via an Invasive Alien species protocol.*

*-Retain trees including the wetland willow car, and margin flora in upper pond when desilting
If siltation is pursued then this needs to be managed so that:*

-Protected wildlife such as newts and frogs are surveyed for and caught before the work and relocated to safe habitats back in the locality or elsewhere.

-There is Biosecurity protocol to reduce the risk of aquatic and terrestrial Invasive Alien Species IAS are introduced or spread from the location. The inbound movement of path and gravel and subsurface should be assessed for harbouring invasive alien species. Visit the quarries and suppliers before purchase and observe for invasive alien species presence.

-Bat surveys are carried out and bat use of river courses is taken account and habitat loss and disturbance is avoided.

*-The removal of weirs would also be complimentary to DLRCC policy on water courses as set out in ...
Relevant Council Policies Document:*

Section 2.1.1.5 Policy LHB25: Rivers and Waterways

Section 4.1.3.7 Policy LHB25: Rivers and Waterways

Section 4.2.1.1 Policy OSR1: Green Infrastructure Strategy

-Provide pools along the run of the river Dargle in the park

-Discourage feeding of water fowl and avoid bread deposits etc. which facilitates nutrient enrichment of the water systems

-Clean and maintain all bodies of water

-River banks are overgrown

-Works to the pond could increase the likelihood of flooding of the Little Dargle River

-Repair work needed on viewing deck

-Reinstate the grass on the hardstand beside the central pond

-Depollute the ponds

-Encourage more natural habitats

-De-silt the upper pond adjacent the Grange Road carpark

-Replace decking and replant the Salix babylonica 'weeping willow'

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is proposed to continue the de-silting of the ponds within Marlay Park following works carried out in 2018. A silt trap will be installed to manage silt within the park. Additional nesting areas along the banks of the pond shall be accommodated where feasible. The existing viewing deck will be upgraded as part of the masterplan works.

Water Fountains

There have been a number of comments pertaining to the provision of water fountains within the park as summarised below:

- It would be great to have water fountains distributed around the park*
- Have drinking fountains beside gym equipment*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

To encourage the reduction of single use plastic bottles DLRCC has installed a new water fountain at the Craft Courtyard and will examine the feasibility of providing additional fountains throughout the park in the future.

Wi-Fi & Digital Zones

There have been a number of comments pertaining to the existing Wi-Fi in the park as summarised below:

- Parks should be an area to escape digital distractions*
- Wi-Fi induces illness/hypersensitivity*
- Parks are to be therapeutic*
- Digital amenities should not be in the park*
- Wi-Fi access can be seen as a source of pollution*
- No provision of Wi-Fi*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Handheld devices are currently capable of receiving excellent download speeds and signal within Marlay Park. Wi-Fi within the park was introduced as a means to assist users and businesses within the park. This feature will be readily available to park users, should they choose to connect.

Woodland/Trees

There have been a number of comments pertaining to the trees and woodland in the park as summarised below:

- Additional planting on the opposite side of footpath from the Balinteer gate to Grange Road car park*
- More screening to reduce noise from M50*
- More directional signage for the Wicklow Way*

- Alternative surfaces to tarmacadam
- Detailed woodland management plan: Set out objectives for the woodland including felling, replanting and species control
- Comprehensive plan to improve the ground layer shrub mix
- Champions trees such as the giant Oak at Laurelmere and Lime in the GAA field should be subject to conservation measures
- Trees over one hundred years old should be protected
- More tree planting required (2)
- Replace gaps in tree curtain along the serpentine central pond (5)
- Name plates in Irish and English attached to trees (2)
- Additional tree planting is timely (3)
- Tree name plates (3)
- Forest School

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Additional woodland planting will be considered at all times during the detail design and management of the park. On-going tree surveys and tree surgery works within Marlay Park seek to protect their health and sustainability within the park.

Visual Impairments

There have been a number of comments pertaining to the ease of walkability and access to individuals with visual impairments

- It is preference to have an edging at the edge of paths to delineate between hard-surfacing and landscaping. After discussing it was agreed that the best option would be a tactile blister line approx. 30cm.
- At locations where seats can be found the tactile blister lines should be doubled approx. 60cm
- A tactile map on all junctions should be incorporated to provide directional guidance.
- Upon entry into a seating area there should be a tactile map to provide guidance.
- Basic tactile maps could be located throughout with markers such as 'H' for Marlay House or 'T' for toilet.
- Basic tactile maps could be located throughout with markers such as 'H' for Marlay House or 'T' for toilet.
- If road is closed it should have a retractable bollard and an intercom so users with disabilities can park further into the car park and closer to facilities.
- Efforts could focus on providing a toilet that could be used by able bodied and disabled users in one facility and not segregated. (similar to the People's Park)
- Preferred colours of signage for those with a visual impairment: Blue or Black on Yellow or White.
- Cluster street/park furniture.

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

DLRCC is committed to providing accessible public spaces for all and will continue to partner with the relevant bodies to meet current design standards

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a decision be made by the Elected Members of the Council to adopt the Marlay Park Masterplan 2018 in accordance with the drawings and reports, which were on display and to any such minor and immaterial alterations to the plans and particulars of the development as outlined in this report and on the updated drawings. Accordingly, it is recommended that the following resolution be passed by the Council:

“The foregoing report of the Chief Executive is **APPROVED** and it is **AGREED** to adopt the Marlay Park Masterplan 2018”

Ruairí O’Dulaing, Senior Parks Superintendent