

good for the people who live, work and visit the District and good for the natural environment







September 2025

# Index

1. Background	2
2. Executive Summary	3
3. Location of the Sandyford Civic Park	7
4. Research guidance for the design of the Sandyford Civic Park	9
5. Online consultation re preferences for the Sandyford Civic Park	10
Access to Green Space and Nature	12
Wellbeing and Mental Health	13
Space for Families and Children	13
Facilities for Workers	13
Community Connection and Events	13
Sport and Recreation	14
Design Principles and Accessibility	14
Economic and Placemaking Benefits	14
Environmental Impact	14
Antisocial Behaviour Risk	15
Maintenance Funding	15
Clarity with Dog Policy	15
Parking and Traffic Impact	15
Noise and Privacy	15
Safety at Night	15
6. Focus group discussions re the preferences for Sandyford Civic Park	17
Stakeholder analysis	17
Focus Group Discussion with Beacon Hospital Staff	19
Focus Group Discussion with the Residence Management Companies	20
7. Open Conversation with families in Beacon Plaza and Concierge	21
8. Acknowledgements	25

# 1. Background

This report was prepared by communication consultants, Urban Mode Ltd., working with the Parks and Landscape Services of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the Sandyford Business District BID CLG.

The objective to create a civic park in the centre of one of the most densely urbanised areas in Ireland was formalised in the <u>Sandyford Urban Framework Plan</u> as originally published in 2011. It has been a priority for the <u>Sandyford Business District</u> ever since.

The development of the park is contingent on sufficient capitalisation from development levies and other funding sources as well as on the termination of leases for existing uses and occupants of the land zoned for the civic park. These challenges are currently being addressed.

A catalyst for the development of the park has been the <u>IB Green Project</u>, an EU project co-funded by the North-West Europe Interreg Programme, with the aim to better understand the climate effects on large industrial and

business parks and to accordingly develop actions for mitigation and adaptation. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the Sandyford Business District BID CLG are project partners. The design of the Sandyford Civic Park is co-funded through the IB Green Project.

A key finding of this project is that the Sandyford Business District, similar to other large traditional industrial and business parks in Europe, lacks greenery and public spaces leading to higher risks of heat stress, poor air quality and disorienting urban experiences. Developing Sandyford Civic Park is identified as a priority intervention to mitigate these risks.

The intention is that the park will serve several functions dependent on the civic uses identified through engagements with key stakeholders.

This report outlines the needs and preferences expressed by potential users in a series of engagement and online public consultations held during June, July and August 2025.







# 2. Executive Summary

#### Size does not matter

Although the area designated for the Sandyford Civic Park is relatively small (0.8 ha), the anticipation for its range of uses and added value is very high. This is the conclusion drawn from the consultation and engagements with residents and workers in Sandyford Business District.

The engagement process and public consultation ran from June to August 2025. It was coordinated by a small steering group chaired by dlr Parks and Landscaping Services. The process started with formulating a plan to reach out to anticipated users of the park in general (via online questionnaire) as well as to reach specific target groups (via focus group discussions). The latter were identified with a comprehensive stakeholder analysis.

# Sandyford Business District Civic Park Statistics

Size of the Park 0.8 hectares

#### Distance to the park:

More than 4000 people live within 10 min walking More than 5000 people work within 15 min walking

Greening of the Park: 1/3 of the park will be covered by trees

#### A green lung for Sandyford

From the results of the online survey facilitated by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County
Council and promoted by the
Sandyford Business District BID CLG,
the following aspects stand out,
namely:

- Respondents want the park to be multi- generational and accessible for users.
- Respondents want the park to soften the urban/industrial landscape.



#### PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW PARK

A *green lung* for Sandyford Business District Spaces for families, children and teenagers A *pit stop* for workers

A quiet space for residents, workers and hospital patients

 Respondents want the park to be well-kept, safe from antisocial behaviour, and easy for all to enjoy.

## **Expectations of multiple benefits**

The report contains a detailed analysis of the results of the survey with the answers to the open-ended questions summarised under the following headings:

#### Positives and Aspirations

- Access to Green Space and Nature
- Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Spaces for Families and Children
- Facilities for Workers
- Community Connection and Events
- Sport and Recreation

- Design Principles and Accessibility
- Economic and Placemaking Benefits
- Environmental Impact

#### Concerns

- Antisocial Behaviour Risk
- Maintenance Funding
- Clarity with Dog Policy
- Parking and Traffic Impact
- Noise and Privacy
- Safety at Night

#### Prime location of the park

From the focus group discussions hosted by the Sandyford Business District BID CLG, the following aspects became clear, namely:

- The park will be in a prime location for many workers and residents, in particular as a 'pitstop' for hospital staff who walk and cycle from the Luas station to the hospital.
- The park will bring added value for patients and their families who currently cannot avail of adequate open green space close to the hospital for some 'fresh air'.

- Safety aspects emphasised by participants included more pedestrian crossings to access the park and adequate lighting for evening and winter times.
- Participants were also suggesting that the park not be fenced off and that the flow in the landscape from private to public open spaces be a feature of the neighbourhood.

#### New facilities to play and socialise

From the open conversation held in the Concierge of Beacon South Quarter and at a stand in Beacon Plaza, the following conclusions can be made:

- In general participants wanted to see a considerable open green space with trees, seating and play areas.
- Participants felt that specific features could include exhibition and event performance space as well as facilities for ball play and outdoor exercise.
- Participants were amenable to a hard surface track around the park which could facilitate running, walking, scooting, skating and cycling which will be wheelchair and buggy friendly.
- Although there were some ambitious aspirations expressed for new facilities (e.g.

ice rinks, swimming pools, zip lines and water slides), there was broad consensus that an open play area for children could be enhanced with 'imaginative play equipment', tunnels, bridges and sandpits.



#### **Getting it right**

From these conversations it became clear that the following objectives should guide the design of the park:

- Balancing the space to also allow for a natural environment and climate adaptation.
- Making the park as safe and accessible as possible.
- Enabling a range of community events and activities.

#### **Added Value**

Climate Adaptation Action
New Community Facilities and Meeting Place
Safety Measures Including Lighting and CCTV
Accessible for users of all abilities



Installing amenities for the comfort of all park users.

### Creating rules for positive experiences

Finally, it is also important to note that users of the park will have to be cognisant of the needs and preferences of other users..

A few examples came up in the engagement process. For instance, the need to accommodate those users who want quiet space together with those who want space for socialising; to limit the activities of dog walkers by only allowing their dogs to be on a leash so other users would not feel threatened; to take in consideration the hours of night uses in the park so as to limit noise disturbances in the neighbourhood; and to take concerns expressed about policing and sanctioning of transgressions seriously.

Most of these issues can be addressed by emphasising social norms and responsible personal behaviour. A rule making process should be facilitated once the design and build of the park is completed.

In the case of dog walkers who want to let their dogs off the leash in the park, there are clear bye-laws of the county regulating such behaviour in open spaces. The Sandyford Civic Park will be too small for such activities.

Developing Sandyford Civic Park is also a critical climate mitigation and adaptation action for the Sandyford Business District and for dlr County. The research that formed part of the development process of the park shows the potential of the park to reduce temperatures in the park area which will be a relief for the residents and workers.

Once the park is completed, based on the research and the inputs from respondents and residents, the success of this project should be widely communicated.



# 3. Location of the Sandyford Civic Park

The land designated for the Sandyford Civic Park is 0.8 hectares located on the corner of Carmanhall Road and Corrig Road in the Sandyford Business District. The land is zoned

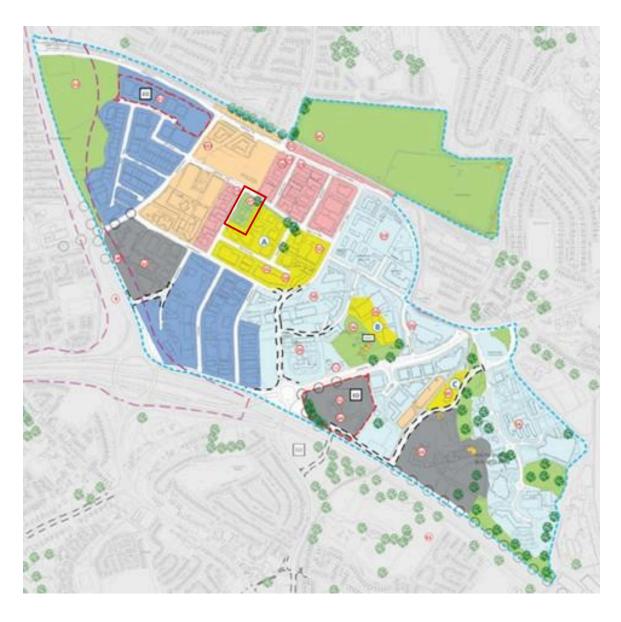
Open Space. More than 4,000 people live within a 10 minute walk from the land. Several new residential developments are also planned to be built in close proximity to the park.



Above is an aerial view of Sandyford Business District with the site for the park marked in red. Below is a picture of the existing pre-development site from Google Street View.



Below is the current Land Zoning Map of the Sandyford Business District in the Sandyford Urban Framework Plan. The proposed Sandyford Civic Park is marked in red. Note that the area coloured in yellow/light green next to the proposed park is zoned for new residential.



# 4. Research guidance for the design of the Sandyford Civic Park

In the IB Green Project, the Italian technology company Latitudo 40 was commissioned to research and create simulations of possible scenarios regarding the urban heat island effect in the vicinity of the park's location.

Their baseline case shows the following green cover in the space: 4.4% grassland and 13.6% trees. They prepared three scenarios showing the improvements that greening will bring to the area as per graphics below.

## Scenario 1:

41.5% grassland

22.2% trees

3.5X more greenery than the baseline Est. temperature reduction: -1.58  $^{\circ}$ C

#### Scenario 2:

41.6% grassland

34.6% trees

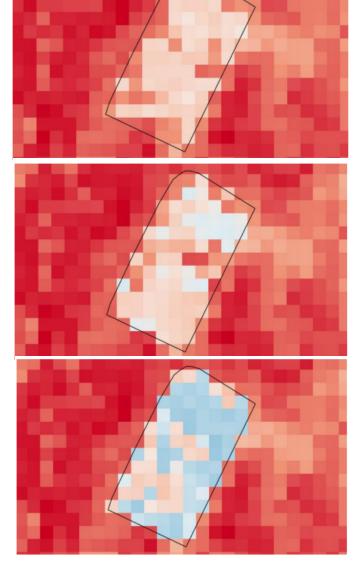
4.2X more greenery than the baseline Est. temperature reduction: -2.10 °C

#### Scenario 3:

26.2% grassland

73.8% trees

5.5X more greenery than the baseline Est. temperature reduction: -3.96  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 



Scenario 3 will turn the area into an urban forest which, given the results from this report, will then ignore other pressing community needs.

Therefore, the aim is for the design of the Sandyford Civic Park to achieve Scenario 2 with the optimum balance between greening and other facilities for users of the park.

# 5. Online consultation re preferences for the Sandyford Civic Park

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council hosted an online consultation on the <u>dlr citizen space</u> over a period of 6 weeks ending 6 August 2025. A total of 185 residents and workers from the district completed the questionnaire.

The consultation was promoted by the Sandyford Business District BID Company, the local residence management companies and local elected representatives. Respondents could get project information at a dedicated page for the development of the park on <u>sandyford.ie</u>.





#### Questionnaire format

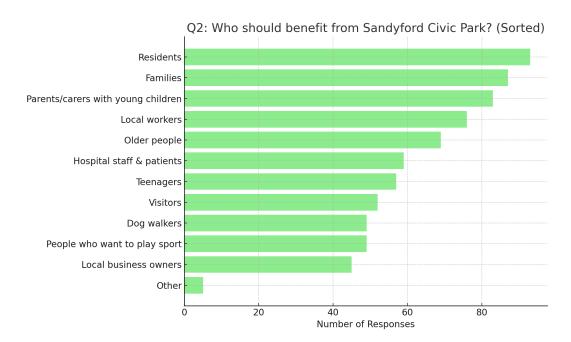
Three questions (Q2, Q6 and Q7) offered pre-defined choices to select or rank. Four questions (Q3, Q4, Q5 and Q8) were open-ended, inviting respondents to express personal opinions and preferences. Reading the

answers to all questions together, the results give a clear indication of the prevailing attitudes and views of local residents and workers regarding the development of the park.

## Results

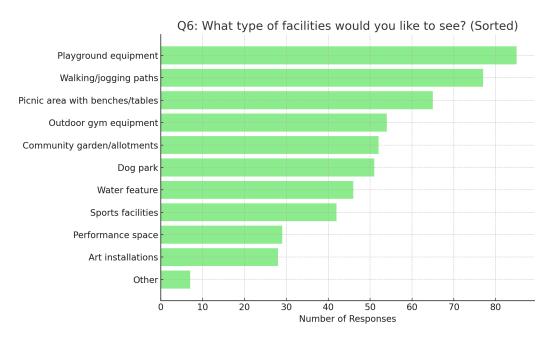
#### **Question 2**

When asked who/which groups should benefit from Sandyford Civic Park, the results show a strong preference for a park that is familyfriendly, multi-generational, and also a multipurpose community space.



#### **Question 6**

When asked to select the types of facilities they would like in Sandyford Civic Park, respondents' preferences were for facilities that provide for community and family-oriented activities, as well as for amenities to exercise, play and for social gathering.



#### **Question 7**

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a set of given statements. Their responses were aggregated and averaged to give a ranking of the statements. Based on the higher ranked statements, it can be deduced that a park facility in the area is highly desirable and that nature

should be an important aspect of the design. The relatively low rankings of statements on development expenses and anti-social behaviour indicate that these aspects are not seen as significant barriers for new park development in the Sandyford Business District.

Item ~	Ranking	<b>~</b>
Public parks are important places for people to meet		4.53
Sandyford Business District needs more public parks		4.30
Plants and nature are as important as play facilities for people in public parks		4.28
Public parks play a limited role to increase biodiversity		3.35
Public parks are places with regular occurrences of anti-social behaviour		3.02
Public parks are places where dogs can run free		2.99
Public parks are too expensive to build and maintain		2.65

#### Summary of content from the open ended questions (Questions 3, 4, 5 and 8)

The feedback given by respondents has been categorised and sorted under 9 headings grouping the aspirations and positives related to the

development of the park and 6 headings for the concerns raised by respondents.

#### Positives:

# Access to Green Space and Nature

There is strong support for adding greenery in a heavily built-up, industrial and commercial area.

The aspiration is that the park will be a "lung" for Sandyford - a place to breathe, offset pollution from nearby roads and counterbalance dense high-rise living.

The preference is for biodiversity-friendly planting, trees, native flora, and nature-first design.

#### Wellbeing and Mental Health

Strong emphasis on mental health benefits from exposure to nature and outdoor space.

Anticipated reductions in stress, anxiety, and burnout - especially for office workers on breaks.

"Escape from concrete jungle" and "space to reset" were recurring phrases.

#### Space for Families and Children

Many respondents said there is nowhere nearby for children to safely play and would like to see playgrounds for different age groups including accessible options for children with disabilities.

Some respondents also would prefer ball-playing areas without restrictions.

Teen-friendly facilities to prevent boredom and antisocial behaviour were mentioned.

## Facilities for Workers

Respondents viewed the park as ideal for lunchtime and after-work relaxation space.

The expectations are that there will be sufficient outdoor seating, shaded areas and sheltered spots for rainy days.

The need for outdoor exercising was emphasised with features in the park such as walking/running circuits, outdoor gyms and wellness features (e.g., a sauna).

### Community Connection and Events

The park could be a social hub bringing local communities together with a range of activities.

Suggestions for activities included public markets, yoga, wellbeing workshops and cultural events.

Respondents also viewed the park as a place for informal gatherings and neighbourly interaction.

Some respondents want a community garden with herbs, vegetables and fruit trees.

#### **Sport and Recreation**

The ask for open sports areas ranged from spaces to play football, basketball, volleyball as well as padel courts.

Facilities should be accessible with some suggestions that advanced booking or fees should not be required and there should be equipment rental stations available.

There were also aspirations for an indoor skatepark framed as a year-round, weather-proof need and linked to Olympic sport status.

#### Design Principles and Accessibility

Criteria for the use of the park suggested by respondents include to ensure multi-use spaces are not designed for exclusive use of select groups.

The safe crossing of roads to access the park from the apartment buildings was emphasised.

Use of universal design principles was advocated with a focus on accessible paths, benches suitable for older people and making paths scooter- and wheelchair-friendly.

Some respondents felt the grasslands do not have to be entirely manicured and that some open grass areas should be designated as suitable for informal activities.

#### Economic and Placemaking Benefits

Respondents believe the park will move Sandyford from "business estate with apartments" to a true neighbourhood.

The possibility for increased foot traffic that could benefit local businesses was emphasised.

Respondents concluded that a successful park will boost property values, attract visitors, and improve Sandyford's identity.

#### **Environmental Impact**

Respondents recognised that the park will have a positive environmental impact especially with regards to carbon absorption and improved air quality.

Respondents called for some wild/natural areas to promote biodiversity as well as pollinator-friendly planting.

#### Concerns:

#### Antisocial Behaviour Risk

Many respondents warned the park could attract loitering, substance misuse, or excessive noise if not designed and monitored carefully.

#### **Maintenance Funding**

Respondents referenced other parks that fell into disrepair underscoring the need for a robust, long-term maintenance plan and funding.

## Clarity with Dog Policy

Respondents are cautioning that the needs of dog owners need to be balanced with those of other users to avoid conflict.

# Parking and Traffic Impact

Some respondents are concerned that without careful planning, the park could increase pressure or surrounding streets.

## Noise and Privacy

Some respondents were concerned that residents nearby the park may be affected by events, evening use, or other high-activity areas located close to housing.

## Safety at Night

Respondents suggested that the provision of adequate lighting, open sightlines, and design features to improve perceptions of safety will be critical.

## **Conclusions**

The richness of the response to the online questionnaire allows for nuances and subtleties that could shape the uniqueness of the design of the Sandyford Civic Park. Respondents also

articulated more than just a wish list of nice-to-haves and gave sound reasoning for suggested facilities, features and uses.

In conclusion, there are clear themes to work from namely:

## Creating an inclusive, family-oriented community space

Evidenced by strong calls for playgrounds, picnic areas, and facilities for children, teenagers, parents, and older people. Respondents want the

park to be genuinely multi-generational and accessible.

# Embedding nature, greenery, and biodiversity

Evidenced by the emphasis on planting trees, using natural materials, providing shade, and designing with biodiversity in mind (e.g.,

pollinator-friendly planting, native species, ecological features). People want the park to soften the urban/industrial landscape.

#### Ensuring accessibility, safety, and quality of experience

Evidenced by a desire for paths, benches, toilets, pram/disabled access, security (CCTV, lighting), and provide ongoing maintenance. Respondents

want the park to be well-kept, safe from antisocial behaviour, and easy for all to enjoy.

# 6. Focus group discussions re the preferences for Sandyford Civic Park

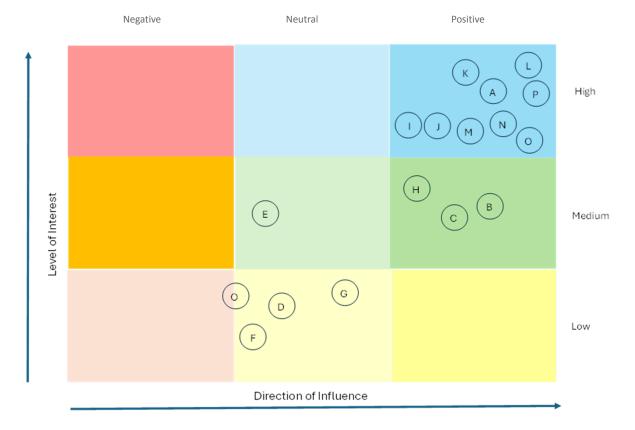
# Stakeholder analysis

To better understand the needs and perspectives of priority user groups, a series of focus group discussions were held in July, August and September 2025. The groups were identified following a stakeholder analysis with the project steering group (dlr Parks and Landscape Services,

dlr Infrastructure and Climate Change, Sandyford Business District BID CLG and the design consultants, Urban Agency) in May 2025. The results of the analysis are shown in the stakeholder table and matrix below.

No	Stakeholder	Description of Stakeholder	Level of	Direction of
	Group	Group	Interest	Influence
А	Families	Living in Sandyford Business Park and Beacon South Quarter	High	Positive (New Amenity)
В	SMEs	Companies located close to Civic Park	Medium	Positive (Lunch break spot)
С	Multi-national Companies	HQs and Back Offices located in Sandyford Business Park	Medium	Positive (Factor for Talent)
D	Retail	Located in Beacon South Quarter	Low	Neutral
Е	Hospitality	Restaurants and Coffee shops in Sandyford Business Park	Medium	Neutral (Might be a threat)
F	Estates on the SBD periphery	Lakelands; Moreen; Balally	Low	Neutral (Might be amenity)
G	Daytime visitors	Shopping, hospital visits, business meetings	Low	Neutral
Н	Short-term stay	Hotels, Student housing, Executive apartments	Medium	Positive (Outdoor exercise)
I	Beacon Hospital and Suites	Nurses, doctors, admin staff and patients	High	Positive (Outdoor relaxing)
J	Residence Management	IRES Reit and other apartment landlords	High	Positive (New amenity)
К	Teenagers/Young people	Residents aged 14 to 20	High	Positive (New amenity)
L	Mothers/Carers and children	Local residents with children under 6 years age group	High	Positive (New amenity)
M	People with Disabilities	Local residents with disabilities affecting mobility, sight, hearing and mental health	High	Positive (Accessible amenity)
N	dlr Councillors	Elected representatives from the Glencullen-Sandyford LEA	High	Positive (New amenity)
0	dlr Officials	Parks & Landscape Services, Infrastructure and Climate Change, Smart Dublin	High	Positive (But budget constraints)

Р	SBD Board of	Directors of the Sandyford	High	Positive
	Directors	Business District CLG		(Greening
				Sandyford)
Q	Commercial	Gyms, CrossFit, Indoor Play	Low	Neutral to Negative
	leisure services	Centres		
	providers			



Based on the analysis, the project steering group identified the following stakeholders to be engaged with during focus group discussions:

- Beacon Hospital Staff
- Teenagers
- Parents with small children
- Residence Management Companies

Note that those stakeholders not selected for focus group discussions were still reached through the The following stakeholders are to be informed about the design process and consultations on a regular basis:

- Councillors from Glencullen-Sandyford
   Local Electoral Area
- Council officials with responsibility for the development of Sandyford area
- Directors of the Board of Sandyford
   Business District BID CLG

open conversation engagement described below in Chapter 7.

# Focus Group Discussion with Beacon Hospital Staff

The Beacon Hospital staff participating in the focus group discussion were a mix of nurses, managers and administrators. The approach was to ask open ended questions regarding their preferences and concerns and then to encourage a discussion

among themselves with some follow-up questions to further deepen the discussions. One of the designers of the park was present to respond to questions and to probe on suggestions being made during discussions.

The main threads from the discussion were as follows:

## A need for quiet space for staff and patients

There is currently no outdoor space in the vicinity of the hospital where staff and patients alike could retreat for some fresh air, contemplation, relaxation or just to get away from the hospital environment. As one participant described it - there is a need for a zen space. Participants also felt such a space should include a sensory garden.

## A need for a stopping place to and from work

The route from the Luas station to the hospital passes by the area designated for the park. Participants envisaged it as a perfect stopping

place (pit-stop) en route for having a snack or a coffee, meeting someone or just to do a bit of exercise.

## A place to go for a lunch break

Participants mentioned the popularity of the Bracken Road pocket park for staff where there are tables and seating as well as a food truck. They thought the civic park could be a more popular destination for a lunch break if there were food trucks or kiosks in the park.

#### Access, signage and safety measures

The access to the park will be greatly improved with more zebra crossings helping staff and patients to safely cross the roads at convenient points en route to the park. Currently there is only one traffic light pedestrian crossing across Blackthorn Road. It was suggested to use markings

on the pavements as signage direction to the park. Participants also pointed out that staff's shifts often end when it is dark in winter time and it will be welcomed as a safety measure if there is adequate lighting in the park.

# Focus Group Discussion with the Residence Management Companies

Three residence managers and two residents participated in the focus group discussion. The approach was to ask open ended questions regarding their preferences and concerns and then to encourage a discussion among themselves with

some follow-up questions to further deepen the discussions. One of the designers of the park was present to respond to questions and to probe on suggestions being made during discussions.

The main threads from the discussion were as follows:

# Break down the barriers between public and private outdoor space

Participants pointed out that there are no fencing or barriers preventing public access to private outdoor spaces in Beacon South Quarter, Rockbrook and Sandyford Central. The participants argued that the civic park should not be fenced or closed in with hedges so as to have a continuous flow of private and public outdoor space in the neighbourhood.

# Cool safe space for teenagers to hang out

The participants observed that in the courtyards and outdoor spaces of the apartment buildings, it is mostly children under 12 years of age who use the space for play. The teenagers could really benefit from a cool safe space in the new civic park. The

most important features will be seating, WiFi and a place to kick or throw some ball. As to other outdoor equipment, the residence management companies installed in their private outdoor spaces outdoor gyms and places to shoot hoops.

#### A lot of greenery to offset the surrounding built environment

There is a strong desire that the new civic park will be a green haven in an 'urban jungle'. Participants were imagining that there will be places in the park with pagodas and seating extending the features installed by the Sandyford Business District BID CLG in other pocket parks in the District.

#### Maintenance of the park

Participants anticipated that the park would require regular maintenance. The expectation should not be to only rely on the dlr Parks services, but that local community groups will be active to keep the park clean, help with plantings, weeding and with communicating the rules for the park.

# 7. Open Conversation with families in Beacon Plaza and Concierge

A public open conversation on the design of the new Sandyford Civic Park was promoted among residents and businesses in the Sandyford Business District. The hope was especially that families will use the opportunity to mingle with Council officials and the designers so as to express their preferences for the new civic park. A three hour session was hosted in the Concierge of Beacon South Quarter. It was preceded by a two hour lunchtime stand in Beacon Plaza to meet and chat with bystanders. In total, more than 150 people participated in the sessions.

(This we know, because participants received free icecream and the icecream van kept a count of handouts!)









The event was promoted with posters (see below) in all the apartment buildings (in particular placed in the lifts by the residence management

companies) as well as in retail stores and coffee shops in Beacon South Quarter.

# A NEW PARK FOR SANDYFORD



Drop in, meet the design team & have your say!

# SANDYFORD CIVIC PARK OPEN CONVERSATION

Add your voice to the design process for the new "Sandyford Civic Park"

Pop in - **grab a tea/coffee** and chat to the design teams working to deliver a new park for Sandyford.

This is an **informal way for you to share your thougths** on what the Sandyford Civic Park could look like.

Together, we can build a vibrant space that reflects the heart and soul of the Sandyford community

# **Park Location**



Consultation Location (D18 R6C5)

#### DATE:

29TH JULY 2025

#### TIME:

**DROP IN FROM 4PM-7PM** 

## LOCATION:

THE CONCIERGE BUILDING, BLACKTHORN ROAD, D18 R6C5

Can't make the event? Have your say online...



Online Consultation closes August 6<sup>th</sup>

To have your voice heard simply scan the code or visit https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/parks/sandyford-civic-park-have-your-say/









URBAN AGENCY. During the conversations ideas from participants for features in the new Sandyford Civic Park were captured on sticky notes and in the notes taken by Tom McCausland of dlr Parks and Landscape Services and Rory McGuire of Urban Agency.

The ideas expressed by participants are grouped as follows:

#### General features

The main feature that participants want to see is a considerable open green space with trees, seating and play areas. This feature can be augmented with a pond, sensory garden and if requested by local community groups, a community garden.

#### Special features

The special features that were mentioned, i.e. features which will be for specific uses (which could be single use or multiple uses), include art

exhibition space, amphitheatre, covered stage, bbq and picnic area, skate park and a pool with a waterslide.

#### Facilities for activities

Although there are activities such as Yoga, Tai Chi and unstructured play (including with various types of balls) that won't need special facilities or dedicated spaces, there are several activities that

would require a built facility to make the activity possible including a running track, basketball court, tennis/padel courts, cricket nets, BMX track and equipment for calisthenics.

#### Play equipment for children's play areas

Several suggestions were made for equipment in play areas including imaginative play features (e.g. tunnels, pirate ship), swings, rope swings, tyre swings, climbing webs, monkey bars, a sand pit and a trampoline.

#### Other ideas for dedicated spaces

Some participants felt the park could also include a space for a dog run, an ice rink in the winter, a

zip line and an indoor bookable space as well as an indoor cricket facility.

Participants raised matters that can be formulated into the following objectives for the design of the park:

#### To support a natural environment as much as possible

Keeping the park as nature-friendly as possible was foremost in the mind of many participants

with lots of trees, minimal mowing of greens, bird boxes and high levels of biodiversity.

#### To make the park as safe and accessible as possible

Safety measures suggested by participants include adequate and well placed lighting, sheltered spots for wet weather, monitoring of

anti-social behaviour (CCTV?), and possibly locking the park at night.

#### To enable community events and activities

As noted above, participants mentioned several activities they want to see happening in the park. Clearly it becomes a wish list for which decisions will be made in the design process as to what facilities for activities are more feasible than others. However, the need for supporting

community activities is consistently articulated as a high priority. There are local residents' associations, local interest groups and sport clubs who can organise and facilitate community activities in the park as well as the Sandyford Business District CBD CLG. Their needs should guide decisions on prioritising which facilities.

#### To install amenities for the comfort of park users

The physical amenities participants expect to be in the park include good, well-lit surfaces to run, cycle and walk (including being buggy and wheelchair-friendly), toilets, bins and zebra crossings to reach the park.

#### In conclusion:

This open conversation event demonstrated excitement and anticipation for the new Sandyford Civic Park. Ironically, one of the more persistent questions was where the park will be

located which also says that the next steps post-design will have to be an information campaign about the park, its features and its location.

# 8. Acknowledgements

The consultation and engagement process for the design of the Sandyford Civic Park was made possible through the cooperation of the following people:

## <u>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council</u>

Eoin O'Brien (project leader)
Dara O'Daly
Claire Casey
Dawn Hughes

Tom McCausland

Sarah Paoli

# Sandyford Business District BID CLG

Ger Corbett

Vincent Murray

Fernanda Pinto Godoy

# <u>Urban Agency</u>

Andrew Griffith

Rory McGuire

Most importantly, the success of the consultations is the result of the participation and inputs of residents and businesses (employers and employees) who showed their sense of place and enthusiasm for the new Sandyford Civic Park.

With thanks

Wessel Badenhorst and Rob Power, Urban Mode Ltd.