

Moreen Park Activity & Teen Space

Public Consultation Report

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council (DLRCC)

March 2026

Prepared by

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Moreen Park Activity & Teen Space

Introduction

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) has identified a need for a new Teen Space at Moreen Park, Sandyford, Dublin 18. This report summarises the non-statutory- public engagement process undertaken in January 2026 and includes:

- Review of the *DLR Play Policy 2023–2028*
- Stakeholder engagement
- Preparation and delivery of the public consultation
- Summary of submissions received
- DLRCC responses to key themes and concerns

The **DLR Play Policy 2023–2028** sets out a strategic framework for enhancing inclusive and accessible play and recreation opportunities across the county. The policy prioritises both the refurbishment of existing play and teen spaces and the creation of new ones where gaps exist. Central to the policy is early engagement with children and young people to ensure they are meaningfully involved in shaping recreational spaces in their communities.

Within this policy context, DLRCC Parks & Landscape Services sought public feedback to inform the design of an enhanced Activity & Teen Space at Moreen Park, alongside planned refurbishment of the existing mini astro pitch with additional tree planting surrounding the site.

Location

The proposed Activity & Teen Space and refurbishment of the astro pitch are located at Moreen Park.



[Proposed Location marked in red]

Preparation for Public Consultation

A site visit was carried out by Parks & Landscape Services to review the existing facilities and identify relevant environmental and contextual considerations. Engagement also commenced with the DLRCC Community Department to gather key stakeholder contacts and promote broad awareness within the local residential community.

Given the residential character of Moreen Park, effective communication was vital to ensure that all residents and regular park users had the opportunity to participate.

The online public consultation took place via the Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Citizen Space Portal from 6 January to 6 February 2026, with additional written submissions accepted via email, post, or in person.

- The public consultation was advertised by DLRCC through social media posts regularly throughout the public consultation.
- Posters erected locally to inform local residents.

As Moreen Park is a mature residential estate, it was important to provide inclusive opportunities for residents to engage in the process. The consultation sought to gather a diverse range of perspectives from both residents and stakeholders to inform and refine the emerging concept design.

The objectives of this project were:

- Engage with local teenagers and stakeholders to understand community needs.
- Create a space for teenagers to socialise safely and enjoyably.
- Deliver a dynamic space that promotes physical health and wellbeing.
- Provide an inclusive environment that supports participation from diverse users, including teenage girls and young people with additional needs.
- Support and enhance the broader community.

Stakeholder Mapping

To support strong participation, a stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken in December 2025, defining a 3 km radius as the practical walking and cycling catchment for the project—reflecting typical travel distances for local teenagers.

Stakeholders within this area were then contacted by phone and email to encourage them to share information through their networks.

Stakeholder Groups Contacted

- Moreen / Blackthorn Estate Management
- St. Mary's FC
- Crosscare Youth Service

- Balally Family Resource Centre
- St. Tiernan's Community College

These organisations were requested to share consultation information through their communication networks to maximise public participation

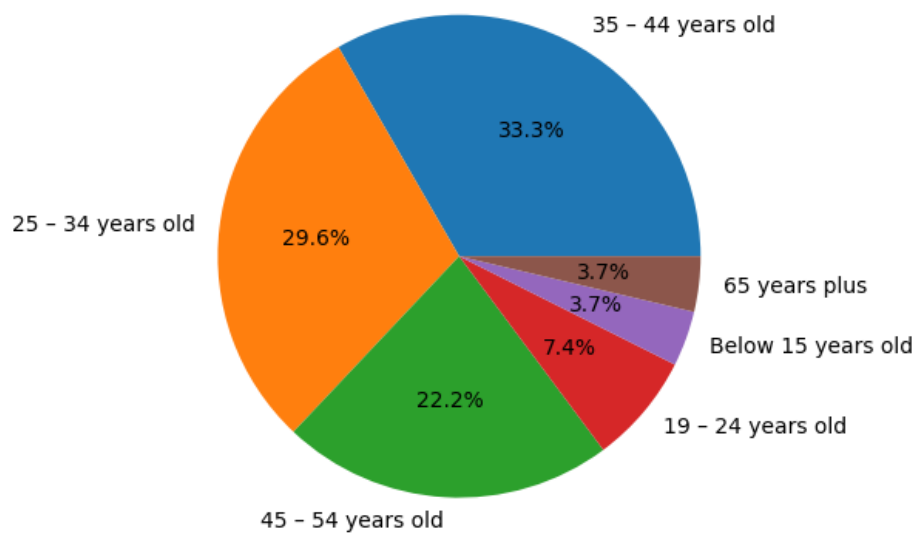
Summary of Public Submissions

A total of **31 submissions** were received:

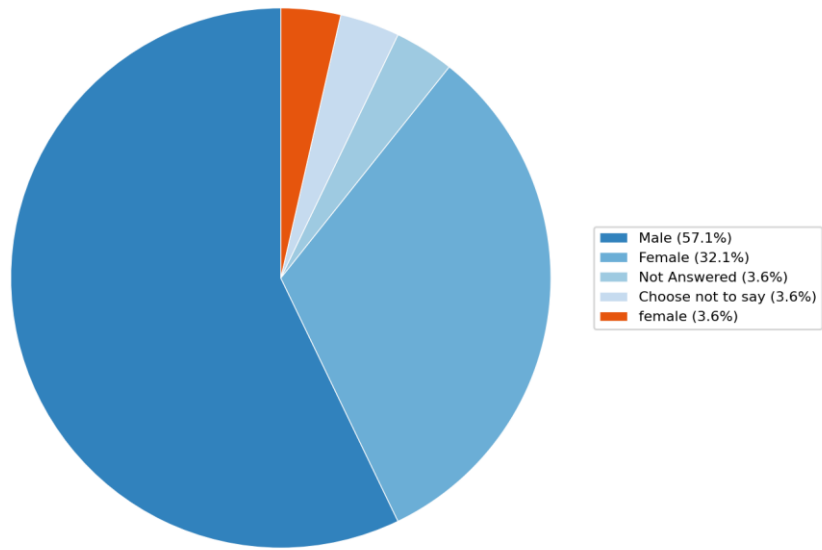
- **27** via the online public consultation portal
- **3** via email
- **1 letter** submitted on behalf of St. Mary's FC
- Overall sentiment demonstrates **strong support** for the Teen Space and astro refurbishment.

Findings from the Public Consultation Survey

Age Profile

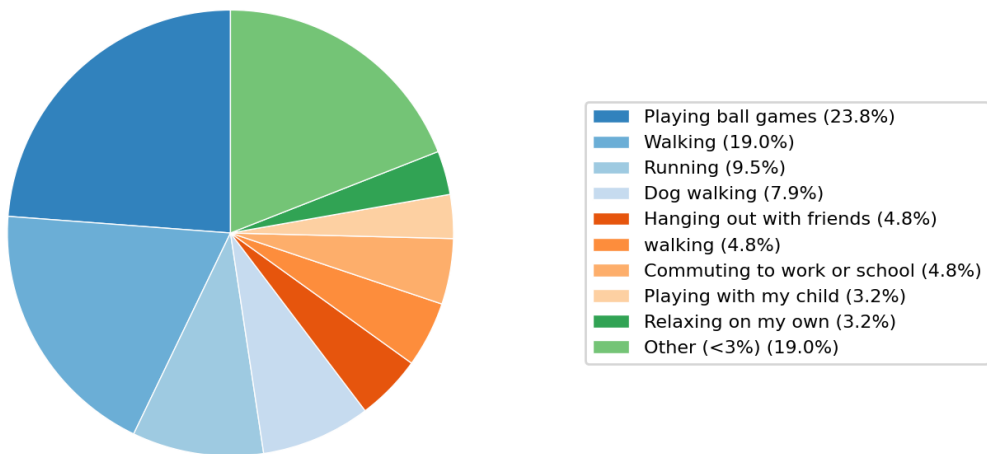


Gender Profile



Reflects the high participation in respondents from St Marys FC

Current usage of Moreen Park



Key Themes from Public Feedback

Community Demand and Existing Usage

Moreen Park Activity & Teen Space

- Respondents represented a broad demographic, with most living locally and visiting the park between 3–7 times weekly. Regular activities include walking, commuting, dog walking, and informal ball games. Across submissions, there is clear and repeated demand for improved sport and activity facilities

Priority Facility Requests

The most frequently mentioned requirement was:

- A bigger or full-sized- astro pitch
- Installation of sports lighting
- Increased capacity to alleviate overuse of astro pitch
- Recognition that football is “the heartbeat of the community”

Multiuse- Games Area (MUGA) / Multi-Sport Wall

A multisport facility was strongly requested to support:

- Football
- Hurling
- Gaelic football
- Tennis
- Basketball

Many residents described existing tennis and basketball courts as underused.

Inclusive and Accessible Teen Space

Key design priorities include:

- Safety, visibility, lighting
- Inclusive equipment for diverse needs
- Social and sheltered areas
- Spaces suitable for teenage girls
- Sensory-friendly features
- Accessible pathways and seating

Positive Expectations for a Teen Space

Respondents indicated that a Teen Space would:

- Reduce antisocial behaviour

Moreen Park Activity & Teen Space

- Provide a safe and purposeful gathering space
- Support youth workers' engagement
- Reduce loitering at local shops
- Enhance wellbeing and provide recreational outlets
- Support community cohesion

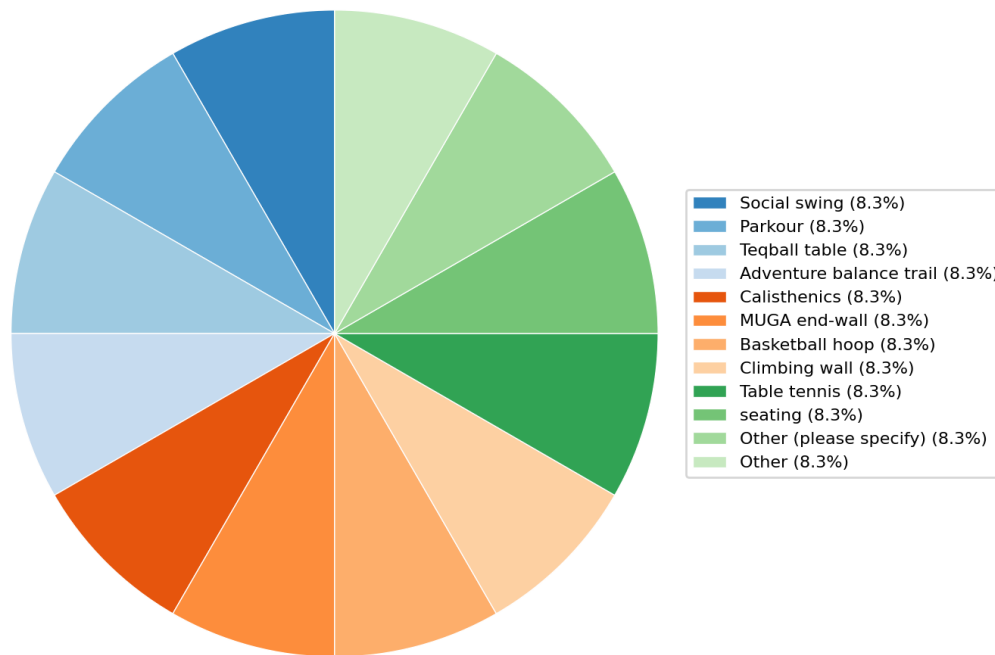
Key Concerns Raised

Main concerns included:

- Potential for antisocial behaviour
- Older teens dominating the space
- Visitors from outside the area misusing facilities
- Vandalism (citing historical incidents)
- Safety and surveillance
- Lighting requirements

Many noted these concerns could be mitigated through good design

Suggested Type of Equipment



Equipment and Activity Preferences

Common requests included:

- Teqball table
- Social swing

- Climbing wall
- Basketball hoop
- Calisthenics equipment
- Adventure/balance trail
- MUGA end wall

Additional suggestions raised:

- Skatepark
- Graffiti/art wall
- Outdoor gym
- Cricket batting cage
- Yoga/dance area
- In-ground trampolines
- Sensory equipment
- Indoor youth space

DLRCC Response to Public Feedback

Astro Pitch and Football Facilities

DLRCC recognises the strong community interest in expanding the astro pitch and the value of enhancing football facilities for St. Mary's FC and wider public use. While current funding limitations mean that a pitch extension cannot proceed at this stage, opportunities to upgrade the playing surface and lighting will be examined as part of the design process.

Lighting and Safety

Lighting and safety were the most common concerns.

DLRCC will:

- Review lighting improvements for both the astro pitch and Teen Zone
- Recognise the importance passive surveillance and open design principles
- Not include CCTV in this project, as it lies outside scope

Residents with concerns are encouraged to contact Dundrum Garda Station or the Dundrum Local Policing Forum. Improved facilities are expected to increase positive use and reduce antisocial behaviour

Inclusive and Accessible Design

The Parks & Landscape Services is working with the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer to ensure:

- Inclusive and neuro-affirming design

Moreen Park Activity & Teen Space

- Activities beyond football
- Sensory-friendly opportunities (e.g., swinging, climbing, repetitive circuits)
- Consideration of covered areas and improved paths

A Changing Places facility, though requested, is outside scope and budget.

Conclusion

Feedback from the public consultation demonstrates strong community support for a new Active Area and Teen Space at Moreen Park.

Top Priorities Identified by the Community

1. Improved or expanded astro pitch
2. Lighting for year-round- safe use
3. Multi-use games area / activity wall
4. Safe, visible, and inclusive design
5. Facilities for teens of all abilities
6. Social and sheltered gathering spaces
7. Replacement or upgrade of underused courts

The community sees this development as overdue, greatly needed, and central to enhancing youth activity, safety, and community connection. DLRCC aim is to address these priorities identified in the public consultation through our design within our allocated budget.