

Finsbury Park, Dundrum

Public Consultation Summary of Findings

March 2024



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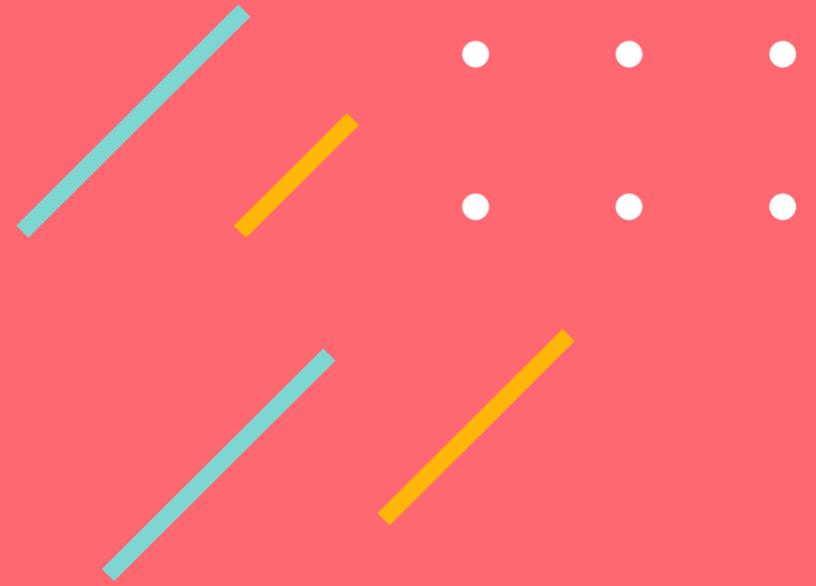
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1. Introduction



New Play Space at Finsbury Park

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) have identified a need for a new play space at Finsbury Park, Dundrum. A DLR Play Policy was adopted in 2023 which 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 in Winter '23/'24 with the local children and young people, schools, and other members of the community and build trust for a successful outcome.



DLR Play Policy 2023-2028

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

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



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

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

Common barriers to play

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

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



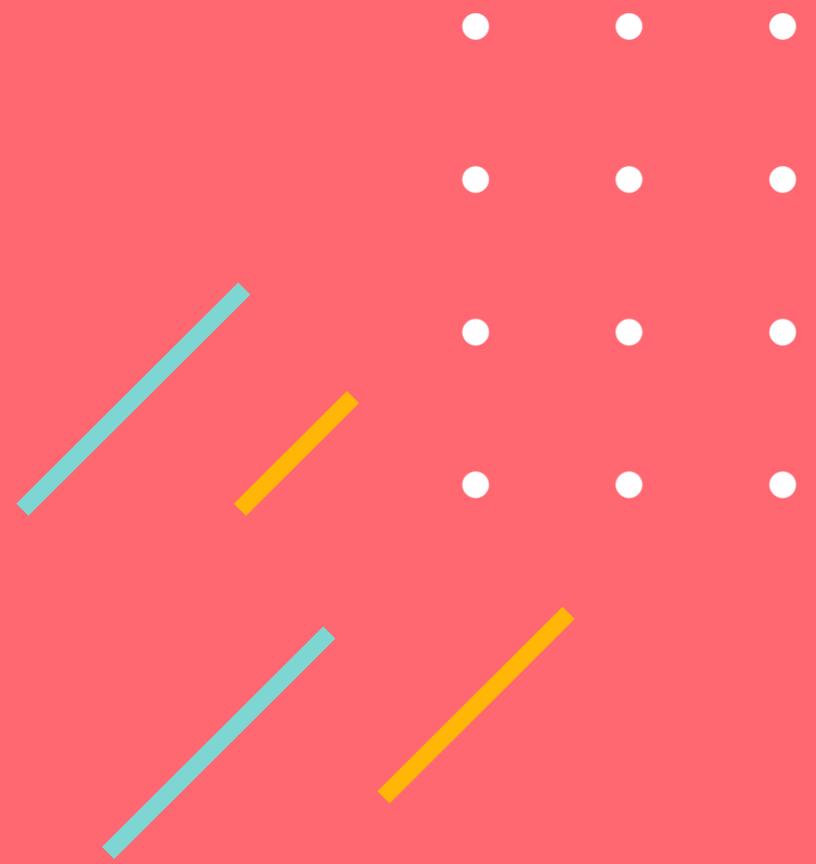
Principles

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

2. 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:

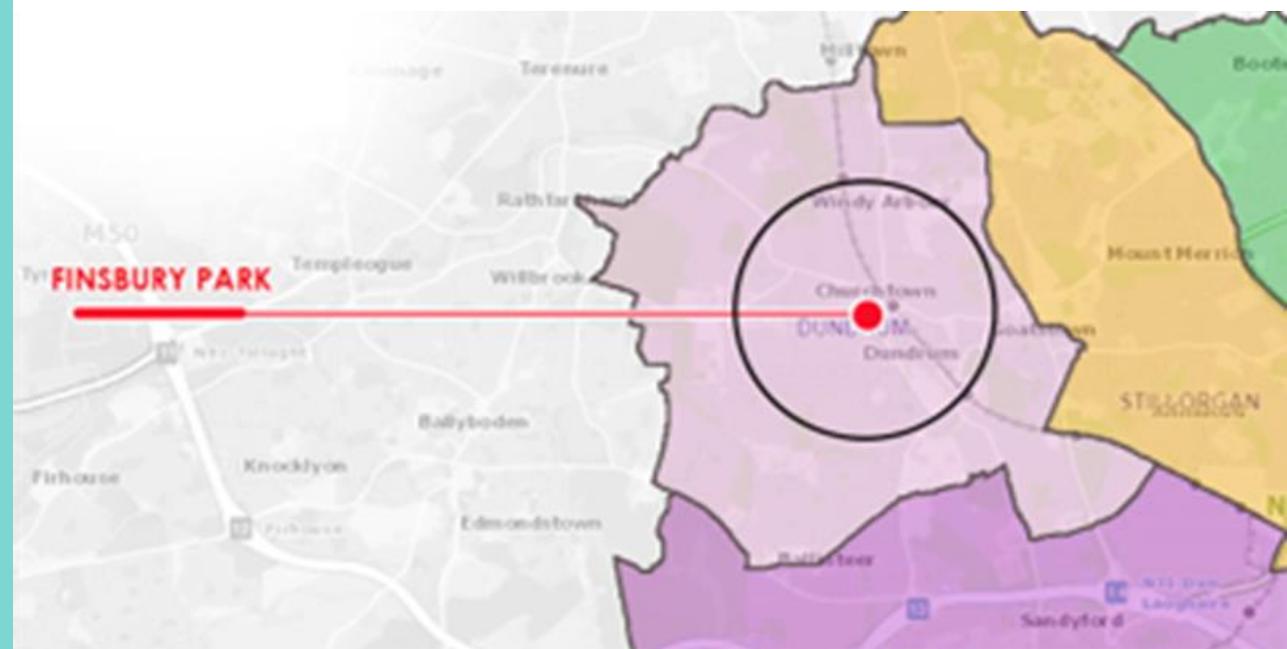
- 0 to 4 years (13,810 or 6.3%)
- 5 to 12 years (21,302 or 9.8%)
- 13 to 17 years (12,682 or 5.8%)
- 18 to 24 years (22,056 or 10.1%)

* *DLR Play Policy 2023 - 2028*

Demographic Profile: Finsbury Park

The total population within a one kilometre radius of Finsbury Park is 13,500 persons. With 21% of the population under the age of 18, they can be broken down into the following age ranges:

- Aged 0-5: 955
- Aged 6-11: 950
- Aged 12-18: 950



Finsbury Park

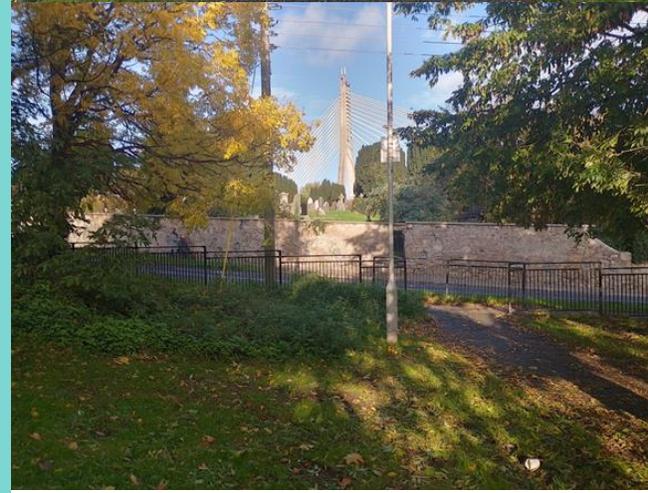
Finsbury Park is a mature, linear park with an undulating topography of mostly mowed amenity grass. There are a variety of mature tree species around the perimeter of the park with evidence of informal paths in the perimeter growth.

The park is bounded by houses and apartments. Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige national school adjoins park which provides a through route for many of its pupils coming from and to school.

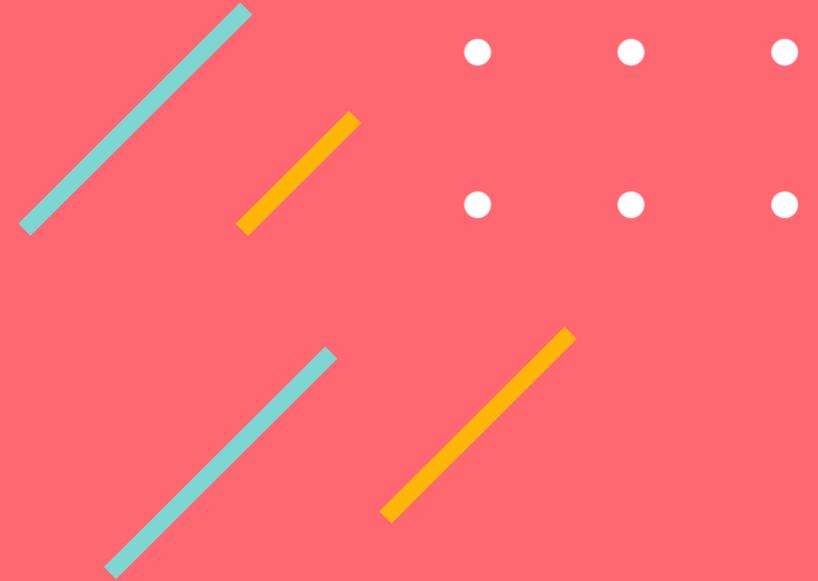
The LUAS bridge is visible at Dundrum village end of park which provides a notable local landmark. The Carnegie Dundrum library is very close on .

There is some evidence of rough sleeping at the Dundrum village end and some cans and bottles scattered under the trees.

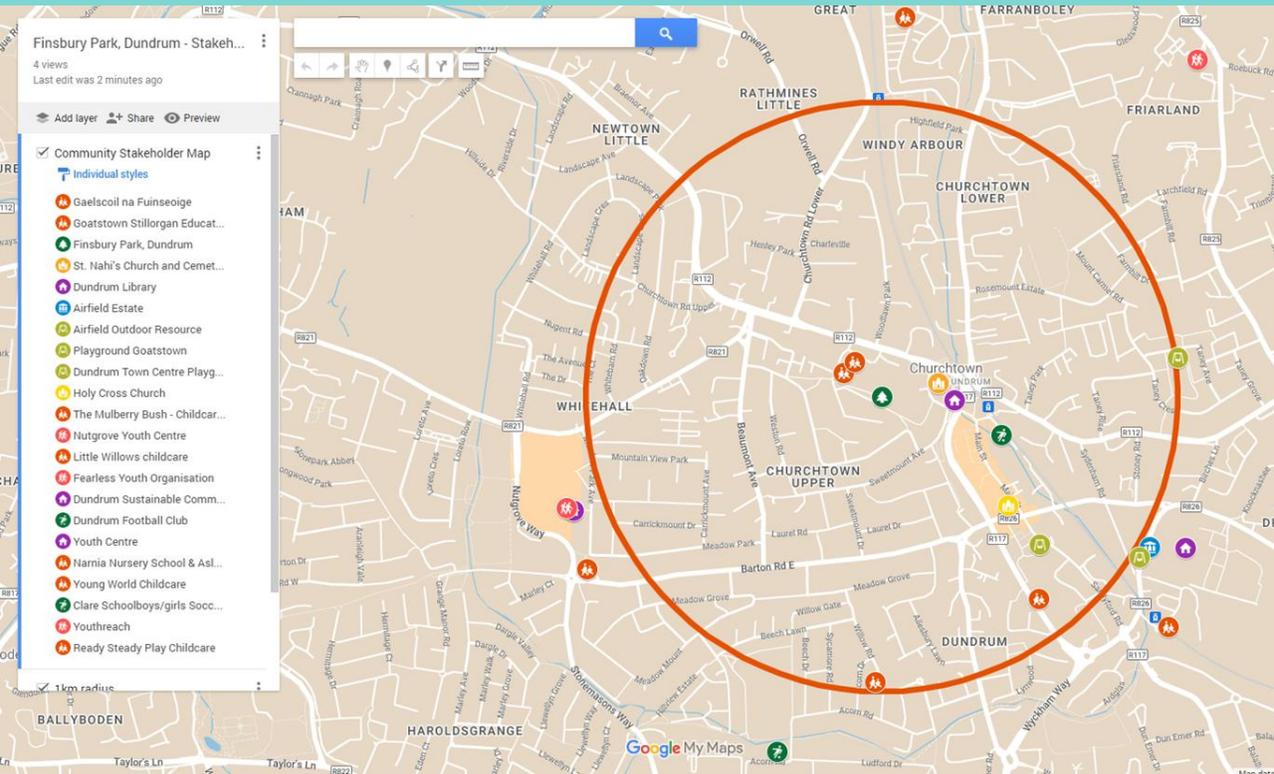
People using the park include parents with young children, joggers, children going to and from school, and numerous dogwalkers.



3. Stakeholder Mapping

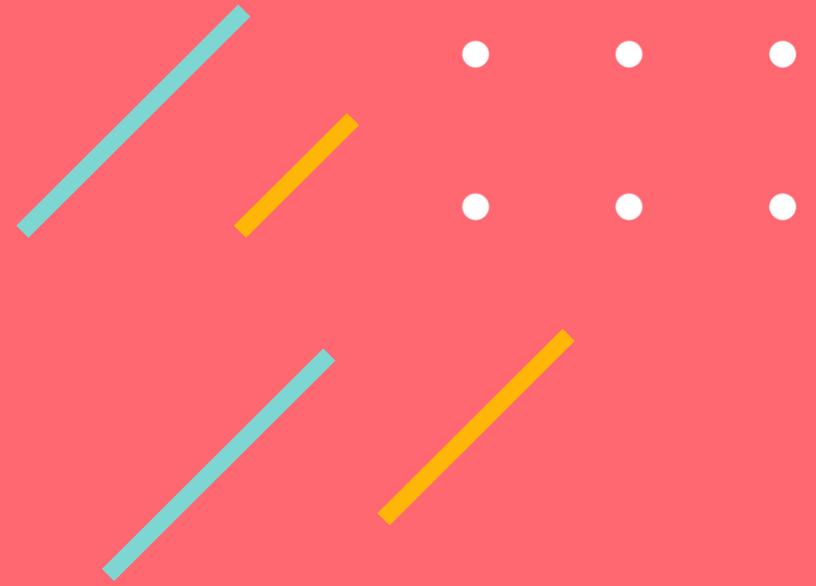


A stakeholder mapping process identified groups within a 1-2km radius that may have an interest in the development of play facilities in Finsbury Park. Stakeholder groups identified in the mapping process included those from education, community, youth and environment sectors. These are outlined in the table opposite. Contact details for each group were established as part of the mapping process.



Organisation/Group Name	Sector
Goatstown Stillorgan Educate together	Education
Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige	Education
Dundrum Library	Community
St. Nahi's Church and Cemetery	Church
Rosemount Family Resource Centre	Community
Airfield Estate	Community
Dundrum Sustainable Community 2030 CLG	Environment
Mulberry Bush, Dundrum	Childcare
Crosscare Dundrum Rathdown Youth Service	Community / Youth
Nutgrove Youth Centre	Community / Youth
Young World Childcare	Childcare
Fearless Youth	Community / Youth
Clare Schoolboys/girls Soccer League	Youth group
Churchtown Residents Association	Residents Association
The Good Shepherd Church	Church

4. Engagement Activities



Engagement Activities

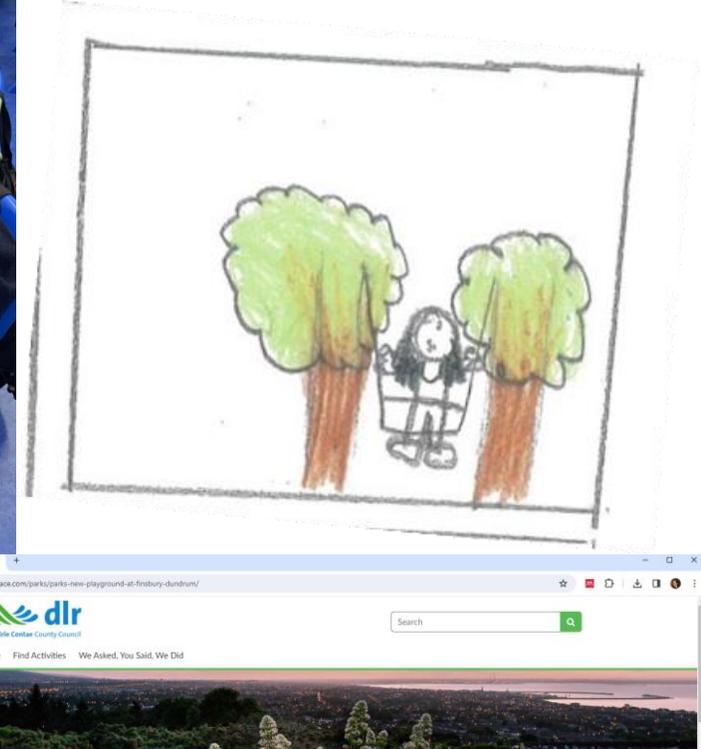
Public engagement activities were carried out by M-CO to get feedback in advance of the playground design process. These activities are outlined as follows:

- DLR CitizenSpace online survey 06.01.24 – 02.02.'24 (see Appendix A)
- **Public workshops**
 - Dundrum Library, Churchtown Road 17.01.'24
 - Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige 31.01.'24
- **Schools workshop** (Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige) 07.12.'23 with 3rd and 5th classes and artist Elida Maiques

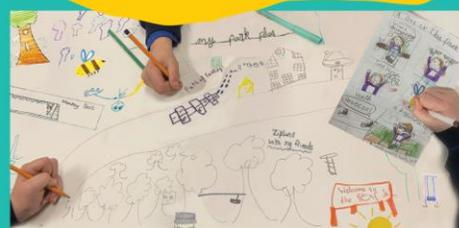
Promotion of engagement

A number of ways were used to promote the engagement including:

- DLR CitizenSpace consultation hub
- Social media posts by DLR CoCo
- Leafletting to streets adjoining the park
- Direct email contact with stakeholder groups
- A3 posters in the park and Dundrum library
- Emailed updates to local public representatives



New Playground at Finsbury, Dundrum



Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council is planning to create a new, inclusive, local park play space, where children of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can play, in the Finsbury Park area of the Dundrum Ward.

Provide your feedback!

Public Consultation

- Consultation Evening – Wednesday 17th of January 2024, from 6.30-7.45pm at Dundrum Library. (Please RSVP if you plan to attend to finsburyparkplayground@mco.ie)
- Online survey, closes 26th Jan 2024

Visit dlrcoco.citizenspace

Scan Me: 



Parks: New Playground at Finsbury, Dundrum

Overview



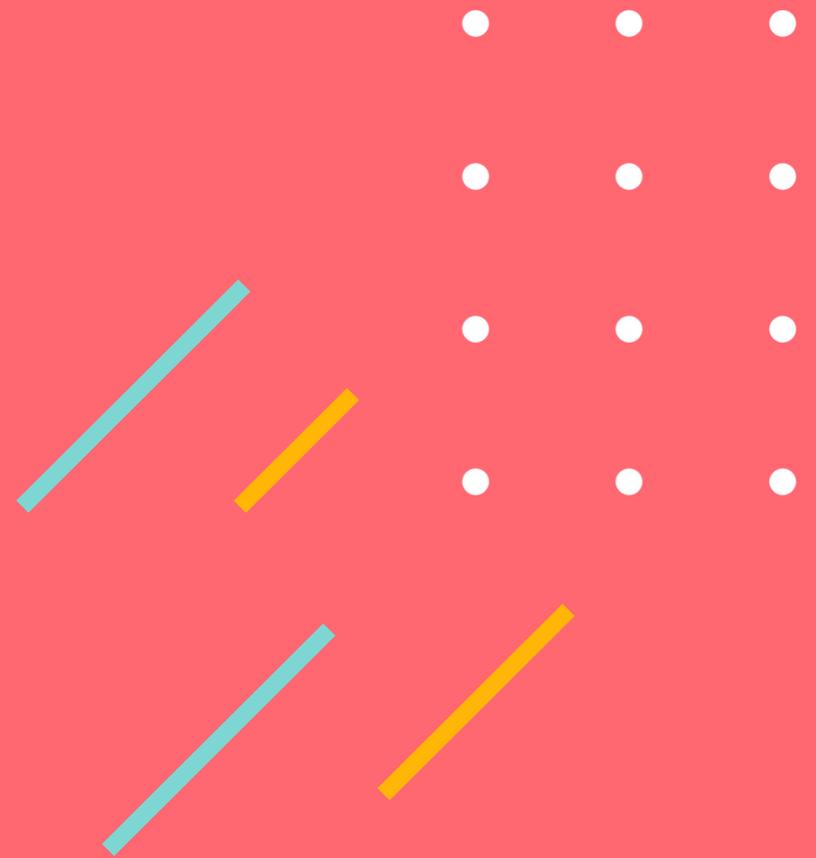
Closes 26 Jan 2024
Opened 5 Jan 2024

Contact
(Executive Parks Superintendent)
Capital Projects Team
01 205 4700
parksconsultations@dlrcoco.ie

Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council is planning to create a new, inclusive, local park play space, where children of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can play, in the Finsbury Park area of the Dundrum Ward. This statement has been submitted for these facilities to be built and installed on...



5. Engagement Outcomes and Responses



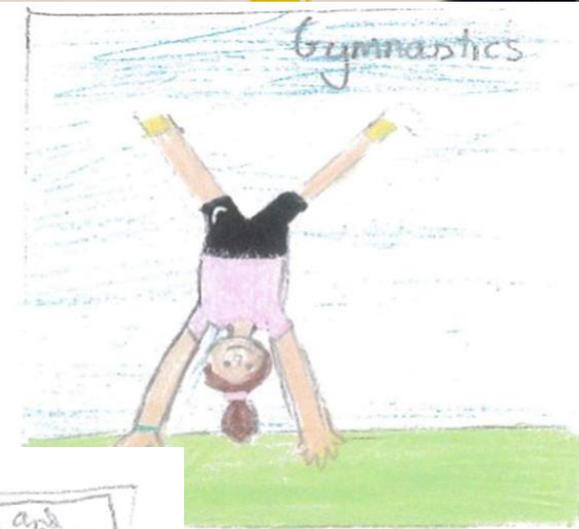
Workshops Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige

Two workshops were held in Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige (07.12.'23) with 3rd and 5th classes and artist and creative facilitator Elida Maiques. The children individually drew what they like in terms of outdoors play, then collectively drew on a large sheet of paper with Finsbury park outlined describing what is there, including flora, fauna, and the activities that take place there. Then they added to this drawing elements of play that they felt would improve the park.



Children's play ideas and observations

1. **Adventure play** – include a nature trail, tree play, swings, slides, trampolines, ziplines
2. **Gymnastics** – provide exercise machines and monkey bars
3. **Linear path of play/ movement** (include mobility examples, scooters, bikes, skateboards)
4. **Sports** - allow for sports like football, kickabout area. Provide a Sports Equipment library
5. **Benches** – to let people rest and for quieter activities such as reading
6. **Facilities** – provide bins for rubbish and dog litter. Include a dog park . Provide toilets. Allow for a food truck/café
7. **Park as a special place for gathering** – for friends and families – make this clear for people and make it welcoming (maybe using signage)



DLR Parks Response to Children's Workshops

There were many suggestions for specific items of play equipment such as climbing structures, monkey bars, painted games, accessible trampolines, climbing rope webs, imaginative play features, accessible slides, climbing rocks, spinners, swings (including baskets and toddlers), sand pits, zip lines, and diggers!

There were also many suggestions for additional facilities such as a skills wall, goals, kick-about-area, exercise equipment, skateboarding, pump track, MUGA, tennis, basketball, and a box-up initiative. As well as requests for specific types of site furniture, such as seating, picnic benches, fencing/railings, bike and scooter parking.

We intend to provide as wide a range of amenities as possible within a local park setting.

Location

- Use the natural slopes of the park for play feature design
- Prefer playground at the top of the hill near the entrance, under the big trees – SE corner
- Be careful it is not too close to residents
- There are existing drainage issues on lower sections of the park
- Keep the lower area for ball games/kickabout
- Prefer play dotted around the park
- There are existing playgrounds in Loretta park and Taney
- Pat's field is a better location
- Is Sweetman's Park an option?
- The park is too small to accommodate a playground

Safety/Security/Anti-social behaviour

- Lighting is important for security and to deter anti-social activity
- CCTV is needed to deter anti-social behaviour
- Provide bins to prevent litter and it needs to be maintained
- Want some of it fenced/contained for the younger children to stop them running off or being scared by dogs

Age of Playground Users

- The age should be up to 16 years instead of 12
- Provide for toddlers to teens
- Are there enough children in the area to warrant?

Types of play and design

- Promote natural play
- Want an area for football/kickabout – doesn't need to be a proper pitch
- Can there be a natural maze – using trees, willows?
- Small slides and swings for 2-5 year olds
- Ziplines, climbing frames, monkey bars and swings for older
- Option to leave the space alone (without equipment) to encourage imaginative, self directed play
- Make it visually appealing like the new playground in Blackrock Park

Accessibility

- Provide for children with disabilities – accessible equipment
- Allow for sensory play

Parking

- There are concerns that people will travel by car to avail of the playground as there is no parking
- Concern about increased traffic

Dogs

- The park is frequently used by dog owners walking their dogs – often off the leash
- This must be allowed to continue. The dogs need space to run
- The playground design needs to facilitate this

Furniture/Facilities

- Provide for bike and scooter parking
- Can there be a covered area for bad weather/rain
- Make the equipment wooden instead of all metal

Online Survey Results

Q. Where do you live?

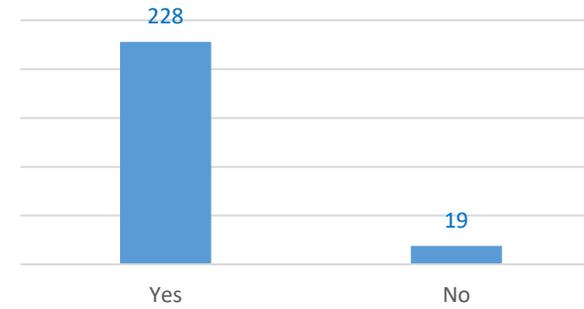
Respondents to the online survey came from a wide variety of roads in the Dundrum area. The highest numbers of respondents were from those road nearest or adjacent to Finsbury Park : Weston Park (46); Weston road (25); and Sweetmount Avenue (19).

Where do you live?	No		No		No
Ballinteer	2	Grange Wood	1	Sweetmount Ave	19
Ballinteer Road	2	Headford Grove	3	Taney crescent	2
Barton Rd East	2	Henley Park	3	Taney Drive/Park	5
Barton road	1	Landscape gardens	1	The Oaks	2
Barton Road East	11	Landscape Park	1	Victoria Terrace	1
Beaumont Ave	2	Laurel Drive	3	Westbrook road	1
Beaumont Avenue	3	Laurel Rd	1	Weston Ave	2
Beaumont Close	1	Leopardstown	1	Weston Avenue	3
Beaumont Drive	10	Meadow Grove	5	Weston Grove	2
Braemor Road	3	Meadow Grove	2	Weston Park	46
Castle View	1	Meadow mount	1	Weston road	25
Churchtown Road	17	Meadow Mount	1	Weston Terrace	2
Clonskeagh	1	Meadowbrook	2	Whitebarn	1
Dundrum road	3	MG reviewed to here	1	Whitebarn Road	1
Farmhill Drive	1	Mountain View	1	Woodlawn Park	1
Farmhill Road	1	Nutgrove	1	Woodside	1
Fernbank	7	Nutgrove Avenue	2	Work in area	1
Finsbury Green	2	Rathgar	1	Wyckham	1
Finsbury Park	12	Riverside Drive	1	Wyckham Park	1
Flemingstown park	1	Sandyford School	1	Rather not say	11
		Stepaside	1		

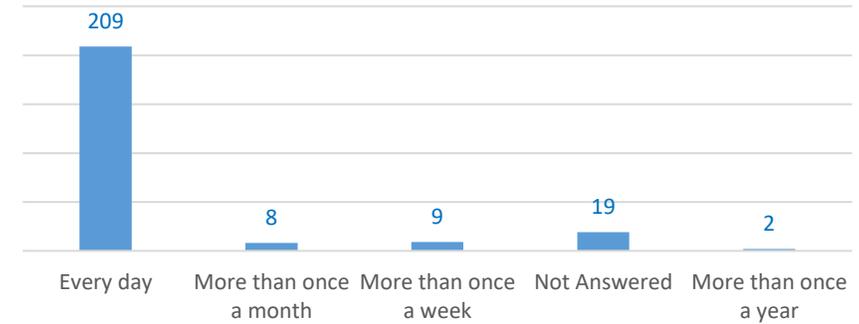
Q. Are there children in your care?

The vast majority of the 247 online survey respondents (n=228 or 92%) had children in their care and most of these (n=209) had children in their care every day, presumably as parents.

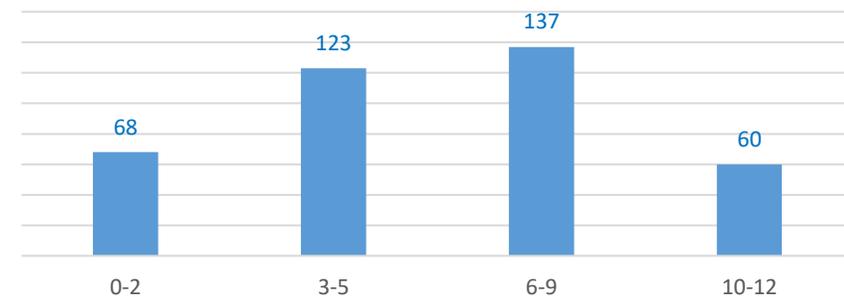
Are children ever in your care?



How often are children in your care?



Ages of children in your care?

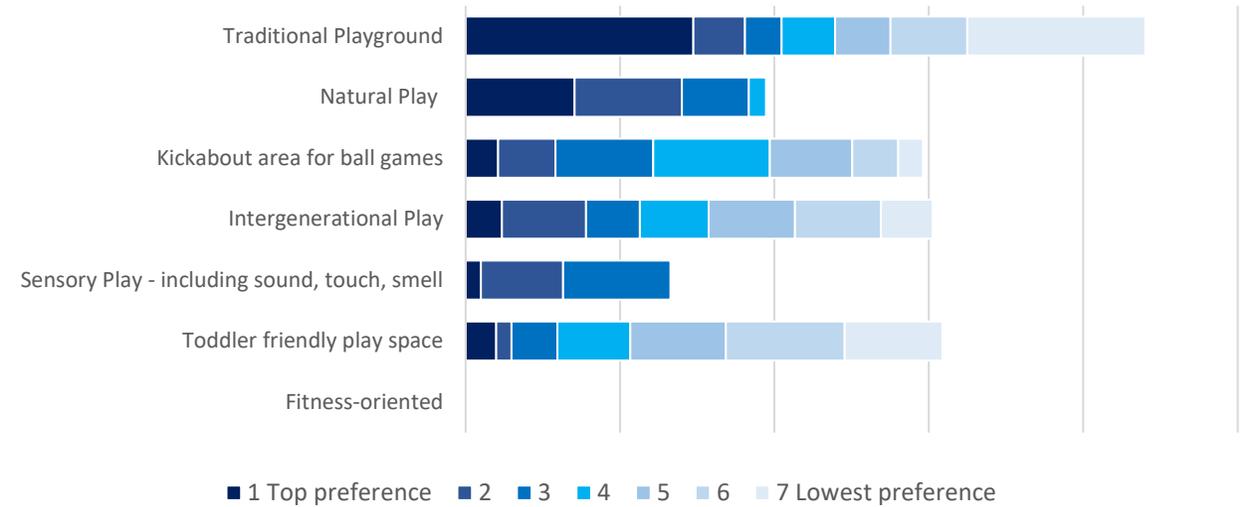


Q. Type of Play and Equipment

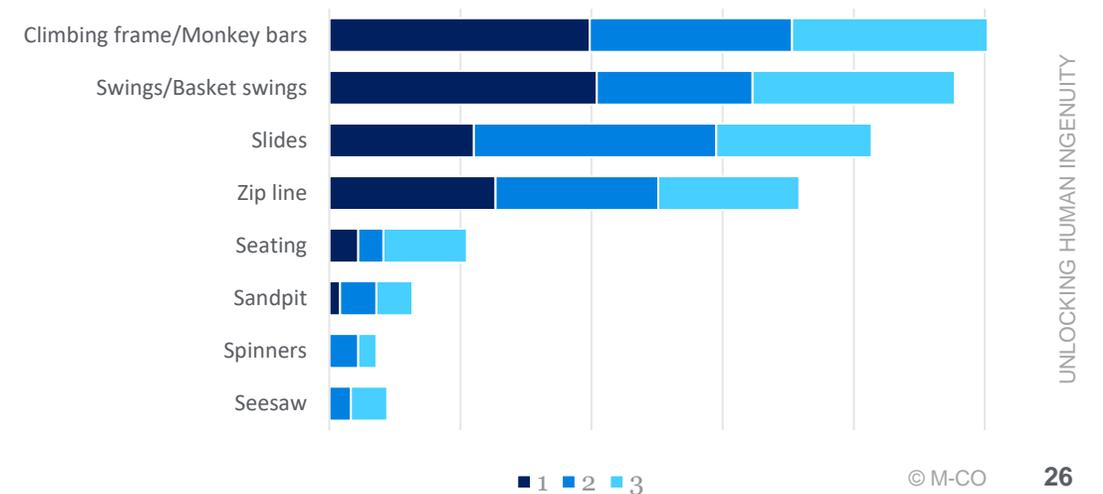
The preferred types of playground according to the online survey respondents were traditional play and natural play and sports/ball games, with similar numbers for toddler friendly, intergenerational and sensory play. Fitness oriented play facilities was the least favoured.

The preferred types of play equipment were swings, slides, climbing frames/monkey bars, with fewer preferring sandpits and ziplines.

Preference for type of play you want to see in playground



Preference for type of equipment you want to see in playground



Support for Playground

Sentiment analysis of the survey comments and emailed submissions suggested that the majority (87%) of respondents were in favour of the addition of play facilities to Finsbury Park. Some of the comments are included on this page.

“As a mother of 4 children attending the local Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige and living locally, I think this would be such a positive, beneficial and much welcomed addition to the locality.”

“I am a local grandparent. The park has been missing a playground for many years. It would be a welcome feature to the area.”

“The sooner it is built the better.”

“Great location and close to a primary school and library. Really happy about this.”

“As a parent of 2 young playground aficionados, living quite close to Finsbury Park, this proposed development sounds great.”

“This would be so beneficial to our family. Often a trip to the playground means jumping in a car. To have this on our doorstep would be super particularly from a community perspective.”

“Playgrounds are just as much about caregivers getting together as they are about children playing. They can be a lifeline to parents stuck at home all day.”

“Would be fantastic to have a playground within walking distance for my son to play and get fresh air and exercise. Important for social connections for children and adults in the area.”

“Wonderful opportunity to bring community together in a safe space.”

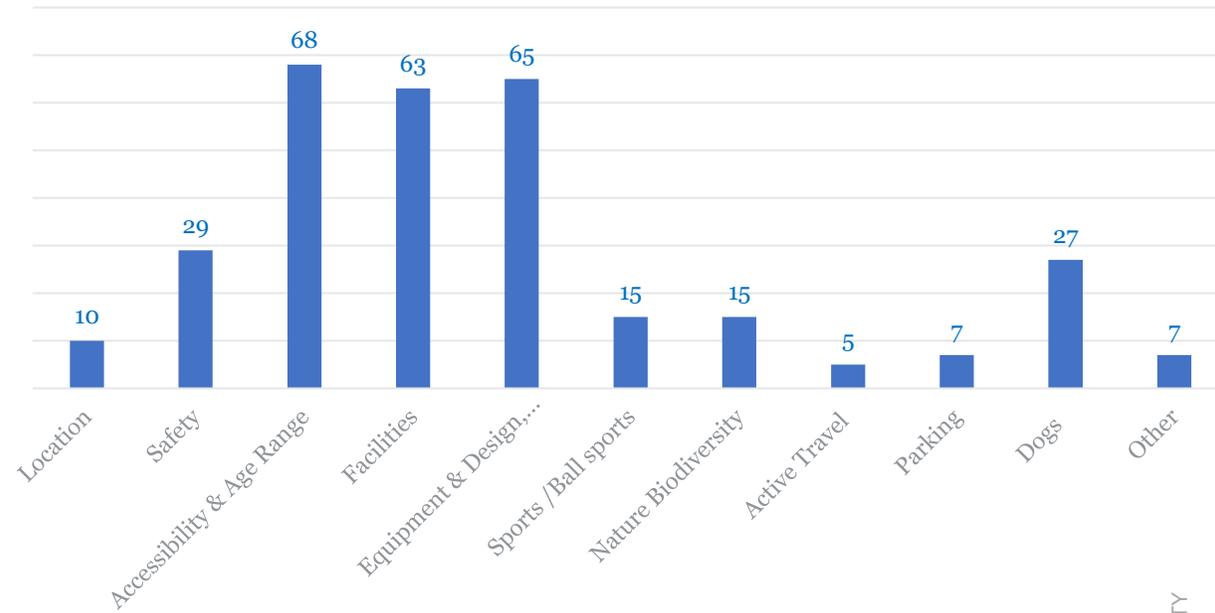
“We have been waiting for this for some time.”

Key Themes (Online and email)

Key hopes and concerns emerged in the online survey comments and email submissions which were thematically evaluated. The key themes and the frequency they were raised are set out in the figures opposite and have been categorised as follows:

1. Accessibility and Age Range
2. Facilities/Furniture
3. Equipment & Design
4. Safety and Security
5. Park location
6. Nature & Biodiversity
7. Sports activity
8. Traffic/Parking/Active Travel
9. Dogs
10. Other

Key themes (frequency raised)



1. Accessibility and Age Range

- Cater for toddlers as part of the playground design and provide a safe enclosed space for this
- Provide for multi-generational play
- There is a need to accommodate older children in the design
- Ensure that there is provision of accessible equipment. Provide ramp for inclusive access to raised levels and slides.
- The playground would be used by all the children from Gaelscoil na Fuinseoige after school in particular
- Teenagers also need to be considered for inclusion in the space, for example a basketball court or a couple of outdoor (concrete) table - tennis tables
- Children with special needs in the area would benefit from seat swings, communication boards, sensory play and a surrounded area to minimise flight risk

2. Facilities/Furniture

- Provide benches in the park for parents/supervisors and older people. Provide picnic tables for family/friend gatherings in warmer weather
- Provide a sheltered Bench which would allow for breast feeding
- Provide more general waste bins to counteract littering and provide better maintenance overall
- Include a water fountain
- Provide a public toilet
- Allow for occasional coffee and food van licencing

3. Equipment & Design

- Design should not be limited to landscape designers and should not exclude architects
- Use natural materials
- Provide play sand/ woodchip pit, wobbly bridge, instruments and sound making features.
- Include quieter den/ treehouse type spaces for children to retreat to if overwhelmed
- Include long tunnel slides, castle slides, monkey bars, a zip line, sunken trampolines and utilise the existing topography
- include exercise and calisthenics equipment for utilisation by park users of all ages
- Include a gathering/social space with community notice board
- Provide linear play features with ground patterns, and bike-scooter trails

- Provide soft tarmac and 'clean' play area (as opposed to bark)
- Include a climbing frame, a giant web climber and monkey bars
- Design for activity in all weather
- Make the play area large enough to cater for numbers so it doesn't get too busy.
- Provide bi-lingual signage.

4. Safety and Security

- There are concerns that a playground will attract additional anti-social activity, particularly by teenagers
- Deter anti-social activity with adequate CCTV provision
- Deter anti-social activity with adequate lighting

5. Location

- The park is one of the few green areas left locally
- There is limited demand for a play space in Finsbury Park. There are already playgrounds in Taney and Columbanus which see limited use
- The age profile of the residents and a playground are not compatible
- Recommend that the playground be put on higher ground in the park because the lower side becomes very wet for long parts of the year
- Consider instead constructing the Playground in the nearby park opposite 'The Laurels' and bounding the Dundrum By-pass
- A playground would be better located in the park towards the Dundrum side
- Consider a dispersal of play facilities throughout the park rather than concentrated in a single traditional playground

6. Nature & Biodiversity

- use the area for natural play (unstructured play opportunities in the natural environment - inspired by nature, the local landscape features, plants and wildlife)
- The proposed playground should blend in with and reflect the natural environment.
- Any equipment should be made using wood, grass, turf, bushes, rather than metal or plastic.
- Activities such as a maze using willow hedging or a labyrinth using a path cut through a grass meadow can stimulate and engage children's imagination and contribute to their healthy development
- Consider planting fruit trees such as apple and plum (native varieties) to promote understanding of food cultivation and production.

- Undertake an environmental impact study to ensure wildlife is not affected
- Consider providing for a community engagement in the park's planting. The development of a small community garden could be positive
- Promote natural, woodland and adventure play.

7. Sports

- Children already use the green space to play football, hurling and running which is a much better use of outdoor space.
- Provide for ball sports with features such as goal posts, a small football cage, a ball wall, a basketball hoop and a hurling wall.
- Consider the provision of BoxUp or similar facilities to encourage the utilisation of the park for active play.
- The lower ground in the park is typically used for kickabouts/ball game activities.

8. Traffic/Parking/Active Travel

- Concern that demand will not be limited to local parents and children coming from outside the immediate area will lead to increased parking, disruption and pollution for the adjacent residential streets
- In Finsbury Park residents already have to deal with traffic congestion, dangerous parking and driveways blocked by the parents , guardians and teachers of the adjacent schools
- None of the pedestrian entrances to the park from Finsbury Park Estate, Weston Park and Upper Churchtown Road have any adjacent parking
- Provide a traffic management plan.
- Cycle parking (including for cargo bikes) needs to be provided.

9. Dogs

- All generations in the area use the space to exercise their dog
- Some children are afraid of dogs racing around the park off lead - Can we introduce a time where dogs can be off leads?
- Allow for dogs to run free as has been done for years.
- Dogs should be fenced in, not children

10. Other

- The main path floods near the Finsbury entrance
- There should be a playground nearer Churchtown village or at the other end near Badgers Glen
- Consider a skatepark

DLR Parks Response to Public Feedback (Workshops, online survey and email)

Park location

The DLR Play Policy (2023-2028) sets out a catchment area based on a 1km radius around each playground (for ages 0-12). We analysed the demographic need for play areas and undertook an extensive assessment of the existing play facilities within the County, to determine the coverage levels, and identify gaps in playground provision. This location has been identified as a gap in the provision of play facilities. This site has been selected as the most suitable location, as it will provide coverage to the greatest number of households. Furthermore, it is currently zoned as public open space in the County Development Plan, which is appropriate for the development being proposed.

The public consultations did highlight several local conditions and park uses which should be considered in the design. These include the use of the park for informal kickabouts, as a gathering area for children and parents after school, as an important infrastructure route for pedestrians and cyclists, and as a dog walking park for local residents. Local conditions such as the wet ground in the lower area of the park, sloped topography, mature vegetation, and the proximity of residents will also be taken into account.

Age Range

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

It is considered that children aged 12+ can generally undertake activities that challenge them at a more adult level. In the 12–18-year bracket, a catchment area of 3km is considered by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, to be a reasonable distance, to expect that a teenager could travel, to access suitable age range recreation facilities. A teen space was recently opened next to the Meadowbrook Leisure Centre. This is approximately 2km walk from the Finsbury Site. This is a 30-minute walk, or an 8-minute cycle, which is considered an acceptable distance for teenagers to travel. The Dlr Play Policy (2023-2028) sets out a catchment area based on a 1km radius around each playground (for ages 0-11). Census figures indicate that there are approximately 2,000 children living within a 1km of this site which is considered sufficient to warrant play facilities here.

Safety & Security

The open space is already actively used and there is existing lighting through the site. Increasing social activity, and maintenance visits by providing children's play should further reduce incidences of antisocial behaviour. The new proposals will be designed to be visible and to discourage anti-social behaviour.

General concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Local Policing Fora for Dundrum/Stillorgan. Members of the public can highlight issues to be reviewed at the Dundrum Local Police Fora meetings, by contacting the Community and Cultural Development Department of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at 01 205 4893. Immediate concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour should be reported to Dundrum Garda Station on 01 6665600.

It is currently not intended to install CCTV for the playground due to GDPR restrictions.

Following the feedback during the public consultation a fenced off area will be considered to prevent conflicts occurring between various park users.

Accessibility

As per the Play Policy, Dlr aim 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, such as physical, psychological, auditory, or sensory challenges. The public consultation process further highlighted a specific need for an accessible playground on this site, which would benefit several families in the area. Universal design, inclusivity and accessibility are considered critical to successful playground design and will be incorporated.

Types of Play, Equipment and Design

The public consultation process highlighted that traditional play and natural play were both strong preferences for the type of playground being proposed. There were many suggestions for specific items of play equipment such as climbing structures, monkey bars, painted games, accessible trampolines, climbing rope webs, imaginative play features, accessible slides, climbing rocks, spinners, swings (including baskets and toddlers), sand pits, zip lines, and diggers! There were also many suggestions for additional facilities such as a skills wall, goals, kick-about-area, exercise equipment, skateboarding, pump track, MUGA, tennis, basketball, and a box-up initiative.

We intend to provide as wide a range of amenities as possible within a local park setting. The desire to retain the existing kick about area has also been noted, and this will be incorporated into the design proposals.

Furniture and Facilities

The public consultation process highlighted a strong interest in the use of natural materials for the space which will be taken into consideration in the design.

There were also many requests for specific types of site furniture, such as seating, picnic benches, fencing/railings, bike and scooter parking, buggy parking, bins, lighting, multi-lingual signage, BBQ area, sunshade/shelter, notice boards, and water fountains. While we endeavour to provide as many facilities as possible these will be considered in the context of the scale and budget of a local playground project.

It is not intended to provide toilet facilities as part of this project. Public toilet facilities are available at Dundrum Library, which is approximately 200m from the proposed location.

Traffic/Parking/Active Travel

Dlr are encouraging a shift to more sustainable transport modes, which will require a strong focus on limiting the supply of destination parking. It is the policy of the Planning Authority to restrict car parking provision, especially for leisure type facilities. It is intended that this will be a small local playground for use by local families who are encouraged not to drive. It is not intended to create a destination playground or to increase vehicular traffic in the area. Cycle parking will be provided.

Dogs

The public consultation process has extensively highlighted the frequent use of the space by dog walkers and the design of the playground will include measures to accommodate this. 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. However, it must be recognised that there are significant concerns in this area in relation to safety, and dog fouling, when dogs are not effectively under the control of a responsible dog owner.

It is a requirement that dogs be kept under effective control at all times. All dogs must be accompanied at all times when in a public place. They must be on a lead or trained to heel and must remain next to the person walking the dog at all times. Dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs.

Nature and Biodiversity

We acknowledge that this site presents a wealth of natural play opportunities, and intend to retain, enhance, and expand on these. The design shall incorporate natural materials and shall blend with the surrounding environment.

This project is being developed in consultation with the Dlr Biodiversity Officer, who is assessing the proposals as they develop to minimise environmental impacts and maximise environmental enhancement opportunities. Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening shall also be undertaken to determine whether the project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites, in view of their conservation objectives.

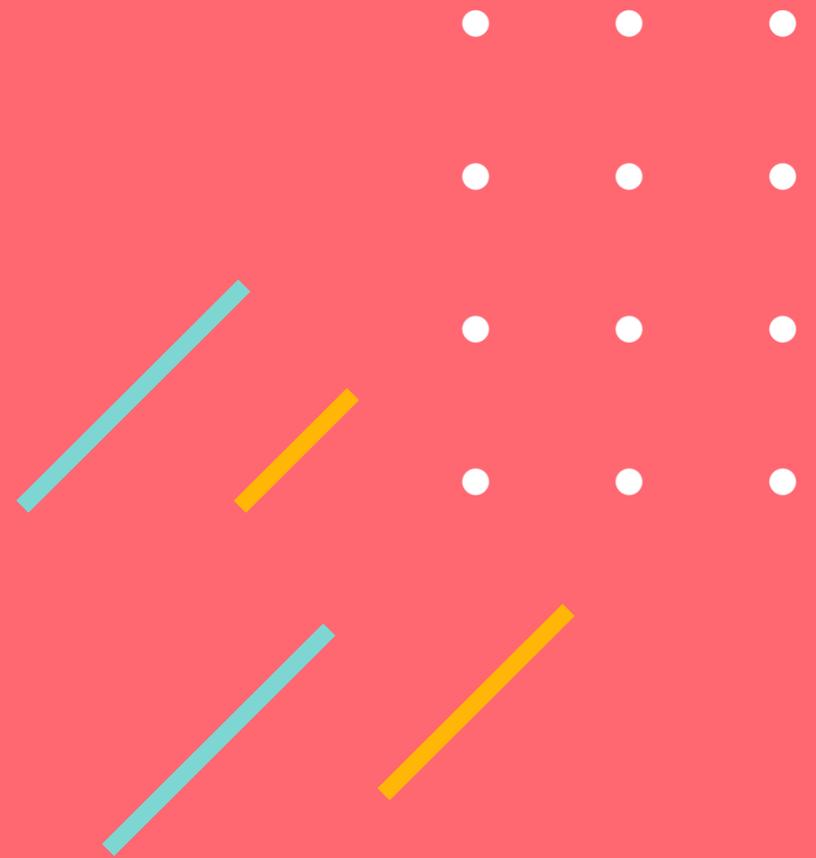
The desire for community engagement, and the development of a community garden, food planting and planted labyrinths has been noted. Community engagement is always welcomed. Any community groups interested in taking responsibility for a community area, such as this should contact parcsconsultations@dlrcoco.ie.

Sports activities

The desire to retain the existing kick about area has also been noted, and this will be incorporated into the design proposals, with possible enhancements to the area.

We will also consider the incorporation of other sports features, in the context of the scale and budget of a local playground project. Dlr recently installed two BoxUp 6-locker units at Kilbogget Park and Marlay Park. The success of these is currently being monitored, and additional locations will be considered based on this trial.

6. Recommendations



DLR Parks Recommendations

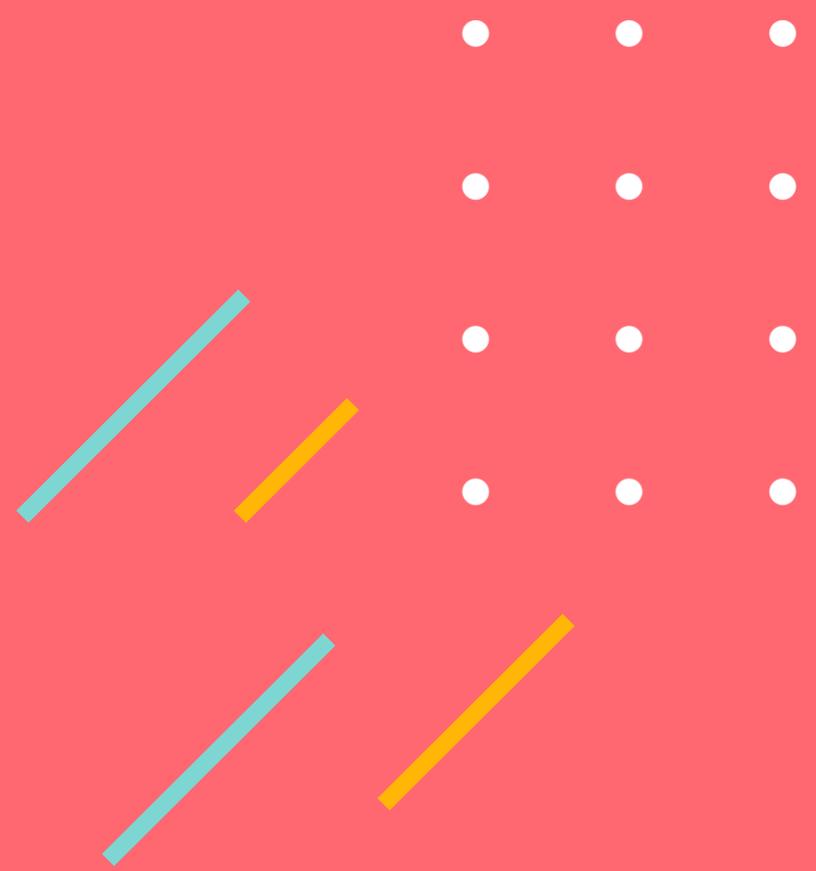
Based on positive feedback received during the public consultation, DLRCoCo recommends proceeding with the siting of a playground in Finsbury Park.

It is proposed to provide a new enclosed play space, including toddler play, for ages 0-5 and 6-11. Traditional play was the strong preference expressed in the public consultation for the type of playground being proposed, with natural play, as the preferred second option. The holistic enhancement of the space as a social hub, with seating, and intergenerational play opportunities was also requested frequently, as was the incorporation of activities (ball play, dog walking, and community events), which occur in the space where the playground is proposed.

The children consultation highlighted multiple types of play and equipment with a strong focus on adventure play, gymnastics, sports and play on wheels. These suggestions have been collated and will be put forward for consideration in the design. Additional paths will also be installed to create a universally accessible space, and new routes along existing desire lines in the park.

Appendices

- A. Online Survey
- B. School workshop drawings



(Online Survey)

Finsbury Park, Dundrum - Playground consultation

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council wishes to develop local playground facilities at Finsbury Park, Dundrum.

The proposed playgrounds will principally cater for local children of mixed age groups up to twelve with supervising adults. This is a pre-design stage consultation; the information provided will help the design to deliver a quality design with a higher play value for the local community.

We appreciate you taking the opportunity to be involved.

1. Where do you live?

- Finsbury Park
- Weston Park
- Sweetmount Avenue
- Churchtown Road
- The Oaks
- Glenbowe Park
- Victoria Terrace
- Old Rectory Park
- Taney Drive/Park
- Woodlawn park
- Beaumont Drive
- Fernbank
- Other (please specify)

3. Please indicate your age range:

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

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

- Yes, as a parent
- Yes, as a grandparent
- Yes - other relation
- Yes- other carer
- No (**go straight to Q7**)

5. How often are children in your care

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

6. Please indicate the age range of those children (Can tick multiple):

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

7. In order of preference (1=top preference, 5=lowest preference), what **types of play** would you like to see provided for in your neighborhood?

- o **Natural Play** – Unstructured play opportunities in the natural environment - inspired by nature, the local landscape features, plants and wildlife



- o **Traditional Playground** – Structured play area providing a variety of play equipment.



- o **Fitness-oriented** – such as exercise machines



- o **Fitness-oriented** - a kickabout area for ball games



- o **Intergenerational Play** – Provide a space that encourages activities between age ranges.



- o **Sensory Play** – including sound, touch, smell



- o **Toddler friendly play space**



8. Tick top three favourite types of playground equipment that you or your child would like to see in Kilcross

- o Swings / Basket swings
- o Slides
- o Climbing frame/monkey bars
- o Seesaw
- o Spinners
- o Sandpit
- o Zip line
- o Seating |

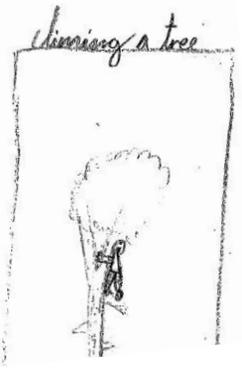
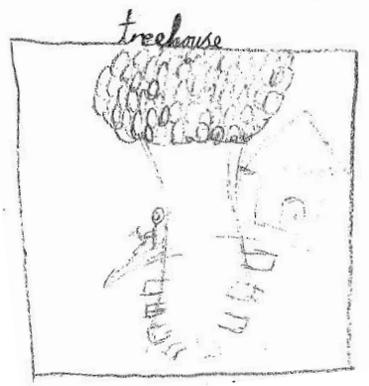
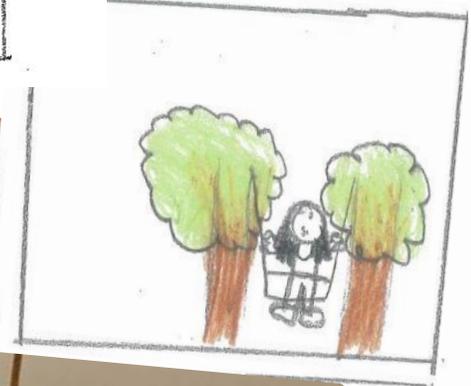
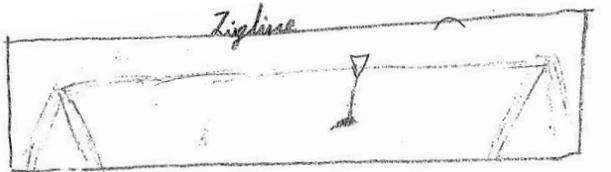
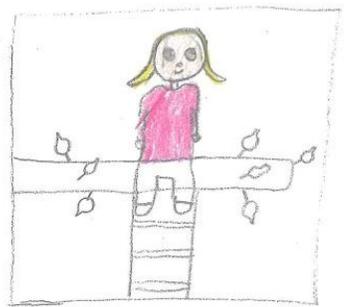
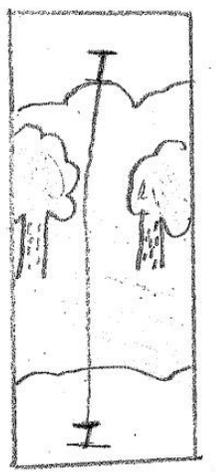
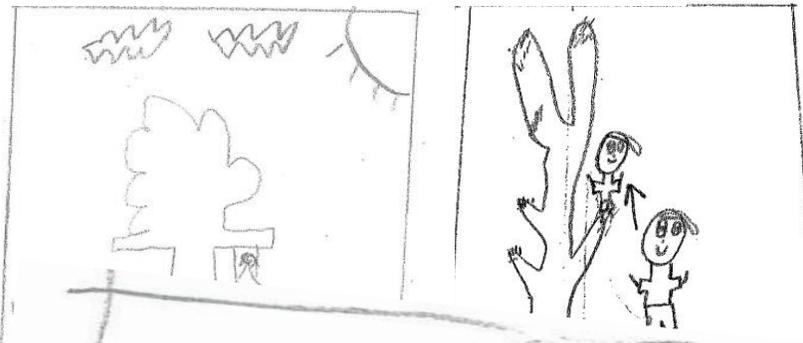
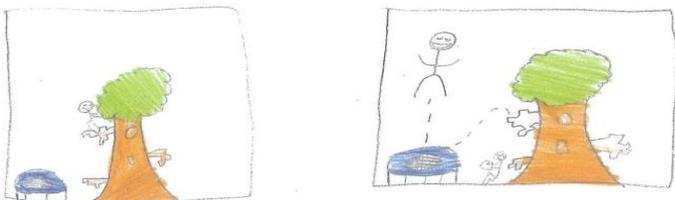
9. Do you have any further comments on the location and design of play facilities in Finsbury Park, Dundrum?

10. If you wish to receive further information as the project progresses, please provide your email address below:

Adventure/nature play

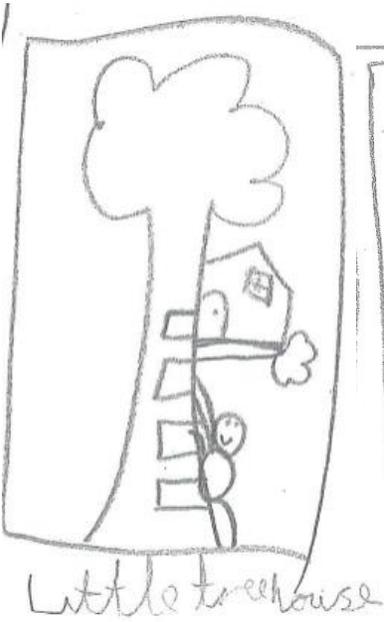
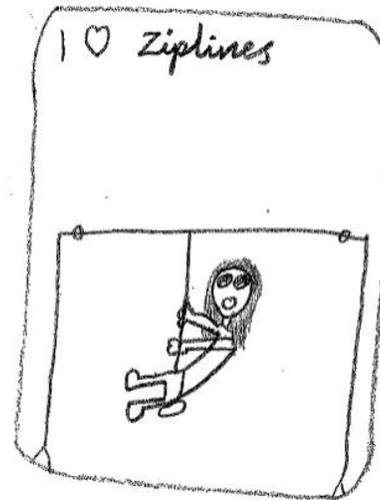
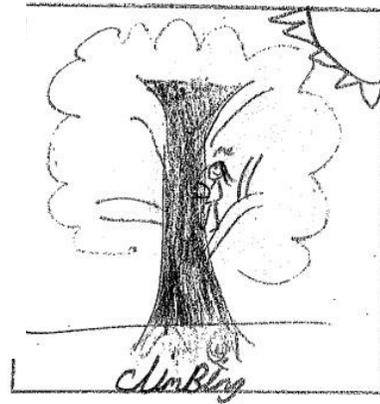
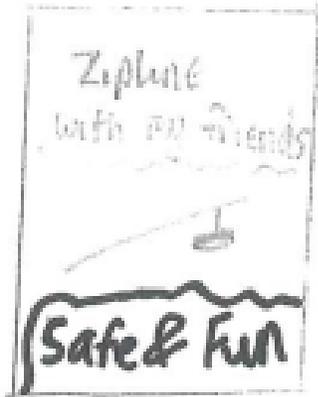
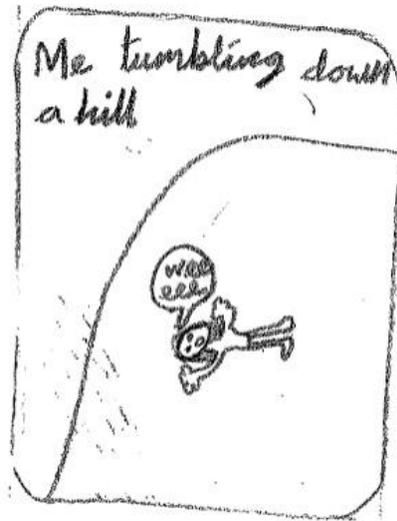
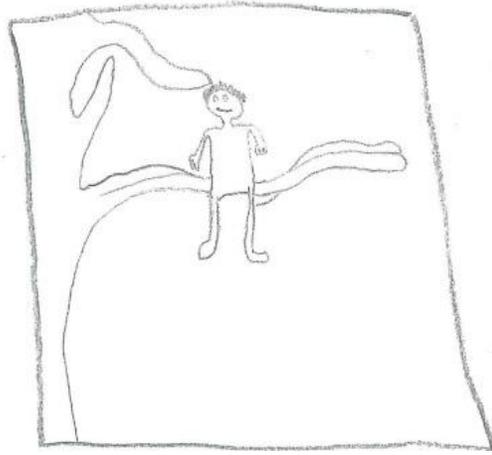
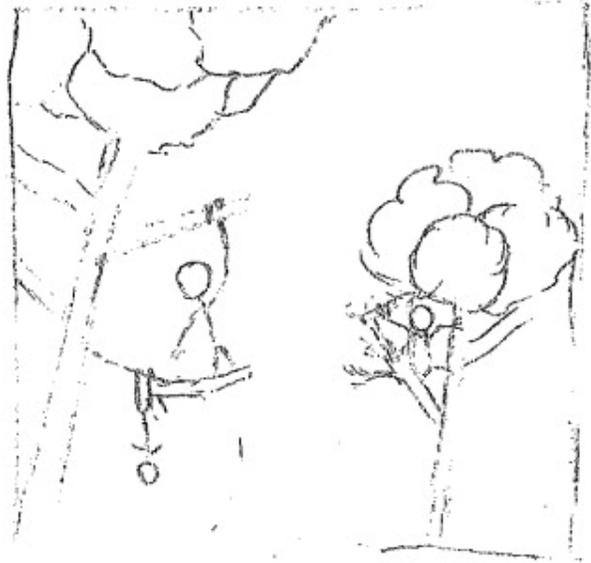
Sonny xx 7/12/2023

Tree Jump

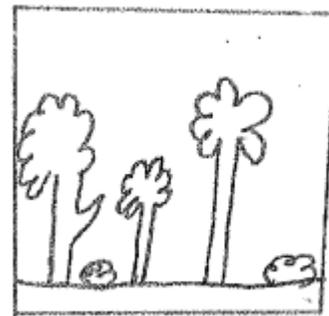


Play in the leaves

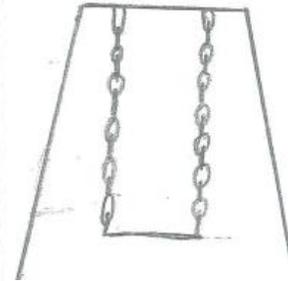
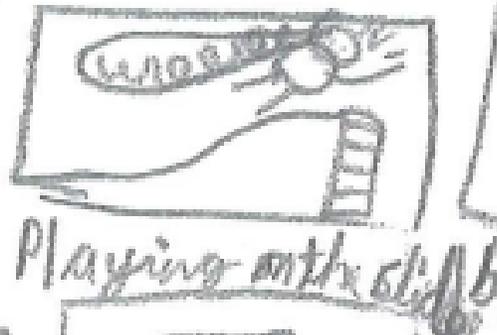
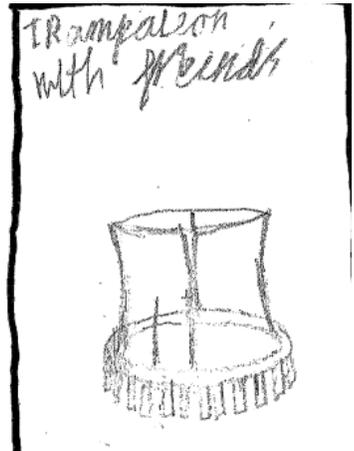
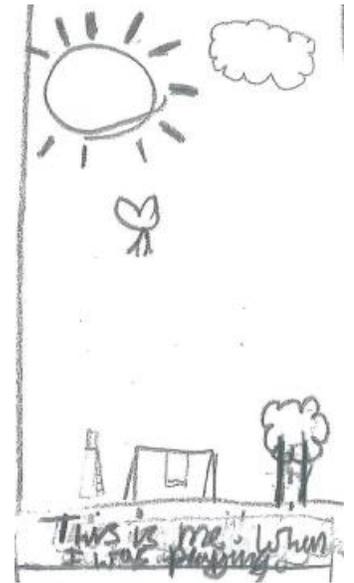
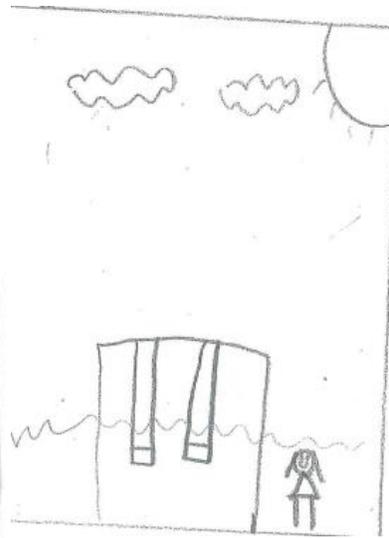
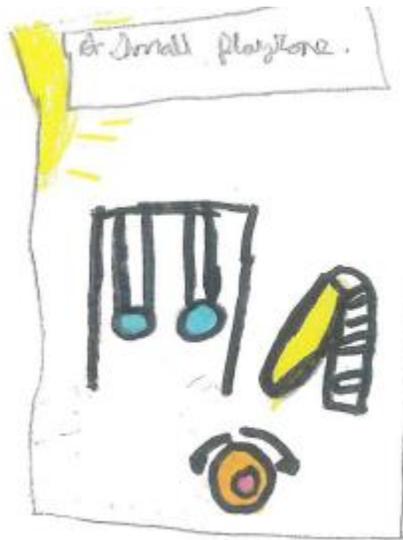
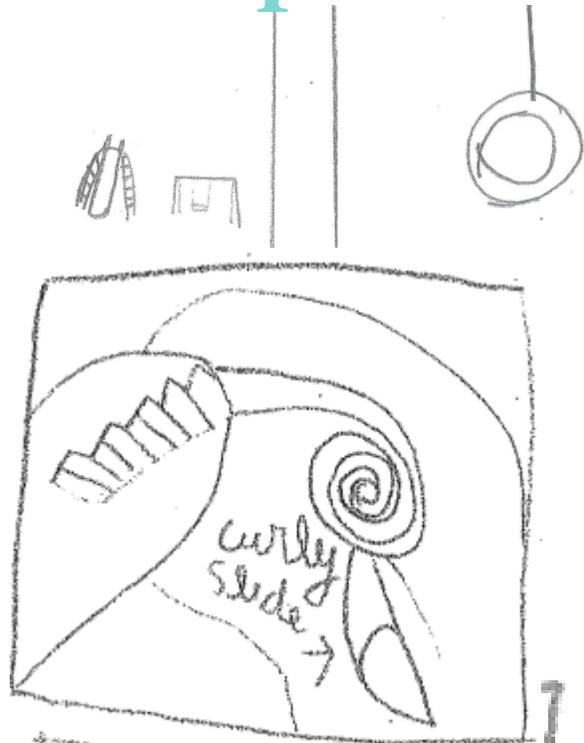




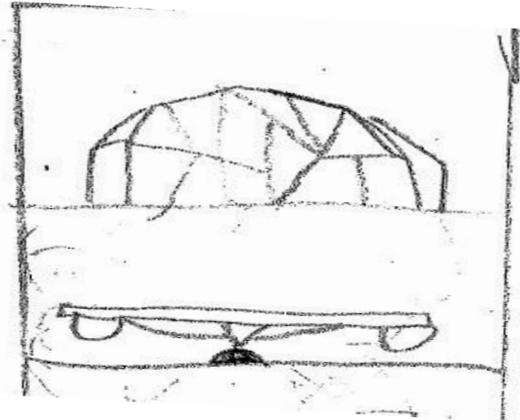
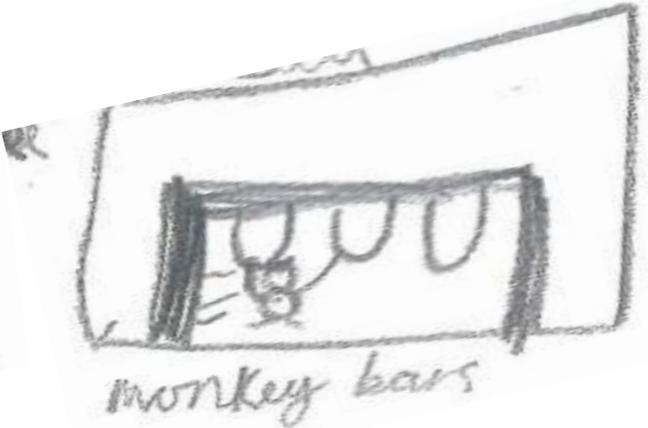
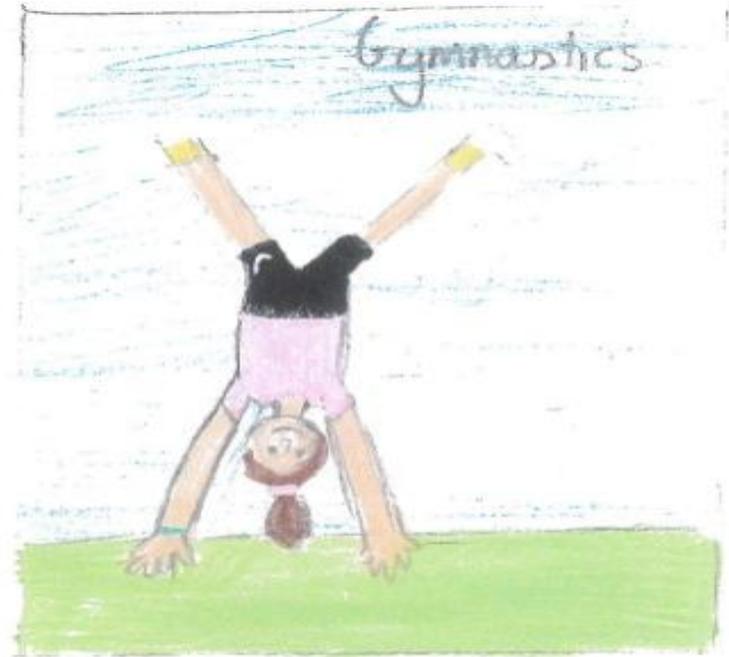
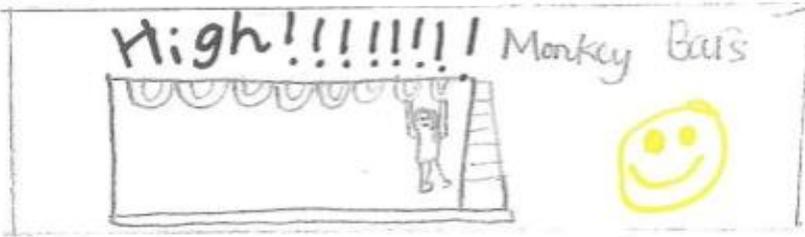
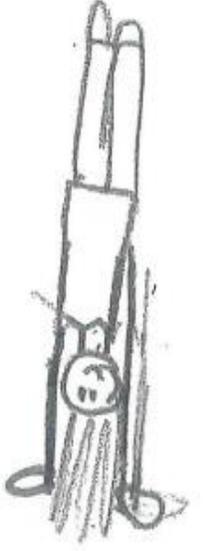
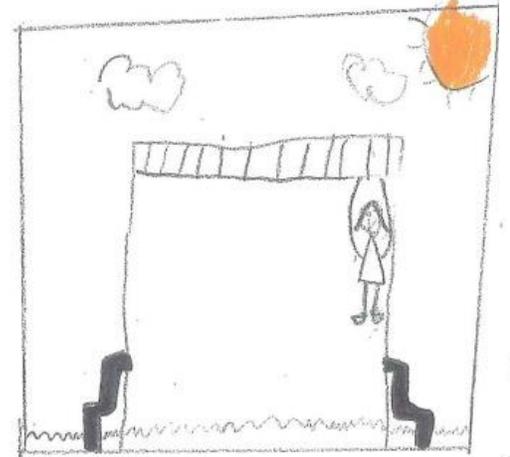
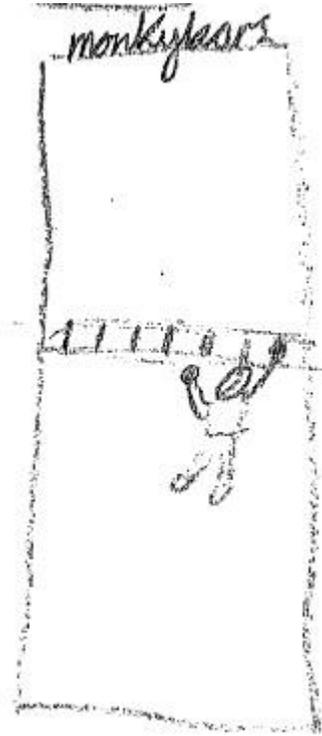
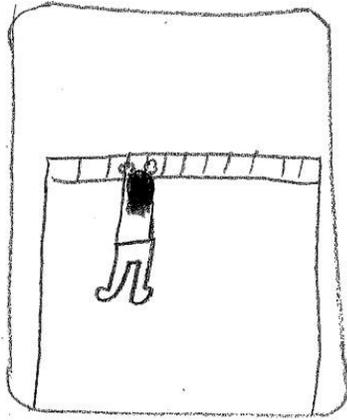
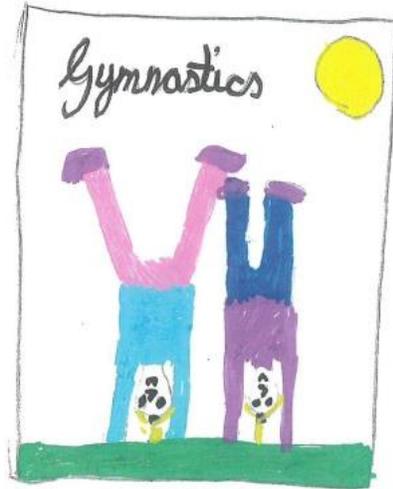
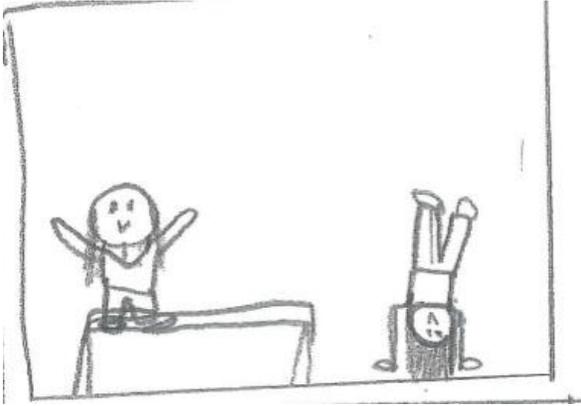
swinging in trees



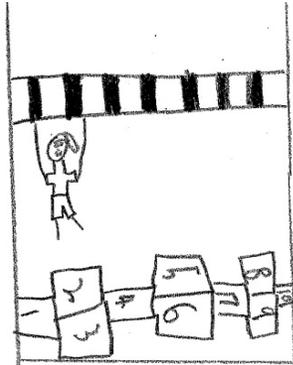
Swing, slides, trampolines..



Gymnastics/Exercise Equipment



Linear path of play/movement



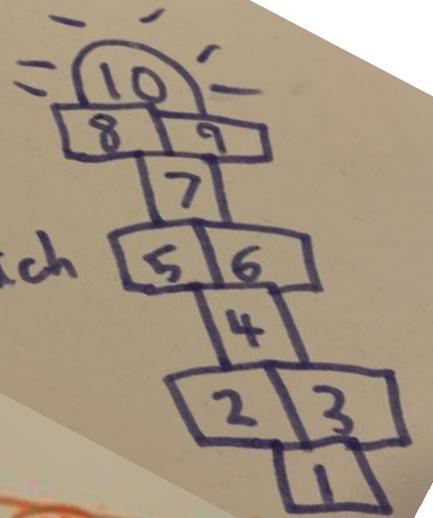
Cycling

Roller blade

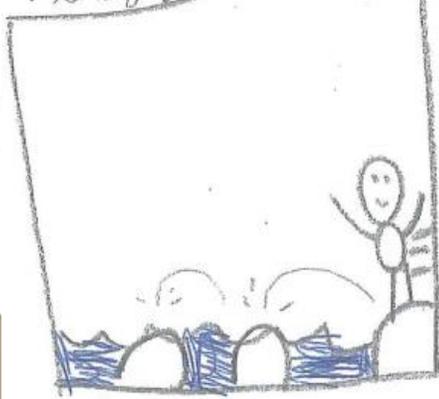


Smiley Path

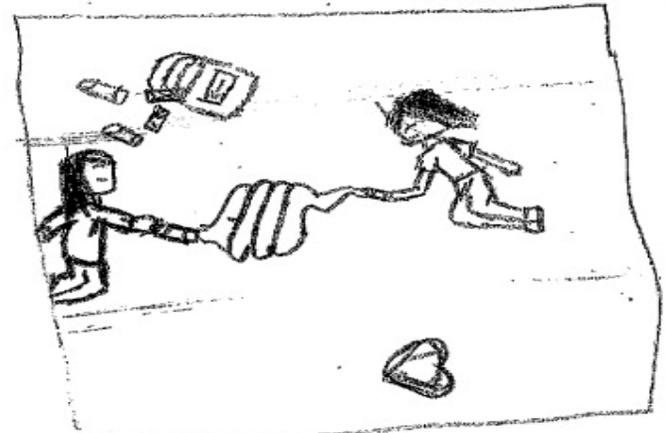
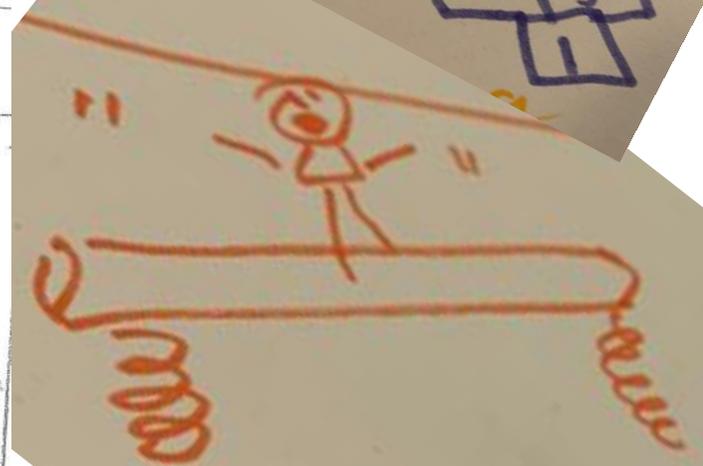
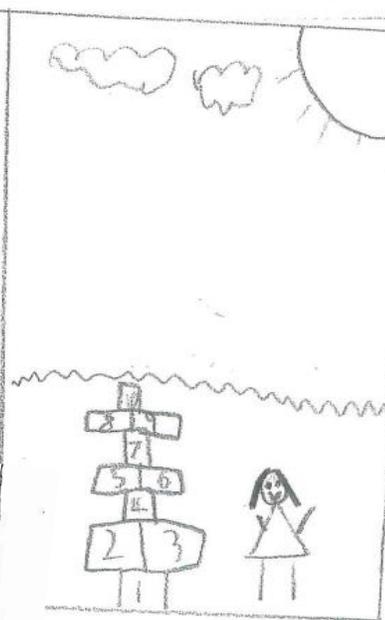
HOP
scotch



Path of Paintings



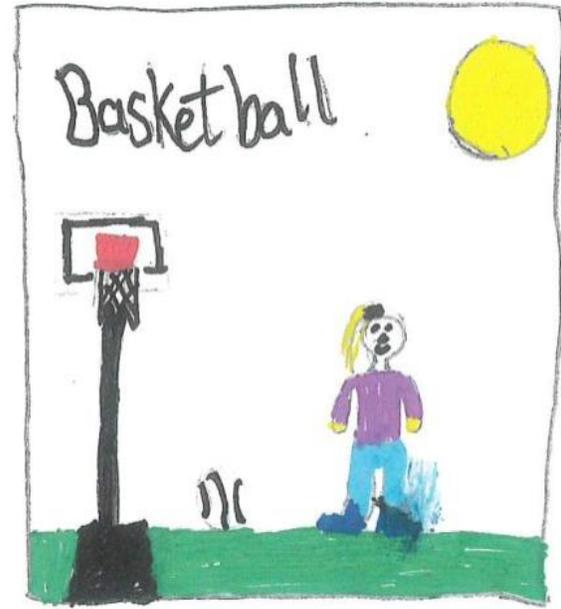
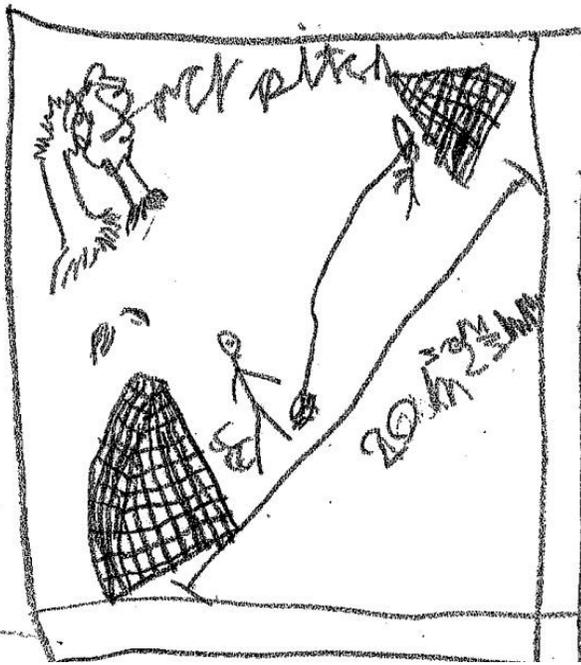
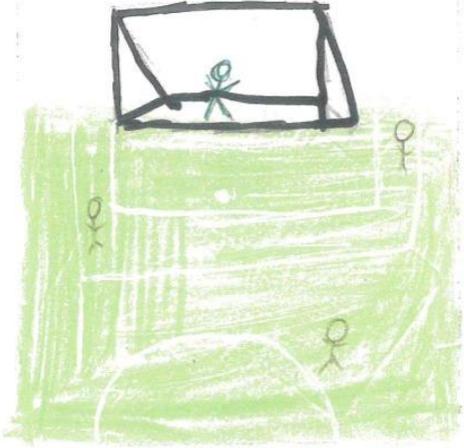
jumping



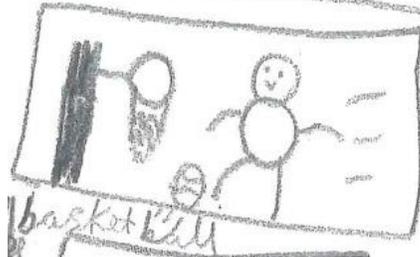
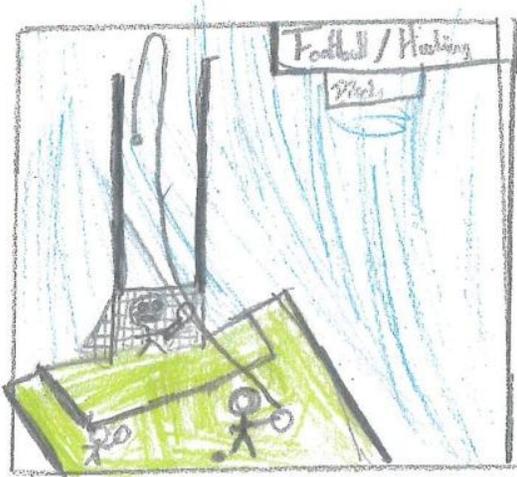
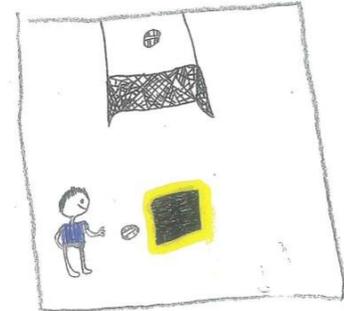
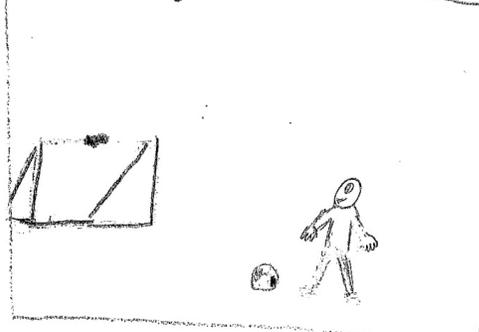
Chalk

Sports

Football



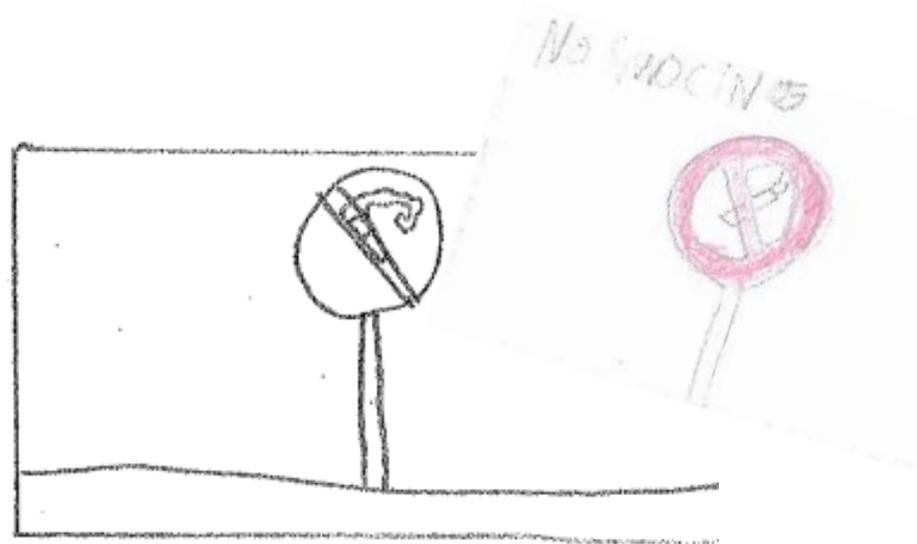
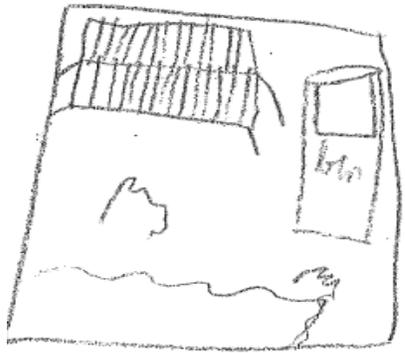
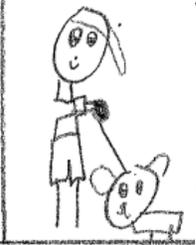
Football



Football with friends

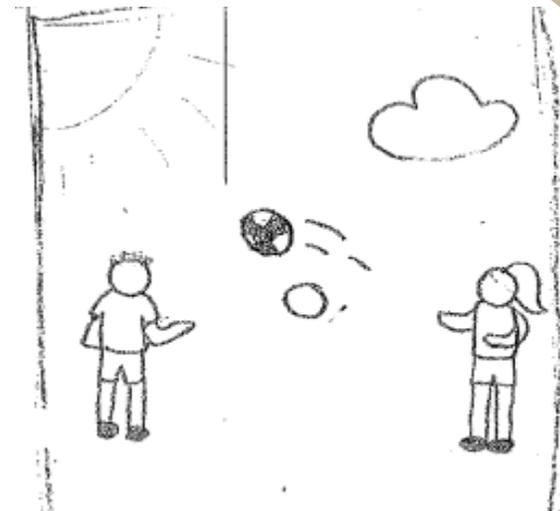
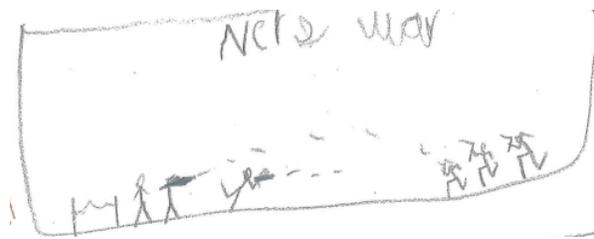
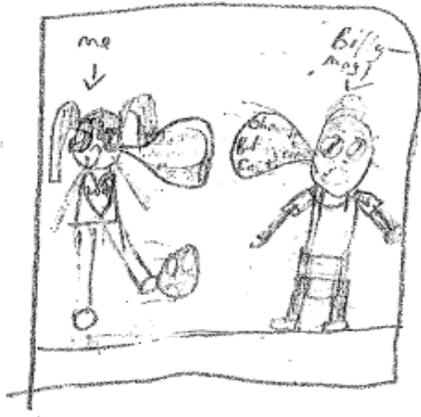
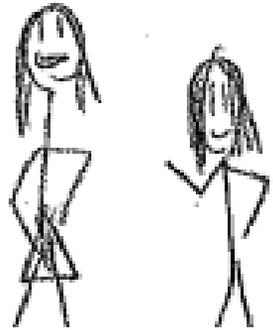


Facilities (dog park, public toilets, bins)



Gathering Place

talk



Benches/ sitting, Reading, Café/food-truck

