

# Loughlinstown Linear Park Play Spaces Project

## Children's Play Space Consultation – Have Your Say Results

This report outlines the main findings from the Have Your Say Survey conducted from 27 October to 16 December 2025 which aimed to gain insight into the views of residents regarding a new children's play space in the park.

The report has been prepared by Wessel Badenhorst of Urban Mode Ltd in January 2026.

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## A. Analysis methodology



The total number of respondents for this survey is 82. From interactions with residents, it became clear that there could be intergenerational differences in the perspectives on the proposed new Children's Play Space. These results are therefore divided up in four age cohorts namely:

1. Age Group 24 years and below
2. Age Group 25 to 44 years (Family formation cohort)
3. Age Group 45 to 64 years
4. Age Group 65 years and more

A profile for each group have been prepared from the answers to questions.

The data from the close-ended questions are presented as charts (Quantitative). The data from the open-ended questions are presented as a series of comments/perspectives (Qualitative). The comments of respondents that are clearly against the development are presented in red and the comments of those who are clearly in favour of the development are presented in green.

The data is anonymised and cannot be traced to any individual respondent.

## B. Summary

### Profile of Respondents

The Have Your Say questionnaire has been completed by 82 respondents. Most of the respondents (93.9%) live in Loughlinstown or close to Loughlinstown (e.g. Ballybrack). Two-thirds of the respondents are female (68.3%).

Half of the respondents ( 52.4%) visit the Loughlinstown Linear Park at least three times a week. Their preferred activities in the park are walking (79.2%), dog walking (29.3%), commuting to school/work (23.1%), and cycling/running (28.0%).

The age profile of respondents are presented in four categories namely:

Respondents aged 24 years and younger	7.3% of total respondents
Respondents aged 25 to 44 years old	47.6% of total respondents
Respondents aged 45 to 64 years old	36.6% of total respondents
Respondents aged 65 years and older	8.5% of total respondents

### Perspectives of respondents who are parents of children

The perspectives of respondents in the age cohort of 25 to 44 years old reflect the ideas and concerns of parents with children in the age target group for the proposed new Children's Play Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park, namely 5 to 12 years old.

All the respondents were in favour of a proposed Children's Play Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park. One respondent however suggested that the proposed location in the park should be reconsidered.

Four out of every five respondents (79.5%) anticipate that a proposed Children's Play Space will be used at least a few times a week by their children.

The preferred elements to be included in the play space are:

- Climbing equipment (66.7%)
- Swings (56.4%)
- Slides (56.4%)
- Hills, tunnels and dens (51.3%)

The least enthusiasm appears to be for running and chasing areas and a stage.

Their main concern is the risk of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that could distract from and diminish the play space as an amenity. The respondents propose that the design should include several safety aspects including more lighting, CCTV, fencing with gates, and use of robust non-flammable materials.

The play equipment and arrangement of features in the play space should make partial use of natural materials. Play spaces in Cabinteely Park and Kilbogget Park were referenced as good examples.

## **Perspectives from the other age cohorts**

The majority of respondents in the cohorts aged 24 years and younger and 45 to 64 years old were positive about the proposed development of a Children's Play Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park. However, in the older age group (65 years and older), the majority of respondents did not see the value of a new children's play space in the park, saying that there are already facilities at community centres and in other parks and that a play space in the park will be vandalised.

In total eight respondents across all age groups were not in favour of the development of the proposed play space.

The comments of the age group 45 to 64 years old aligned with the age group 25 to 44 years old. Similar to the 25 to 44 years age cohort, it is clear from their responses that they would like a high quality, interesting/creative and safe Children's Play Space. Also similar to 25 to 44 years age cohort, the elements in the play space most preferred are climbing equipment, swings and slides, but also features for imaginative play and adventure such as hills, dens and tunnels as well as old tree trunks.

Their main concern is that vandalism and anti-social behaviour will negatively impact on the proposed play space. Similar to 25 to 44 years age cohort, the respondents also felt that the design should include several safety aspects including more lighting, CCTV, fencing with gates, robust non-flammable materials and softer play surfaces.

## **Ideas for the proposed Children's Play Space**

Respondents made practical suggestions that should be considered in the design, construction and management of the proposed Children's Play Space. Here are some of the ones that caught the eye:

- The space should be kept tidy by a community group.
- Include sensory elements for children with disabilities such as shiny reflective objects and contrasting colours for visually impaired.
- Include an accessible swing like the ones in Kilbogget Park and Clonkeen Park.
- Shape the climbing area like a ship or a castle.
- The space should blend into the natural environment and use sturdy natural materials.
- Involve local children in planting ceremonies including a Christmas tree.
- Erect a board with information on plants, trees and insects in the park.
- Ensure that climbing equipment is also designed for smaller children.
- Consider a labyrinth made of soft soil mounds.
- Facilitate a clean play space with bins and notices to keep the space clean.
- Ensure that the play space can be locked up at night.
- A successful space would help parents get to know each other, and help each other.

## C. Results

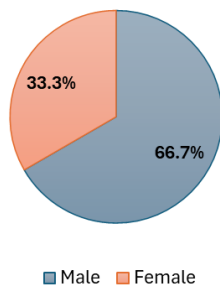
### 1. Age Group 24 years and below

#### a. Profile graphs

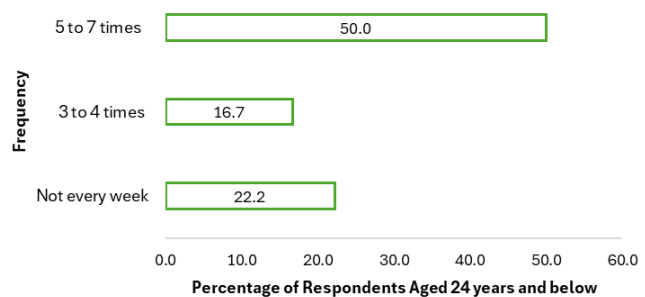
Number of respondents: 6

The following five graphs profile this age group re visiting and using Loughlinstown Linear Park:

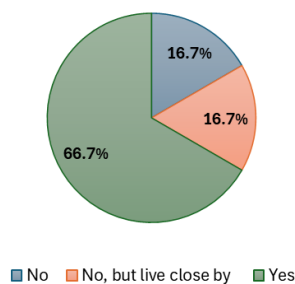
Gender of Age Group 24 and below (%)



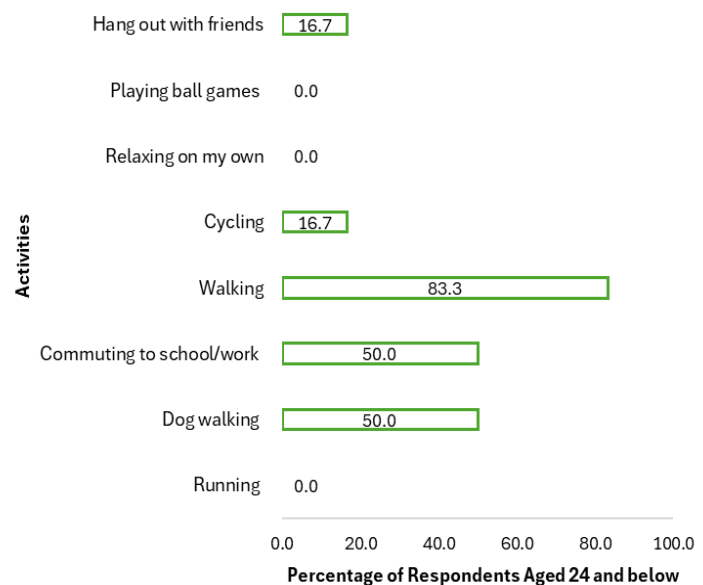
Visits to Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)



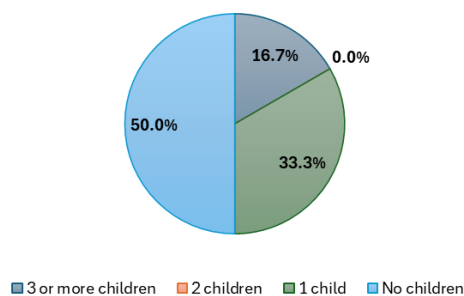
Aged 24 and below living in Loughlinstown (%)



Uses of Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)



Aged 24 and below no. of children in family (%)

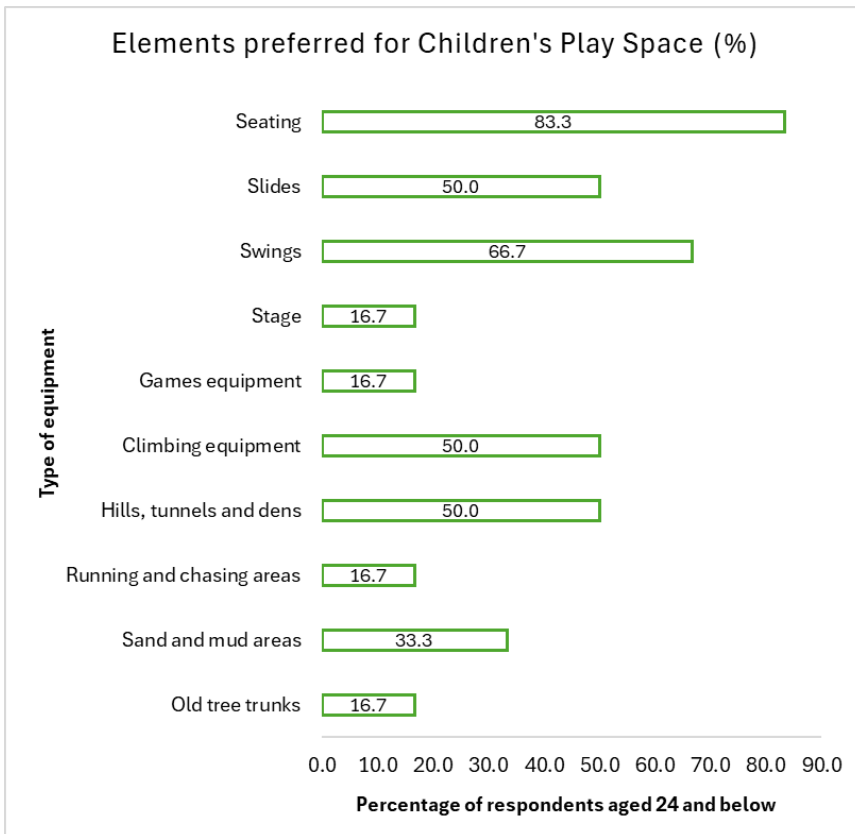
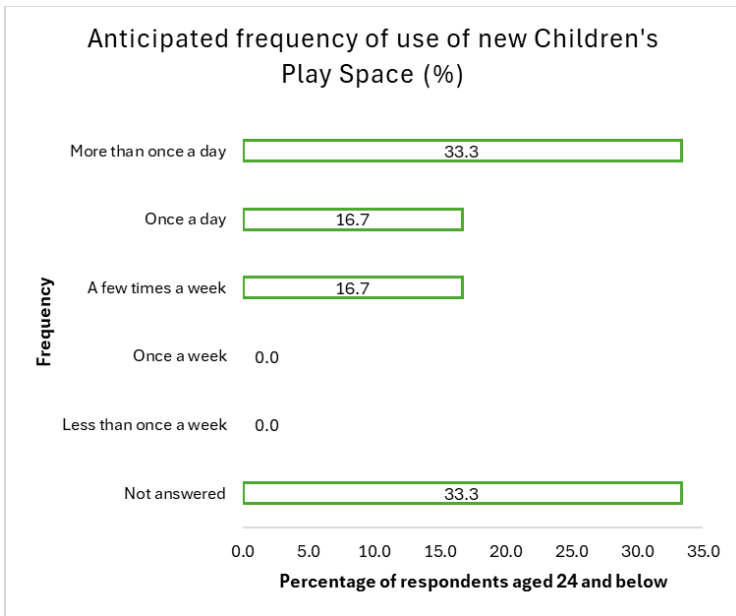


The majority of respondents (5 out of 6) live in or close to Loughlinstown. Four of the respondents are female. Three respondents have no children.

Only three respondents would visit the park nearly every day.

The main reason why most respondents visit the park is to walk. Three of the respondents also walk their dogs in the park and three respondents commute to school/work via the park.

The following two graphs indicate how respondents view the features and frequency of use of the proposed new Children’s Play Space:



Half of the respondents anticipate that a proposed new Children’s Play Space will be used at least once a day.

The majority of respondents preferred seating (5 out of 6) and swings (4 out of 6) to be included as elements of the proposed new Children’s Play Space. Half of the respondents also identified climbing equipment and hills, tunnels and dens as preferred elements for the proposed new Children’s Play Space.

### *b. Comments*

#### **Concerns expressed by respondents for safety of children and/or personal safety:**

- “The area can be lonely at night especially will need gates around it as many people let dogs off the lead in the area also all kinds of people use it as a cut through to get home.”
- “Be safe.”

#### **Ideas for a successful Children’s Play Space:**

- “A gated of area with swings and climbing area for children of all ages so baby swings/ children swings then a sitting area for parents to watch their child as the area isn’t 100% safe as it’s so public.”

### *c. Conclusion*

No respondent in the age group 24 years and below indicated that they did not want to see a new Children’s Space in the Loughlinstown Linear Park.

Respondents thought seating, swings, climbing equipment and hills, tunnels and dens will be appropriate elements of a new Children’s Play Space.

The biggest concern is the safety aspects of the proposed play space with suggestions that it should be fenced with gates to safeguard the space especially at night.

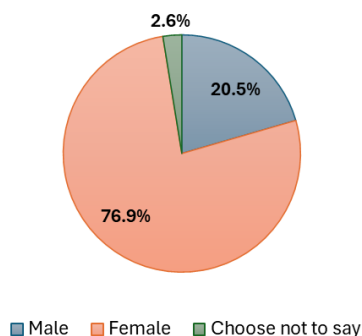
## 2. Age Group 25 to 44 years

### a. Profile graphs

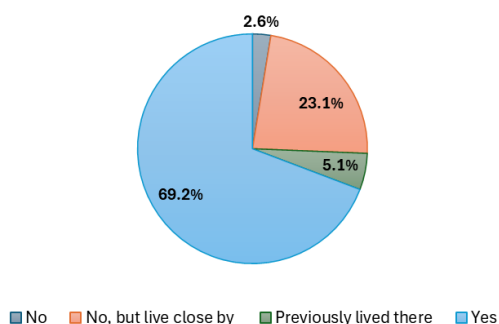
Number of respondents: 39

The following five graphs profile this age group re visiting and using Loughlinstown Linear Park:

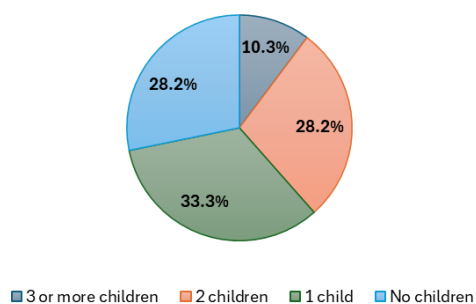
Gender of Age Group 25 to 44 years old (%)



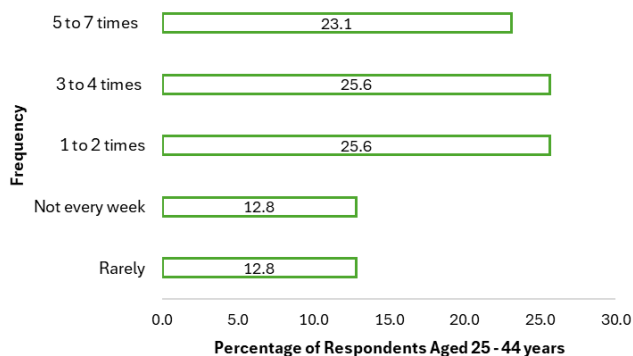
Aged 25 to 44 years living in Loughlinstown (%)



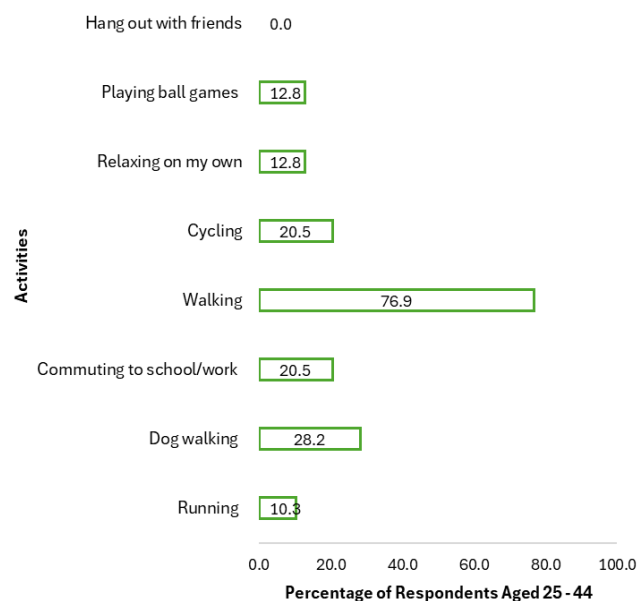
Aged 25 to 44 years no. of children in family (%)



Visits to Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)



Uses of Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)

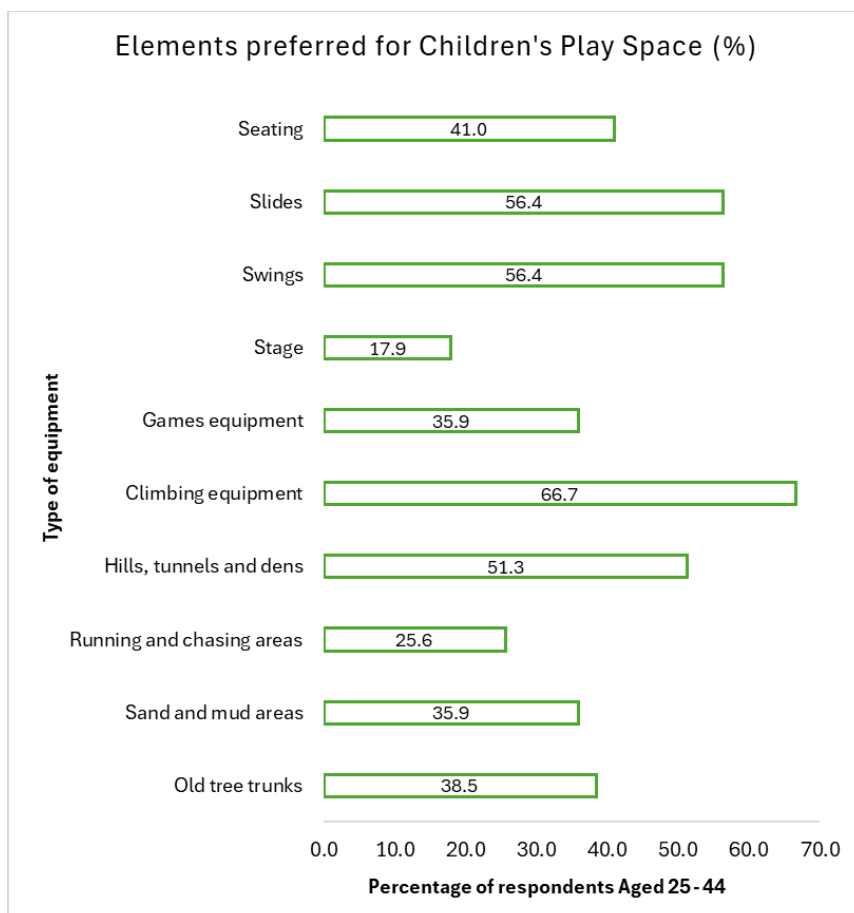
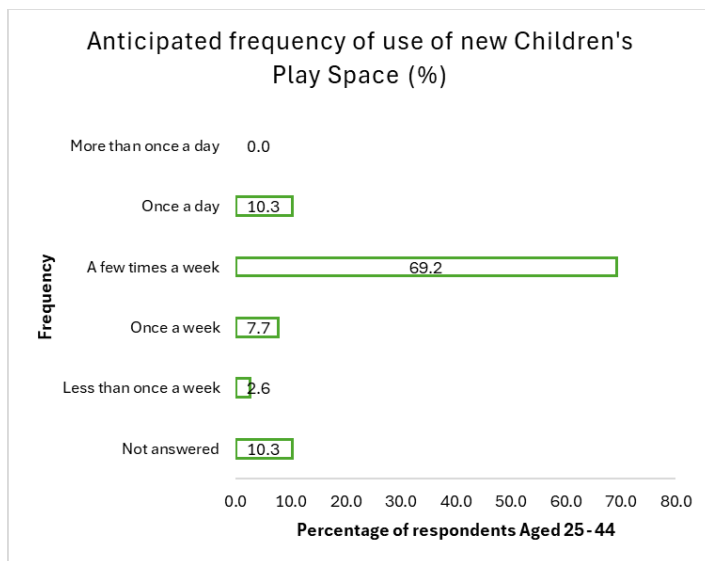


The majority of respondents (36 out of 39) live in or close to Loughlinstown. Three out of every four respondents are female. This could also be attributed to this age group typically being the family formation age cohort and that females have a strong interest in services and facilities for their children. More than half of respondents (24 out of 39) have one or two children.

About half of the respondents (19 out of 39) would visit the park at least three times a week.

The main reason why respondents visit the park is to walk (30 out of 39 respondents). Eleven respondents also use the park to walk their dogs. Eight respondents commute to school/work via the park while eight respondents also use the park to cycle recreationally.

The following two graphs indicate how respondents view the features and frequency of use of the proposed new Children’s Play Space:



More than two-thirds of respondents (27 out of 39) anticipate that a proposed new Children’s Play Space will be used a few times a week by their children.

More than half of respondents preferred climbing equipment (26 out of 39), swings (22 out of 39), slides (22 out of 39) and hills, tunnels and dens (20 out of 39) to be included as the main elements of the proposed new Children’s Play Space. The least enthusiasm appears to be for running and chasing areas and a stage.

## *b. Comments*

### **Concerns expressed by respondents for safety of children and/or personal safety:**

- “Anti-social behaviour in the area.”
- “Vandalism and litter in linear park is off-putting. My children are currently of an age where I would always be with them in playgrounds etc, so I am not currently concerned for safety, but some not unusual to see intimidating groups and I may be concerned in future years as they go out on their own in future.”
- “Unnecessary loitering of teenagers, hanging around using the space to engage in anti-social behaviour can make others feel unwelcome and pose a danger.”
- “Anti-social behaviour.”
- “Vandalism is an issue in the area. People regularly light bonfires and leave stuff that is dangerous for children.”
- “Concerned older teenagers will use it for drinking and drugs place, also they destroy the exercising place constantly across from my house always setting it on fire.”
- “It’s very close to the proposed teen space. Currently the teens that hang out there can undertake antisocial behaviour.”
- “People i.e. children or adults who have no respect for the environment vandalising the space that has been made for the children and using graffiti and polluting the area with rubbish or any anti-social behaviour that is illegal and immoral.”
- “Gangs hanging out making people feel uncomfortable and intimidating people.”
- “Play area being damaged or set in fire due to older kids or teens. Or kids being harmed. There for feel like it is a waste or a danger for our kids to play there. Places like this should be monitored.”
- “Vandalism is high in the area, scrambler bikes going through the park at all hours of the day.”
- “Enclosure for safety. Example slide in Fernhill coming out onto roundabout. Potential for child to be knocked over.”
- “Teens and preteens damaging the area.”
- “The river close by. Will need to have a fence around the playground to prevent children wandering to close to the river.”
- “The playground been used for young teens to hang around and it been burnt to the ground like the exercise equipment that still has not been replaced just a big eye sore on my walk with my baby.”
- “The area can be antisocial so 'tunnels/dens' may become an area for putting litter.”
- “The increasing number of XL Bully and Pit Bull type dogs in the area.”
- “The materials used under foot in the play space - that they be softer than concrete or regular tarmacadam.”
- “Things being set on fire (such as happened to the old tree by the river opposite Gleanntan in the Linear Park).”
- “Maintenance of the spot. It been damaged and vandalized. CCTV is needed to prevent this. Better lighting.”
- “My main concerns would be about damage through vandalism to the area and also the inappropriate use by teens or young adults if the facility.”
- “Only concern is the potential for the playground to be destroyed once it is put in. I think it's a brilliant initiative and will make the park safer as there will be more lighting and more activity.”
- “There's always fires being lit on the gym equipment in the same park resulting in sharp bits and unusable equipment.”
- “That it won’t be vandalised easily! The fitness equipment is always vandalised and set on fire. My son fell and cut his head on some glass at the fitness equipment from people drinking there so would be nice to have a safe area for young children.”

- “That the lark will be ruined and set on fire by all the little feckers who ruin everything around here. The park would need to be locked every evening or it won’t last any length. I can imagine broken glass or worse like drug related materials. Where the park is being located it is hidden from public view and will be a magnet for any social behaviour.”
- “Lack of up keep, no CCTV and no proper lighting of the area. Vandalism. The vulnerability of timber structures to fires.”
- “One of my main concerns is the repeated fire-setting in the park, especially since areas like the Sports equipment were burned in the past. I think we really need better ways to prevent this from happening again, such as installing CCTV or other monitoring systems. I’m also aware that the wooden materials in the natural play space can get slippery when wet, which may cause falls, so some basic surface protection and anti-slip measures would be helpful.”
- “I am concerned that the antisocial behaviour by groups of young people living in the area will quickly cause the play area to be damaged beyond repair - in the same way as the gym equipment by the bridge next to Achill Rd. Fires are continuously set and I don't see what steps are being taken to prevent this, or why the council has reason to believe the same fate does not await any new construction.”
- “Potential for the natural play elements to naturally degrade and breakdown or the potential for vandalism of such elements.”

#### **Ideas for a successful Children’s Play Space:**

- “Clean, well-maintained. The idea of locating separate children and teen areas nearby is good and hopefully will avoid teens taking over play area.”
- “Where it is respected by all, not vandalised and where the children feel safe to play there.”
- “A large accessible area that’s checked regularly to ensure it’s safe for kids to use.”
- “It's a lovely spot for a natural play area. I look forward to us using it.”
- “CCTV in place.”
- “A play space along our daily walk that is free from antisocial behaviour.”
- “Clean space that is tidy and respected by people. Space that is not polluted with rubbish or space that is manned and controlled by the community reducing the likelihood of any gangland crimes being committed.”
- “A wide space made from suitable material that takes into account Irish weather and the rain. Not the wood chip. Covered or sheltered bits for if it's raining. Some imagination stations like a play shop.”
- “Somewhere big, fun and stuff the kids can use.”
- “Where children have ample opportunity to hide and climb and chase their friends with a variety and wide range of equipment to enhance their play.”
- “A place kids don't get bored of. A variety of activities for children of all abilities. A place adults feel their children are safe.”
- “Beautiful open with lots of kids running around safely.”
- Climbing areas that are shaped like castles or ships. Balance / obstacle courses.
- “I think a successful play space would have areas dedicated to different age groups. The materials would be well chosen, including partial use of natural materials. Areas for younger children would be safe, while there would be challenges for older kids such as a large climbing frame and cableway. I think DLR County Council have done a fantastic job in Cabinteely Park.”
- “Lots of Climbing activities.”
- “Sensory for disabled Children, such ideas.. reflective/shiny also black and white/contrast objects for visually impaired. Different smells, natural wood and plants also great for this.”
- “Music/sounds.”

- “Accessible Swing for all like the new swing in Kilbogget and the new Clonkeen Park please.”
- “Good maintenance and security.”
- “A large play area with varied elements that is widely used.”
- “Something that is safe enough for kids but also lets them run free and gets them out of their comfort zone a little. There are no amenities for kids here and the houses and gardens are small. Kids need a natural environment to thrive and it would be so cool to see jumping and climbing and activity facilities there like digging, building etc if possible.”
- “One that blends into the landscape.”
- “Hi! As indicated earlier, I don't have kids to use this space. I'm however concerned about the use of the indicated space for the park. The current plans suggest it would be located very close to the teens park area, taking another large chunk from an area of the park already marked fire redevelopment. To spread out the use of the space in the park, why cannot this or the teens facility be located on the other side of the stream? Current plans crowd out one side of the park, leaving the other barren. No justification for this set up is provided. Consider relocating to other side.”
- “Safe, Fun, Clean area. Preferably fenced in so there can be no dog foul around the equipment. Loughlinstown Park is unfortunately used as one big toilet for peoples dogs. My kids have ended up with dog foul on their shoes and bike wheels constantly so it would be nice to have the play area free from that!”
- “Somewhere that is kept clean with lots of beautiful flowers and plants. All playground equipment made of natural woods. But it would need to be locked every night.”
- “Somewhere for sensory area , herbs and flowers , Planting ceremony so youths can get involved and want to look after the area , Learning stations about different animals and nature around them , A Celebratory Tree like Christmas, memorial for community events and celebrations , a little Maze.”
- “A successful natural play space should feel safe, inviting, and easy for children to explore. It should use sturdy, well-maintained natural materials and have simple features that help prevent accidents, like anti-slip surfaces. The space should also be protected from vandalism, with measures such as better monitoring or CCTV if needed. Most importantly, it should encourage creativity, free play, and outdoor learning, giving children a place where they can enjoy nature with confidence.”
- “We enjoy spaces that are challenging. Tree climbing, building forts, identifying plants and insects. We would like to see a board with the names of plants, trees, and insects we can discover in the area.”
- “A space that is open and accessible to all children and a space that encourages them to be imaginative and creative in their play. The space should also be well-maintained so that any elements of litter or vandalism are swiftly dealt with.”

### *c. Conclusion*

None of the respondents were explicitly against the proposed development of a Children’s Play Space. One respondent had a problem with the intended location and wanted the space to be located on the southern side of the river (where the water attenuation project will happen).

On the contrary, in this age group there is a lot of enthusiasm for the proposed Children’s Play Space as captured in the quote from this female respondent (aged 35 to 44): “It’s a lovely spot for a natural play area. I look forward to us using it.”

In this age cohort, which can be categorised as the family formation stage, it is no surprise that most of the respondents were female (76.9%). From their responses it is clear that they would like a high quality, interesting/creative and safe Children’s Play Space. The elements in the play space most preferred are

climbing equipment, swings and slides, but also features for imaginative play and adventure such as hills, dens and tunnels.

Their main concern is the risk of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that could distract from and diminish the play space as an amenity. The respondents also felt that the design should include several safety aspects including more lighting, CCTV, fencing with gates, robust non-flammable materials and the quality of the play surface (i.e. not concrete or asphalt). They also felt that some sheltered areas should be included to protect children from the weather conditions. The following quote from one of the female respondents (aged 35 to 44) captures their thinking: “My only concern is the potential for the playground to be destroyed once it is put in. I think it's a brilliant initiative and will make the park safer as there will be more lighting and more activity.”

Some of the practical ideas suggested for further consideration include:

- The space should be kept tidy by a community group.
- The play equipment and arrangement of features in the play space should make partial use of natural materials.
- A place where children won't get bored.
- Play spaces in Cabinteely Park and Kilbogget Park were referenced as good examples.
- Include sensory elements for children with disabilities such as shiny reflective objects and contrast between black and white for visually impaired.
- An accessible swing like the ones in Kilbogget Park and Clonkeen Park.
- Shape the climbing area like a ship or a castle.
- The space should blend into the natural environment.
- Use sturdy, well-maintained natural materials.
- Have simple features that help prevent accidents, like anti-slip surfaces.
- Involve local children in planting ceremonies.
- Include a sensory area with herbs and flowers.
- Plant a Christmas tree.
- Erect a board with information on plants, trees and insects in the park.

In conclusion, this age group wants the design of the proposed Children's Play Space to be ambitious with careful consideration of the safety aspects.

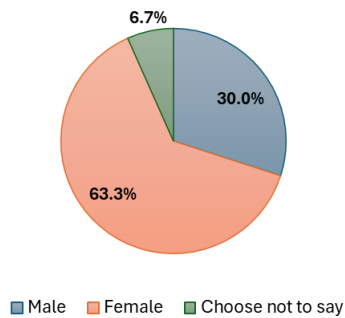
## 2. Age Group 45 to 64 years

### a. Profile graphs

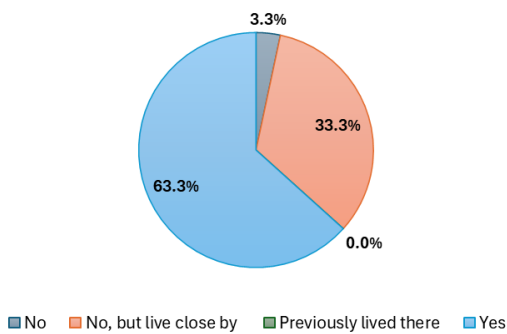
Number of respondents: 30

The following five graphs profile this age group re visiting and using Loughlinstown Linear Park:

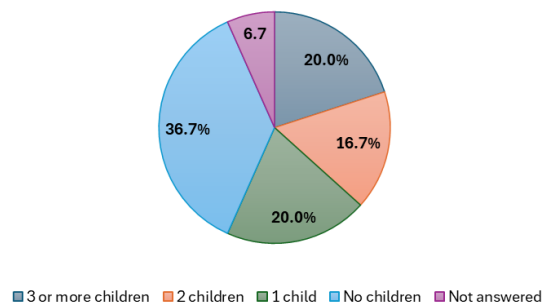
Gender of Age Group 45 to 64 years old (%)



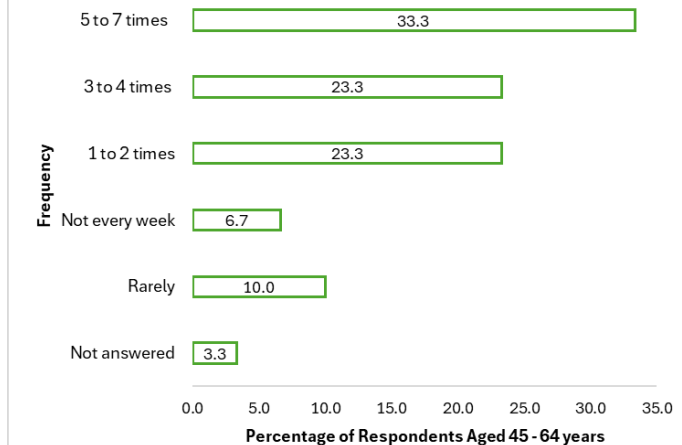
Aged 45 to 64 years living in Loughlinstown (%)



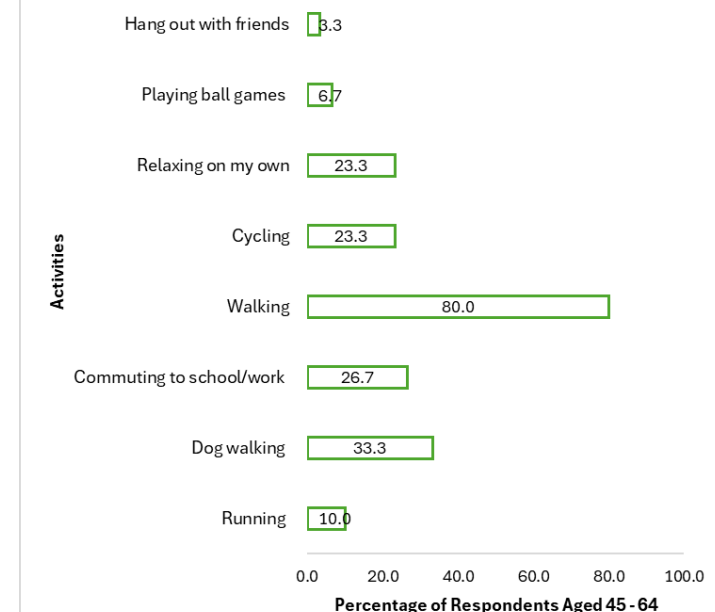
Aged 45 to 64 years no. of children in family (%)



Visits to Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)



Uses of Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)

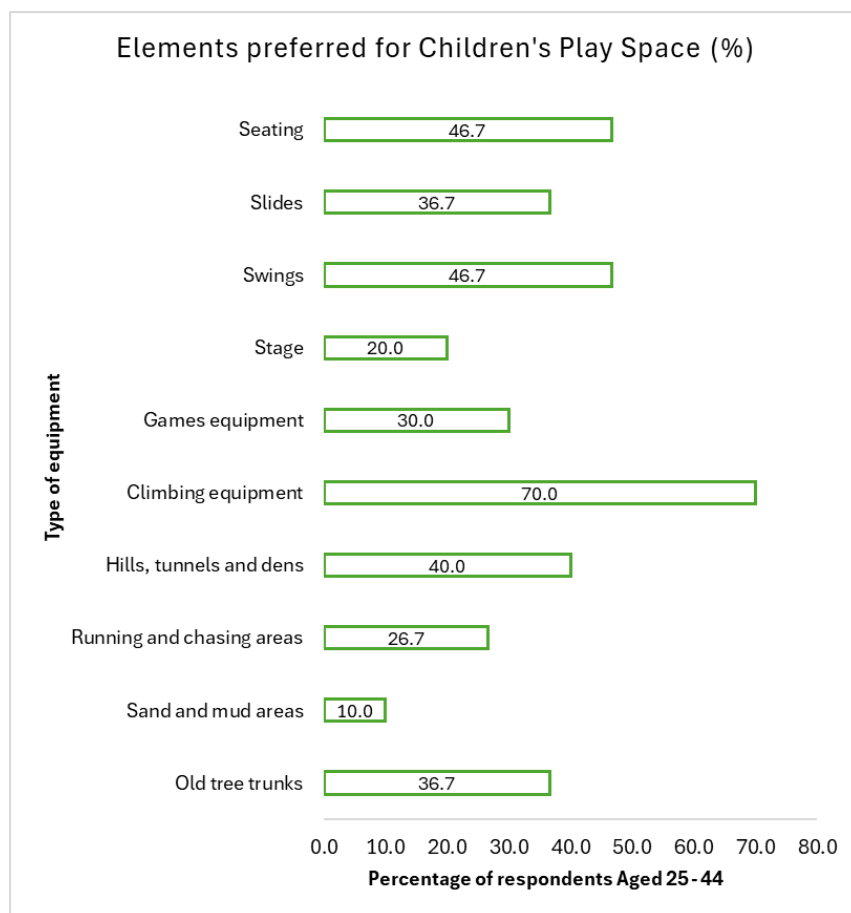
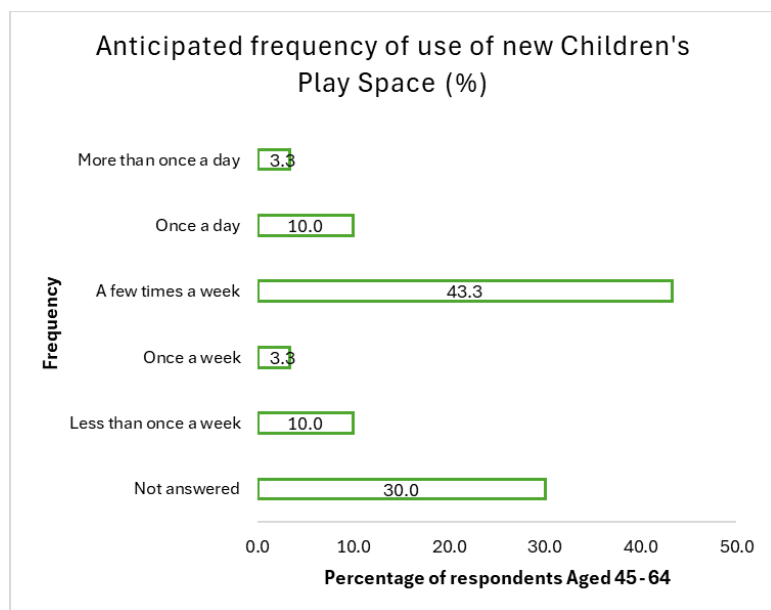


The majority of respondents (29 out of 30) live in or close to Loughlinstown. 19 of the respondents are female. The majority of respondents (17 out of 30) would visit the park at least three times a week.

The main reason why respondents visit the park is to walk (24 out of 30 respondents). One out of every three respondents (10 out of 30) also use the park to walk their dogs.

More than half of respondents (17 out of 30) have one child or no children.

The following two graphs indicate how respondents view the features and frequency of use of the proposed new Children’s Play Space:



Half of respondents (16 out of 30) anticipate that a proposed new Children’s Play Space will be used at least a few times a week by children.

More than two-thirds of respondents preferred climbing equipment (21 out of 30), while more than a third of respondents preferred swings (14 out of 30), slides (11 out of 30), hills, tunnels and dens (12 out of 30) and old tree trunks (11 out of 30) to be included as the main elements of the proposed new Children’s Play Space. The least enthusiasm appears to be for sand and mud areas and a stage.

## *b. Comments*

### **Concerns expressed by respondents for safety of children and/or personal safety:**

- “Preventing it getting vandalised.”
- “I think it’s a waste of money although a lovely idea. Kids will just wrecked it, set alight..... guaranteed!”
- “Local children setting it on fire.”
- “Bad behaviours. Hiding behind equipment, trees, bushes.”
- “Bin/rubbish area concern.”
- “Too many older children from all different areas hanging around a bike ramp and a running track. No chairs or benches and a lot of cameras would be great thanks. Nothing made of wood -too many fire starters around.”
- “Anti-social behaviour.”
- “No concerns of safety. Just worried that any playground will be vandalised. Would like the design of the play spaces to be fire proof and vandal proof.”
- “The surfaces not smooth and uneven footing.”
- “Anti-social activity that takes place between the linear park and Coolevin (Kilbogget).”
- “The park is already subject to regular fires and vandalism, with the existing exercise equipment burned down, bins set on fire and more worryingly, mature trees being destroyed. As such a concern would be damage to the play space rendering it unusable and unsafe.
- A minority of parents allow their children to operate dirt motorbikes in the park, making it unsafe at times for younger children. Dumping, dog fouling, litter and broken glass are also a constant issue for users of the park, particularly those with young children.”
- “It’s not a safe park to walk through on your own. A lot of masked individuals on scooters going around the park. The exercise equipment installed by DLR was vandalised after a few weeks and eventually they set fire to all of it. Disgraceful behaviour. Animals are not even safe. In my opinion you are encouraging a bad element into the park. Young children may not be safe. I think you should have a public meeting to discuss before you waste any more money.”
- “The play area been used anti-socially, been burnt like the exercise area which my grandchildren miss even though they are young , ages 4,6,7,9, 10, and 12 they liked the exercise area we still go there most days sometimes intimidating teens are there which is off putting.”
- “Soft ground for when kids fall.”
- “If a play area is not for a young age then it should not accessible I.e. they should not be able to reach the height for example of a climbing frame that is for older kids.”
- “E-scooters.”
- “Hooded youths hanging out in the park and burning things, smashing bottles, anti-social behaviour. They already burned the previous exercise machines. Park needs to be patrolled by Gardaí.”
- “I would like to know who came up with this idea to put a "Play Space" into the ONLY green area in the locality. I bet they don't even live here. This area was a dense forest in 1977 and over the years the trees were cut away or burned down by vandals until it was left with a handful of trees. This area is where people, old and young alike go for walks, walk their dogs, ride their bikes and feel safe. Not anymore if this idea is put into place. Who is going to monitor this and ensure it's not vandalised and turned into an antisocial space. I totally object to it as do other residents here.”
- “Rude graffiti, broken glass, vandalism.”
- “Kids often abuse swing made for people with disabilities in a way that can be dangerous. Spinner (tourniquet) often cause injury.”
- “CCTV prevent adult strangers from approaching kids.”

- “Visibility and supervision are key. The play space should be easy for parents and carers to oversee, with clear sightlines across play areas and no hidden corners or dense planting that could obscure visibility or create blind spots. Natural play elements such as rocks, logs, water features or changes in level should be designed to allow appropriate challenge while minimising the risk of serious injury, particularly for younger children safe distances from cycling routes, watercourses, steep slopes, or vehicular access points, with clear boundaries.”
- “Poor lighting and no CCTV.”
- “That it not be burnable.”

#### **Ideas for a successful Children’s Play Space:**

- “Incorporates into the natural landscape, access for all ages and ability, quality materials, can be used in different weathers, lots of school kids walk through here on their way to school so maybe some educational element or link in with local schools, maybe an outdoor classroom.”
- “Somewhere that can be locked at night.”
- “Sand.”
- “Wooden benches.”
- “Ropes.”
- “Totally open nothing were you can gather and shelter and well lite could be great but needs to be open and friendly.”
- “A place with soft ground, and well maintained installations. Multiple seats so I can watch from a distance and let my daughter explore with autonomy.”
- Labyrinths made of soils mounds or , spaces made of fire proof materials. Some planting that can't be vandalised. Tree trunks play areas. Areas that will not invite a rubbish dumping. Different type of textured paths. Climbing frames.”
- “Mud kitchen, slides. Benches.”
- “No hidden spaces that can create antisocial behaviour.”
- “I think that adequate security fencing and gates to secure the area at night time will be needed to prevent any vandalism and loitering.”
- “That the materials used are sustainable, it blends in with the existing landscape, no extensive excavation and no existing trees are felled to accommodate it. There should be a fenced for younger children but otherwise an open space would be good. There are places to rest. That it can incorporate environmental and nature education and be used by local schools for learning. That it is regularly maintained, and litter can be disposed of and removed. That it is at least partially accessible for a variety of needs, and have sensory planting. This section filled in with child (8).”
- “Anywhere but Loughlinstown Park. Or an enclosed space which is supervised on a daily basis.”
- “A safe climbing area boys love to climb grannies don't like them going to high my grandson broke his arm off the fisherman in Shangana Park that's not even high, but boys will be boys they love chasing going through tunnels ,spinning , once it's safe we'll be happy.”
- “Easy to navigate. Suitable for a wider age group of kids e.g. not just small kids.”
- “Toilets in vicinity.”
- “Bike path/cycle path to access.”
- “Happy laughing children safe and relaxed.”
- “Plant more trees and put the money towards the local Community Centre which already caters for the children in the area but is drastically underfunded. If the people who came up with this idea took the time to actually consult with the residents in the area about what is needed instead of coming up with unwanted solutions. There are already several play areas within the Ballybrack/Loughlinstown area for the children and youth, such as acres of playing fields and

amenities in Kilbogget. So I suggest you please leave our ONLY green space ALONE!! Or better still....put it in your own area!!”

- “Good water drainage so it doesn't flood.”
- “Area should cater to the audience, rough and tumble play that would engage the local kids.”
- “Climbing challenges, monkey bars and balance beams linking areas together.”
- “A successful space would prevent young kids from walking down the streets along with cars.”
- “A successful space would prevent young kids hanging around from being bullies by teens.”
- “A successful space would help parents get to know each other, and help each other.”
- “Love the idea. I really think this will help the area. Having a full playground so near to my house would be fantastic for my grandchildren. I just hope it will be safe to go visit.”
- “It would be a place where children of different ages and abilities can play imaginatively and actively, using natural materials and landscape features rather than relying solely on fixed equipment. From a safety and comfort perspective, success means that parents and carers feel confident supervising children, with good visibility across the space.”
- “A successful space would also feel welcoming and accessible, with step-free routes, clear entrances, and features that can be enjoyed by children with a range of physical and sensory abilities.”
- “It is very important that bins are provided in the central area of the park as there is always an accumulation of rubbish by the laneway near the school and in the river. I have raised this already to the Council via Cllr Smyth and I was advised to make a submission. This is a perfect opportunity to ensure the park has internal bins to accommodate users and those bringing children into the park which this project will facilitate an increase usage. The only bin available today is across the main busy Shanganagh road and this location does nothing to discourage littering given its location.”
- “Kids play area is badly needed, but once it is completely safe.”

### *c. Conclusion*

Three respondents in this age cohort were explicitly against the proposed development of a Children's Play Space. All the other respondents were positive about the proposed development on condition that all safety aspects are addressed in design and construction.

In this age cohort, which can be categorised as the settled/mature family stage, some responses indicated the perspectives of respondents with pre-teen children as well as respondents with small grandchildren.

Similar to the 25 to 44 years age cohort, it is clear from their responses that they would like a high quality, interesting/creative and safe Children's Play Space. Also similar to 25 to 44 years age cohort, the elements in the play space most preferred are climbing equipment, swings and slides, but also features for imaginative play and adventure such as hills, dens and tunnels as well as old tree trunks.

Their main concern is that vandalism and anti-social behaviour will negatively impact on the proposed play space. Similar to 25 to 44 years age cohort, the respondents also felt that the design should include several safety aspects including more lighting, CCTV, fencing with gates, robust non-flammable materials and softer play surfaces. They also felt that safety will be enhanced through an 'open and friendly' design. In this regard, an insightful perspective from one of the respondents: “Visibility and supervision are key. The play space should be easy for parents and carers to oversee, with clear sightlines across play areas and no hidden corners or dense planting that could obscure visibility or create blind spots. Natural play elements such as rocks, logs, water features or changes in level should be designed to allow appropriate challenge while minimising the risk of serious injury.”

Some of the other practical ideas suggested for further consideration:

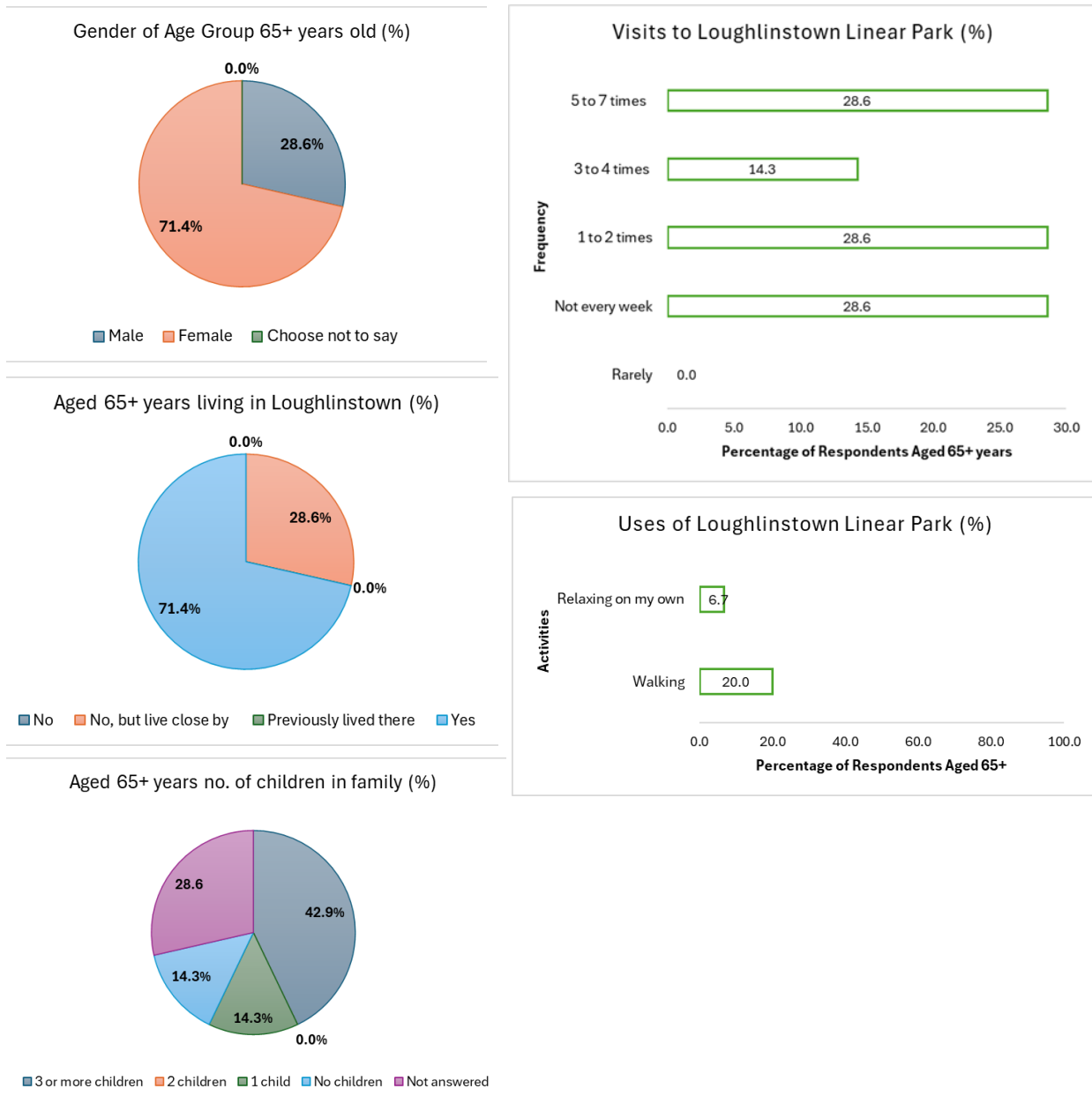
- Include an educational element and a link with local schools where the space is an 'outdoor classroom' for natural and environmental education.
- Ensure that climbing equipment is also designed for smaller children.
- Consider a labyrinth made of soft soil mounds.
- Facilitate a clean play space with bins and notices to keep the space clean.
- Ensure that the play space can be locked up at night.
- A successful space would help parents get to know each other, and help each other.

## 4. Age Group 65 years and older

### a. Profile graphs

Number of respondents: 7

The following four graphs profile this age group re visiting and using Loughlinstown Linear Park:

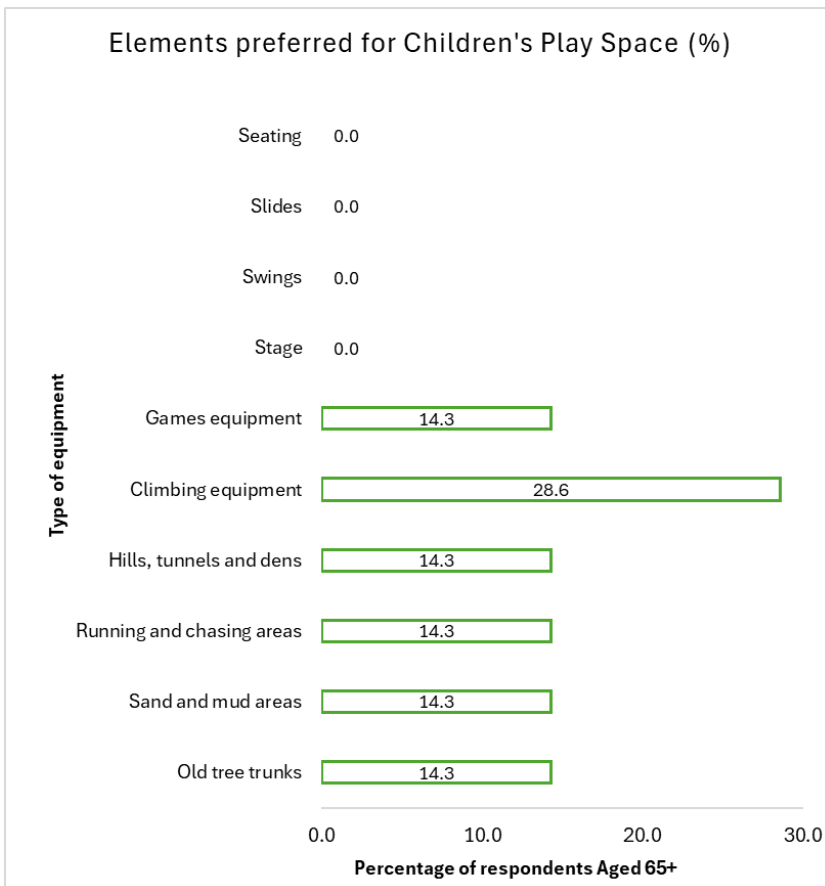
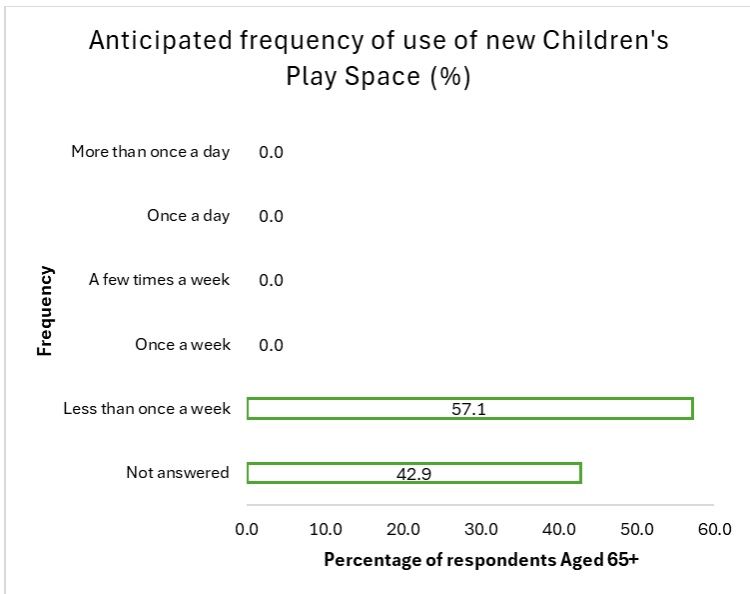


All the respondents (7 out of 7) live in or close to Loughlinstown. 5 of the respondents are female. Less than half of the respondents (3 out of 7) would visit the park at least three times a week.

The main reason why respondents visit the park is to walk (6 out of 7 respondents). Two respondents also use the park to relax on their own.

Nearly half of the respondents (3 out of 7) have 3 or more children/grandchildren.

The following two graphs indicate how respondents view the features and frequency of use of the proposed new Children’s Play Space:



Most respondents (4 out of 7) in this age cohort anticipate that a proposed new Children’s Play Space will not be used that much by children and probably less than once a week.

Compared to other age cohorts, respondents in this age cohort made very few choices on the question to determine elements preferred for the proposed Children’s Play Space, to the extent that no elements can be determined as preferences for the cohort.

## *b. Comments*

### **Concerns expressed by respondents for safety of children and/or personal safety:**

- “Vandalism. Broken glass, syringes.”
- “Young people setting fires.”
- “I’m writing to raise concerns about the new playground and teen area planned for Loughlinstown Linear Park. I’ve lived facing the park for 48 years and after decades of anti social behaviour, this is the first time it has been quiet. The proposed areas are out of view from the road, which risks gatherings and vandalism. Previous facilities in Hollycourt, Cedar Court and Loughlinstown Park were destroyed and removed. Parking in Glenavon Park and Hollycourt is already overcrowded and this will make it worse.”
- “Unsociable behaviour at night.”
- “Casual vandalism of installed equipment, rendering space dangerous to the very young.”

### **Ideas for a successful Children’s Play Space:**

- “A place that the children feel is theirs and that care for and keep clean. Community involvement to ensure it is kept clean.”
- “Is there a baby boom predicted? Why all the playgrounds? What is needed is 6 pickleball courts here so people of all ages can play a bat/ball game not just a playground for kids.”
- “Robust / Colourful and Imaginative.”
- “Cannot think of any positive aspects. A playground is only 400m away.”
- “This would be a very positive thing in another area not close to elderly residents with no children in the vicinity.”

## *c. Conclusion*

The comments from this age cohort indicate that the majority of respondents (5 out of 7) are vocally against the proposed development of a Children’s Play Space. Those views are informed by past incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the park and a concern that a new play space will aggravate the situation.

Given the paucity of choices made by respondents regarding preferred elements of a proposed Children’s Play Space and the scepticism of respondents as to the frequency of use of the proposed play space, that conclusion could be drawn that this age cohort will need some persuasion to see the value of the proposed new amenity.

In conclusion, the comment from one respondent possibly explains the scepticism: “This would be a very positive thing in another area not close to elderly residents with no children in the vicinity.”

