



**Páirceanna, An Roinn Pobail agus Forbairt Cultúir**  
Parks, Community & Cultural Development Department

# **Corke Abbey Valley Park Masterplan**

## **Have Your Say Report**

Prepared by: Paul Conlon, A/Executive Parks Superintendent  
Approved By: Eoin O'Brien, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent  
Revision: 1  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Background**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, is proposing a masterplan for the upgrading of Corke Abbey Valley Park. The Parks and Landscape Services Department undertook Non-Statutory Public Consultation for the above scheme and welcomed all submissions and observations on the scheme as proposed.

### **Scheme Details:**

The proposed scheme will upgrade existing paths, entrances, and bridges, create ecological habitats, improve play and active recreation opportunities.

The following aims and objectives have been used to help formulate the Corke Abbey Valley Park Masterplan during the public consultation process.

- Ecology: *Enhance and encourage biodiversity by reducing human interference and providing suitable buffer zones for habitat.*
- Connectivity & Permeability: *Improve connectivity and permeability for all users of the park to encourage an active lifestyle.*
- Amenity: *Upgrade the park in a holistic manner to include suitable areas for seating, viewing and natural play (mounds, boulders, tree trunks)*
- Consultation & Engagement: *Consult and engage the residents and schools to provide input and insight to guide the project aims and objectives and promote stewardship.*

### **Non-statutory public consultation:**

Following a presentation at the May Area Committee meeting non-statutory public consultation events were carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. At the closing date for the consultation, a total of 115 submissions were received via Citizens Space.

### **Summary of feedback from online survey:**

DLR Citizen space was the primary portal for feedback during the consultation process where submissions were welcomed via an online survey. Various comments were received as part of the submissions. These have been categorised and summarised in the charts below.

Some submissions commented on issues outside of this scheme e.g. Street trees. These do not relate to this project and have not been included. Full details on the comments and observations submitted are available as Appendix 1. Submission and Observations for Corke Abbey Valley Park

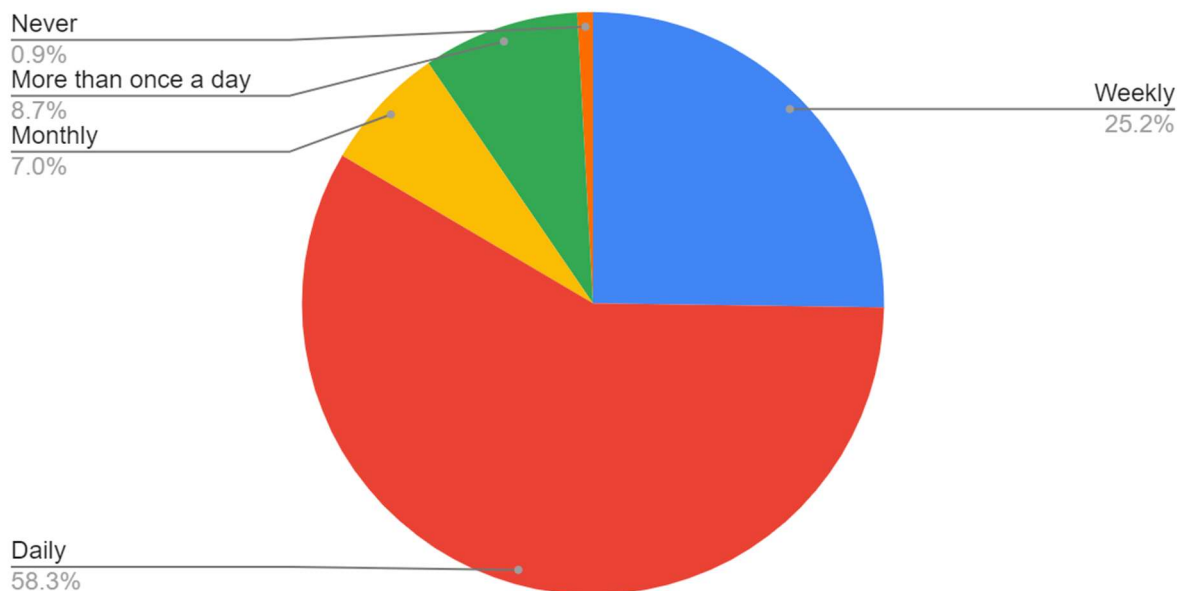
Note: The majority of the submissions made were from local residents who have been supportive of the scheme in previous consultation meetings.

**SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS:****Survey Responses:****Question 1:**

**Do you use Corke Abbey Valley Park on a regular basis and what is your frequency of visits?**

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- More than once a day
- Never

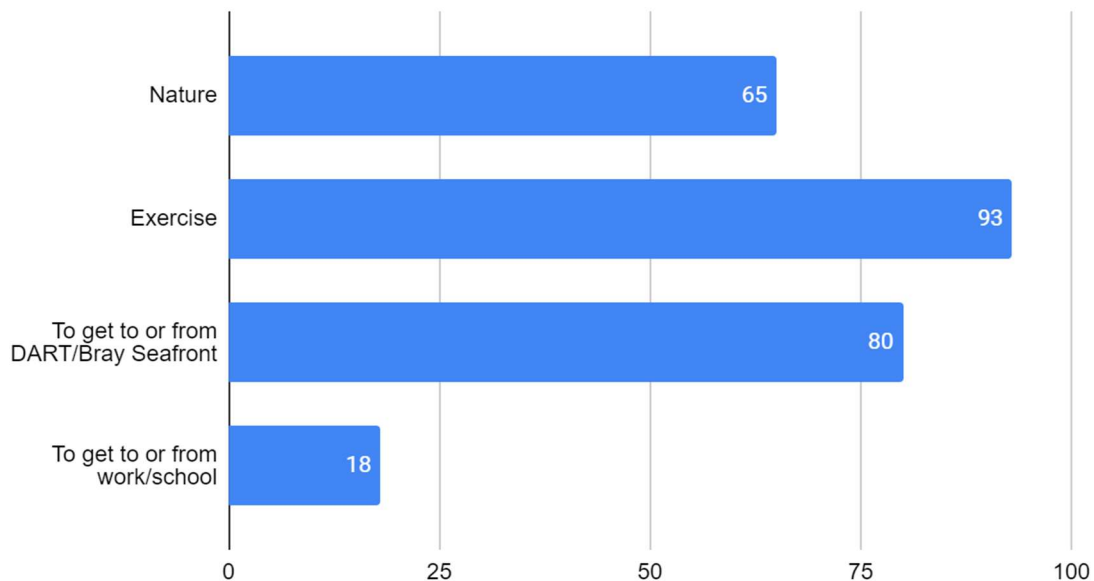
Do you use Corke Abbey Valley Park on a regular basis and what is your frequency of visits?

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

The questionnaire gave us the opportunity to state the nature of interest in the scheme and the frequency of visitors to Corke Abbey Valley Park.

**Question 2:****How to you use the Park?**

- To get to or from work/school
- To get to or from DART/Bray Seafront
- Exercise
- Nature
- Other

**How do you use the Park? (n=114)****Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:**

The questionnaire has highlighted the public usage of the permeability link to Bray Seafront and DART station. Considering this, DLRCC have requested that this link is retained during the construction of the former Bray Golf Course lands with permanent, accessible links provided post construction.

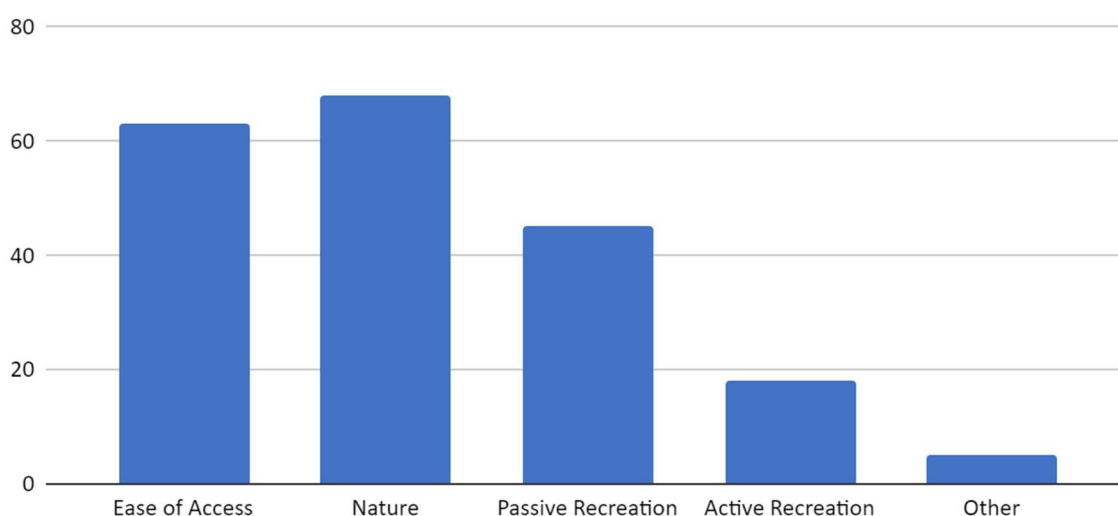
Another key use of the park is exercise. Parks users currently engage in walking, dog walking and running and have requested that the closed section of path within the park be reopened. This request is noted and will be reopened once the closed section of footpath is secured.

There is currently no provision of exercise equipment in the park and as part of the masterplan proposal a robust selection of callisthenic equipment will be installed

**Question 3:****What would you describe as the best attribute/s of the park?**

- Nature (habitat and wildlife)
- Passive recreation (seating and walks)
- Active Recreation (exercise & play)
- Ease of access (pedestrian entrances)
- Other

Count of What would you describe as the best attribute/s of the park? Suggested category headings Nature (habitat and wildlife), Pa...



Count of What would you describe as the best attribute/s of the park? Suggested category headings Nature (...)

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

The park contains an existing collection of passive spaces, woodland, wetlands, vegetation and varied habitats. Guided by the masterplan, the management of the park will preserve these existing habitats and take full advantage of every opportunity to strengthen the biodiversity and nature value.

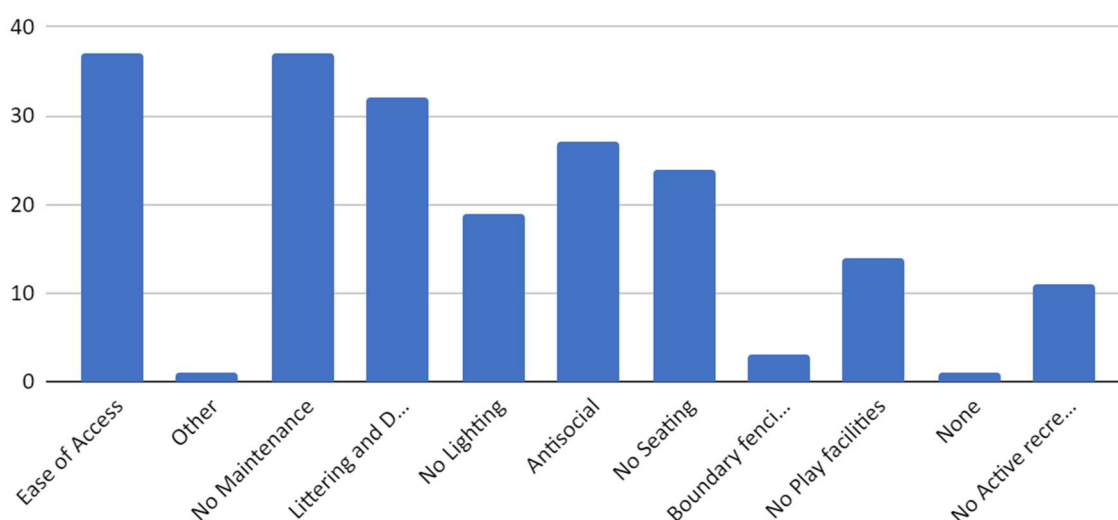
Corke Abbey Valley Park is an intrinsic area of biodiversity and climate resilience in an area under proposed urban intensification. The responses to the questionnaire highlighted the local significance of park and its natural setting. Proper scientific surveys are underway to understand biodiversity and health of the wildlife populations within the park. These detailed surveys will help to highlight the movement of wildlife around the park and the hotspots of wildlife activity, and their findings will directly inform the areas to protect and enhance through provide buffers and reduced public access.

This meets a core ecological objective of the masterplan to *Enhance and encourage biodiversity by reducing human interference and provide suitable buffer zones for habitat.*

**Question 4:****What would you describe as the biggest drawbacks of the park?**

- Nature (habitat and wildlife)
- Passive recreation (seating and walks)
- Active Recreation (exercise & play)
- Ease of access (pedestrian entrances)
- Other

Count of What would you describe as the biggest drawbacks of the park? Suggested category headings Nature (habitat and wildlife), Pa...



Count of What would you describe as the biggest drawbacks of the park? Suggested category headings Natur...

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

Questionnaire responses highlighted the support of permeability and accessibility. However, noted within this question is the request for improved ease of access. Requests to upgrade path surfaces, bridges and park boundaries and entrances have been noted and will be included in the masterplan. As a local authority, it is imperative that we provide safe, convenient, green routes to promote and encourage walking and cycling in the local area. Encouraging members of the public to walk and cycle rather than driving for short journeys is one of the key strategies in tackling local traffic, parking issues, and encouraging an active lifestyle

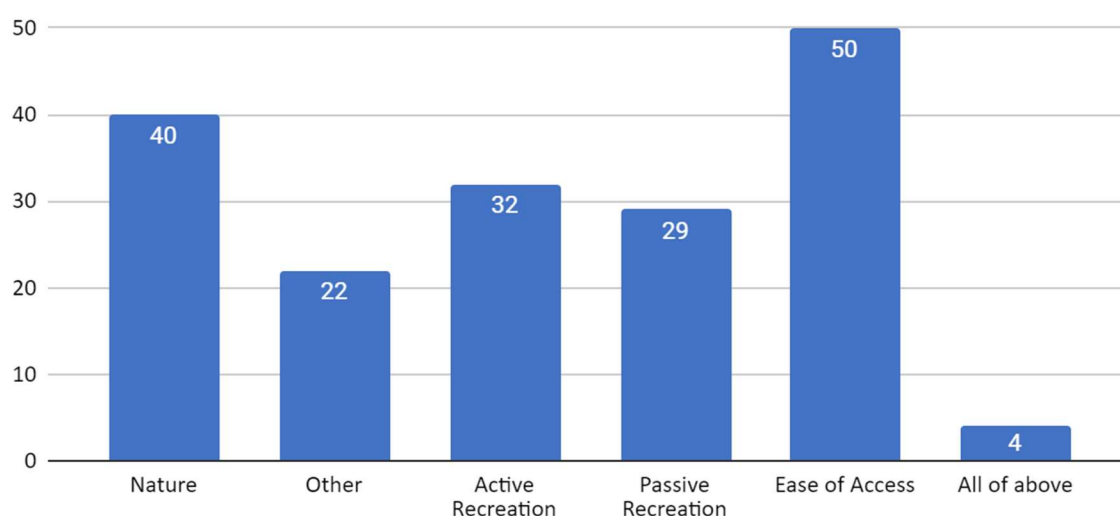
Local concerns relate to antisocial behaviour, littering and illegal dumping. While the littering and dumping will be addressed as part of the site clearance works, the Parks Department will devise and improved management plan for the park in conjunction with the Gardaí and local residents.

Other requests including seating, play facilities and active recreation opportunities have been included in the proposal. The allocation of large areas of open space for a specific, prescribed sport is unsuitable for this site and will not be considered. Requests to include heavy duty seating will be considered at the detailed design stage of the masterplan.

**Question 5:****What improvements would you like to see in the park?**

- Nature (habitat and wildlife)
- Passive recreation (seating and walks)
- Active Recreation (exercise & play)
- Ease of access (pedestrian entrances)
- Other

Count of What improvements would you like to see in the park?  
Suggested category headings Nature (habitat and wildlife), Passive...



Count of What improvements would you like to see in the park? Suggested category headings Nature (habita...

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

Various comments were received as part of the submissions. These are summarised in the chart above and detailed below. Please note that some submissions commented on issues outside of this scheme e.g. Street trees. These do not relate to this project and have not been included. Full details on the comments and observations submitted are available on

## Appendix 1. Submission and Observations for Corke Abbey Valley Park

For collation purposes the following items were grouped under the following headings

Category	Comments/Observations	Design Team Response:
Ease of Access	Linkages to Schools and Bray Seafront via Bray Golf Course and linkages to Bray Seafront under railway, upgraded wider paths, bridges, entrances, boundaries, lighting, and improved accessibility including stepped access, handrails and reopening of closed path.	Improved access and permeability is integral part of Active Travel in DLRCC and will be supported and developed as part of all capital works.
Nature	Improved planting and biodiversity, management, and maintenance of site overgrowth, remove dead trees, invasive species,	As part of the masterplan a detailed biodiversity plan is being drafted for

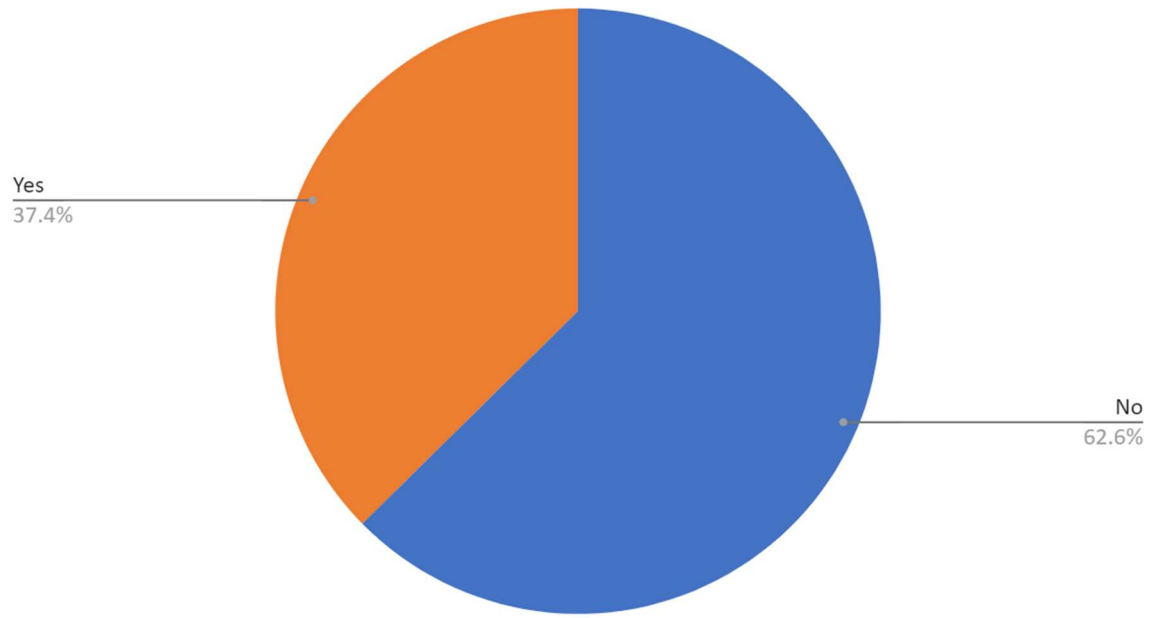
	fairy gardens, tree management near houses, management of Crinken Stream	the park and its future maintenance
Active Recreation	Play facilities, Exercise equipment, running track, BMX track, basketball ring, dog track	Given the topography of the site, there are limited active recreation opportunities. Given the proximity of the park to Shanganagh Park and Bray Seafront the masterplan will provide a local playground focused on natural play and callisthenic equipment.
Passive Recreation	Seating, viewing areas	Improved seating and viewing areas will be including in the masterplan
Other	CCTV, bins, dog bins, antisocial behaviour, Pumping station, rodent control, illegal dumping and littering	CCTV and bins will not be considered as part of the masterplan however, bins at park entrances will be considered. Littering and illegal dumping will be addressed as part of the management of the park



**Question 6:****Would you be in favour of changing the name of the park?**

- Yes
- No

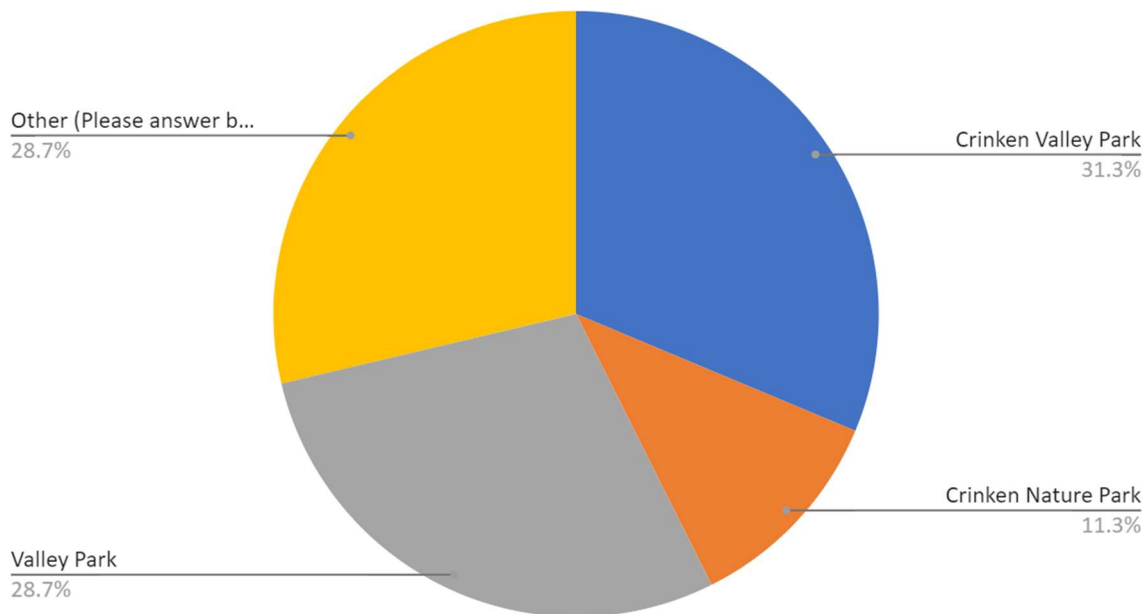
Would you be in favour of changing the name of the park?



**Question 7:****Which is your preferred name for the Park?**

- Crinken Nature Park
- Crinken Valley Park
- Valley Park
- Other

Which is your preferred name for the Park?

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

Given the number of submissions in relation this It is proposed to retain the existing park name, Corke Abbey Valley Park. Consultation highlighted very little support for a park name associated with Crinken Stream, but further consultation is required to identify if Valley Park or Nature Valley Park are supported.

**SUMMARY**

The proposed scheme received strong support with several submissions making suggestions on how the scheme could be improved or expanded. As outlined in the responses above, the masterplan has been updated to reflect the Have Your Say process. Further engagement will take place throughout all aspects of the works in line with one of the main objectives for the development of the park which states *"Consult and engage the residents and schools to provide input and insight to guide the project aims and objectives and promote stewardship"*.