

Loughlinstown Linear Park Play Spaces Project

Teens 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 teen space in the park.

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

Table of Contents

A.	Analysis methodology	2
B.	Summary	3
C.	Results	5
1.	Age Group 18 years and below	5
a.	Profile graphs	5
b.	Comments	6
c.	Conclusion	8
2.	Age Group 19 to 44 years	9
a.	Profile graphs	9
b.	Comments	9
c.	Conclusion	14
3.	Age Group 45 to 64 years	15
a.	Profile graphs	15
b.	Comments	15
c.	Conclusion	20
4.	Age Group 65 years and older	21
a.	Profile graphs	21
b.	Comments	21
c.	Conclusion	23

A. Analysis methodology



The total number of respondents for this survey is 68. From interactions with residents, it became clear that there could be intergenerational differences in the perspectives on the proposed new Teens Space. These results are therefore divided up in four age cohorts namely:

1. Age Group 18 years and below
2. Age Group 19 to 44 years
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. Note that specific questions were asked of the first age group and thus answers to these questions are only contained in the first Age Group cohort.

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 for the development are presented in green. This approach is not used for the Age Group 18 years and below, because all respondents were for the development.

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 68 respondents. Most of the respondents (92.6%) live in Loughlinstown or close to Loughlinstown (e.g. Ballybrack). Two-thirds of the respondents are female (67.6%).

Most of the respondents (69.1%) visit the Loughlinstown Linear Park at least three times a week. Their preferred activities in the park are walking (72.1%), dog walking (41.2%), commuting to school/work (23.5%), relaxing on their own (23.5%), hanging out with friends (17.6%), and cycling/running (26.5%). Note that all the respondents in the Age Group 18 years and below identified hanging out with friends as their preferred activity in Loughlinstown Linear Park.

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

Respondents aged 18 years and younger	13.2% of total respondents
Respondents aged 19 to 44 years old	36.8% of total respondents
Respondents aged 45 to 64 years old	35.3% of total respondents
Respondents aged 65 years and older	14.7% of total respondents

Perspectives of respondents who are teenagers

The questionnaire contained specific questions aimed at teenagers related to how they view the possibility, uses and features of a proposed new teens space in Loughlinstown Linear Park.

The majority of teenage respondents (8 out of 9) envisage that they will spend up to an hour or more per visit to a proposed new teens space. All the respondents want to see lighting at the proposed new teens space. This preference ties in with their emphasis on safety and security elements designed for the space. The other preferred feature is seating (8 out of 9 respondents). The preferred equipment for activities are table tennis equipment (5 out of 9 respondents), social swings (4 out of 9 respondents) and calisthenics (4 out of 9 respondents).

The teenage respondents see the main use of a new teens space as a place in the park where teens can hang out and feel welcome i.e. not being judged or being seen as up to no good.

Positive attitudes of respondents on the proposed new teens space

A total of 29 respondents vocally supports the proposed development of a teens space in Loughlinstown Linear Park.

A common perspective from these respondents is that a well-managed safe teens space will have significant benefits for teenagers and the community at large, including:

Healthy socialising (i.e. playing games and not drinking or using drugs)

A well-used space that displaces some of the anti-social behaviour

An outdoor space where young people can relax, talk and spend time with their peers leading to a reduction in isolation, anxiety and stress.

A space that accommodates young people who do not participate in organised sport.

A vision for the proposed teens space from one of the respondents (aged 1 to 24 years old):
“Somewhere simple but fun that is big enough for multiple groups to be there at once. Like two friends with coffee at one bench and a group of others by a swing or something but fine for others to walk or run by.”

Negative attitudes of respondents on the proposed new teen space

A total of 22 respondents vocally objected to the proposed development of a teens space in Loughlinstown Linear Park.

A common perspective from these respondents is that the history of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in Loughlinstown Linear Park will be re-ignited by the development of a teens space and will have the following affects:

The proposed location for the teens space is close to where older people live and they fear it will limit their freedom to use the park and their tranquillity especially at night.

The existing outdoor fitness equipment in the park were vandalised and never restored which does not give confidence how any new facilities will be treated and maintained.

There is also a perspective that teenagers already gather along the walkways and at the river bridges in the park and therefore there is no need for an additional teens space.

A sceptical perspective from another respondent (Aged 45 – 54 years old): *“The park is used constantly by dog walkers, and many of our older neighbours meet there daily. I don’t see how replacing or changing that space is going to be better for anyone.”*

Respondents (positive and negative) proposed guidelines for the design and development process of the new teens space in Loughlinstown Linear Park, that include the following:

- a. The space needs to be well-lit and visible with CCTV so that everyone can be monitored easily.
- b. The teens space should be well connected to walking /cycling routes, with accessible paths.
- c. The space should be well-overlooked by main paths and adjacent areas to support passive supervision, while still offering teenagers a sense of independence and ownership.
- d. The space should be welcoming – nice – meaning teenagers will want to use it, i.e. colourful and with quality design of seating and play equipment (Meadowbrook is specifically referenced).
- e. The space should be segregated into different areas, with one are with seating for socialising, another area for quiet space, and another area for games and play equipment.
- f. Parts of the space should be sheltered from rain and wind.
- g. The safety concerns of older residents should be taken in consideration, especially the increased risk of people gathering to light fires and the encouragement of drug and alcohol use.
- h. The loss of biodiversity should be minimised with the development of the space.
- i. The physical development of the space should be accompanied with a programme of weekly workshops for users of the space on aspects such as social interaction skills and respect for other users of the park.
- j. The equipment used for play and exercise should have the minimum mechanical components which can go in disuse through wear and tear and importantly, should be anti-inflammable.
- k. The space should be scaled so as not to dominate and to fit in with the natural landscape. The surface shouldn’t be poured concrete with a focus on use of environmentally friendly materials.

C. Results

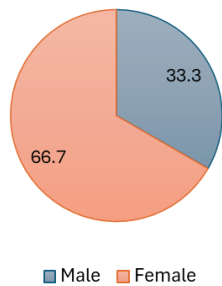
1. Age Group 18 years and below

a. Profile graphs

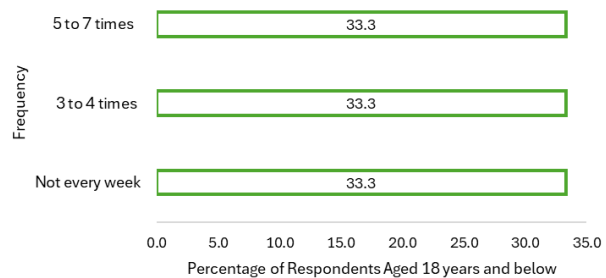
Number of respondents: 9

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

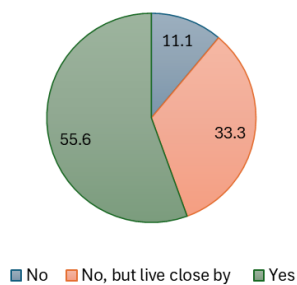
Gender of Age Group 18 and below (%)



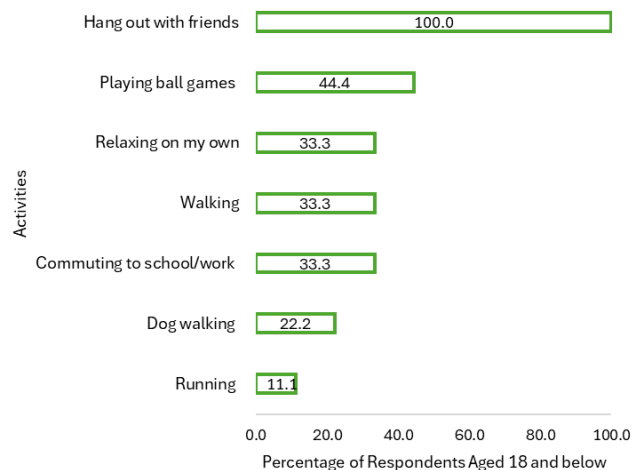
Visits to Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)



Aged 18 and below living in Loughlinstown (%)



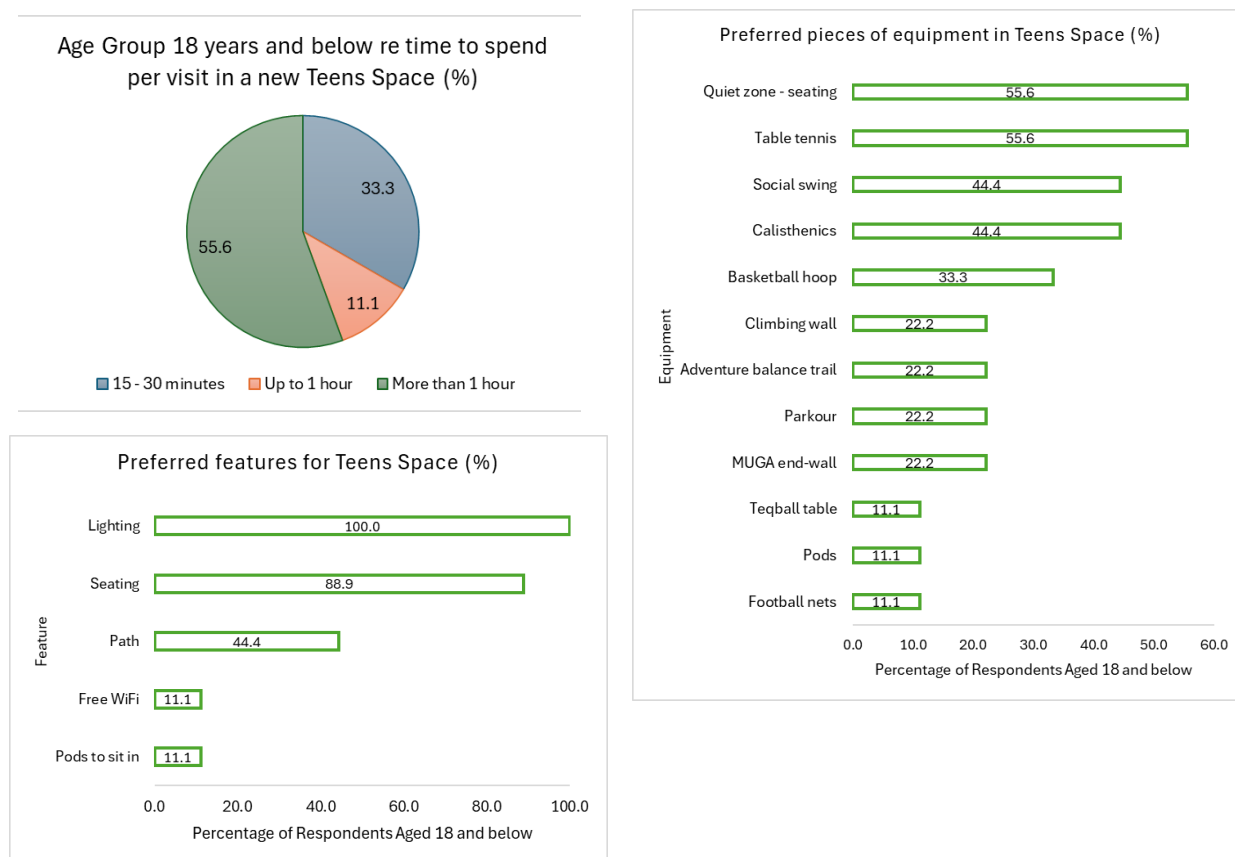
Uses of Loughlinstown Linear Park (%)



The majority of respondents (8 out of 9) live in or close to Loughlinstown. Six of the respondents are female. Only three respondents would visit the park nearly every day.

The main reason why all respondents visit the park is to hang out with friends. Four of the respondents use the park to play ball games and three respondents visit the park to relax on their own.

The following three charts show what respondents would like to see in a new teens space:



The majority of respondents (8 out of 9) envisage that they will spend up to an hour or more per visit to a proposed new teens space.

All the respondents want to see lighting at the proposed new teens space. This preference ties in with the priority respondents place on safety and security.

The other preferred feature is seating (8 out of 9 respondents). This confirmed with the preference for quiet space (5 out of 9 respondents).

The preferred equipment for activities are table tennis equipment (5 out of 9 respondents), social swings (4 out of 9 respondents) and calisthenics (4 out of 9 respondents).

There is less preference for the equipment needed for more physical activities.

b. Comments

Positive aspects of a Teens Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park:

- “It would be good to have a dedicated space with equipment for playing games and space to sit with friends.”
- “Give people my age somewhere safe to hang out. People see teens in groups and think they are up to no good - this place would be a place we would go, no judgement.”
- “Somewhere to hang out with my friends. Play some basketball, some exercise equipment. A music box would be great. Some seats with shelter from rain please.”
- “It will be good because there isn’t many places teens can go and hang out without being told we are too loud or should go somewhere else, so I think it will be nice to have somewhere we can go that’s actually for us, it would also be beneficial for socialising and meeting new people.”
- “The calisthenics bars.”

- “Big, Spacious, Accessible, Affordable, and Safe.”
- “More places for teenagers to feel welcomed and not unwanted, a place to meet more people their age, improved mental wellbeing as socialising and being outside is great for that, improved physical health, makes the area more attractive, more reasons to go to Loughlinstown, teenagers will have more fun in a safe way.”
- “It gives us something to do during our free time that isn't just sitting around and doing nothing. It'll be really enjoyable for all of us and it'd be very much appreciated.”

Important considerations for the design of the Teens Space:

- “We have so many football, rugby and GAA pitches but not all teens are interested in these sports. Think outside the box when designing this space.”
- “Somewhere casual and fun. Should be big enough that me and my friends can hang out on one side of it and other people can be doing other stuff and we are not on top of each other.”
- “Places to sit maybe benches. some sports equipment like basketball hoops or football goals even just something that we can actually do that's not just sitting.”
- “Accessibility.”
- “Lights for visibility.”
- “Consider disabilities.”
- “Think about what teenagers actually want, e.g. they probably won't benefit much from play structured geared more towards children. Make sure it's safe as teenagers may feel nervous if they were to go their alone. consider that not everyone would be interested in sports/physical activities, even an area to just chill out under a roof would be nice with seating.”
- “Just normal park stuff.”

Concerns expressed by respondents:

- “The area needs to be lit up and close enough to houses to be safe.”
- “There should be lighting at night.”
- “Concerns for potential hostile behaviour e.g. people using illegal substances/setting fires etc.”

Ideas for a successful Teens Space:

- “One that teens enjoy and that they look after.”
- “Somewhere I can go with my friends, safe, some level of privacy.”
- “Somewhere safe and fun for different groups of friends to hang out.”
- “Free Wi-Fi and pods.”
- Just somewhere that you won't feel threatened to go to like in this area especially it can be quite scary as there are large groups of people hanging around and it can be intimidating so it would be ideal if it would be a place anyone can go and not feel intimidated.”
- “Provide teens with a safe, affordable, accessible area in which they can socialise with people their own age.”
- “Somewhere where teenagers feel safe, wanted, included and happy.”
- “One where teens can chill for hours and not get bored while spending time together.”

c. Conclusion

All respondents in the age group 18 years and below are in favour of a new teens space in the Loughlinstown Linear Park.

The most important use of the teens space for these respondents is to be a space to hang out with friends, with appropriate seating and some play equipment like a table tennis table and a social swing.

The biggest concern is safety, and especially to have adequate lighting at the teen space.

The positive aspects include that a new teens space will serve a need as there are not many spaces where teens can hang out and feel welcome (i.e. not being judged or being seen as up to no good); as well as that the teens space will contribute to mental wellbeing by being a focal point for socialising.

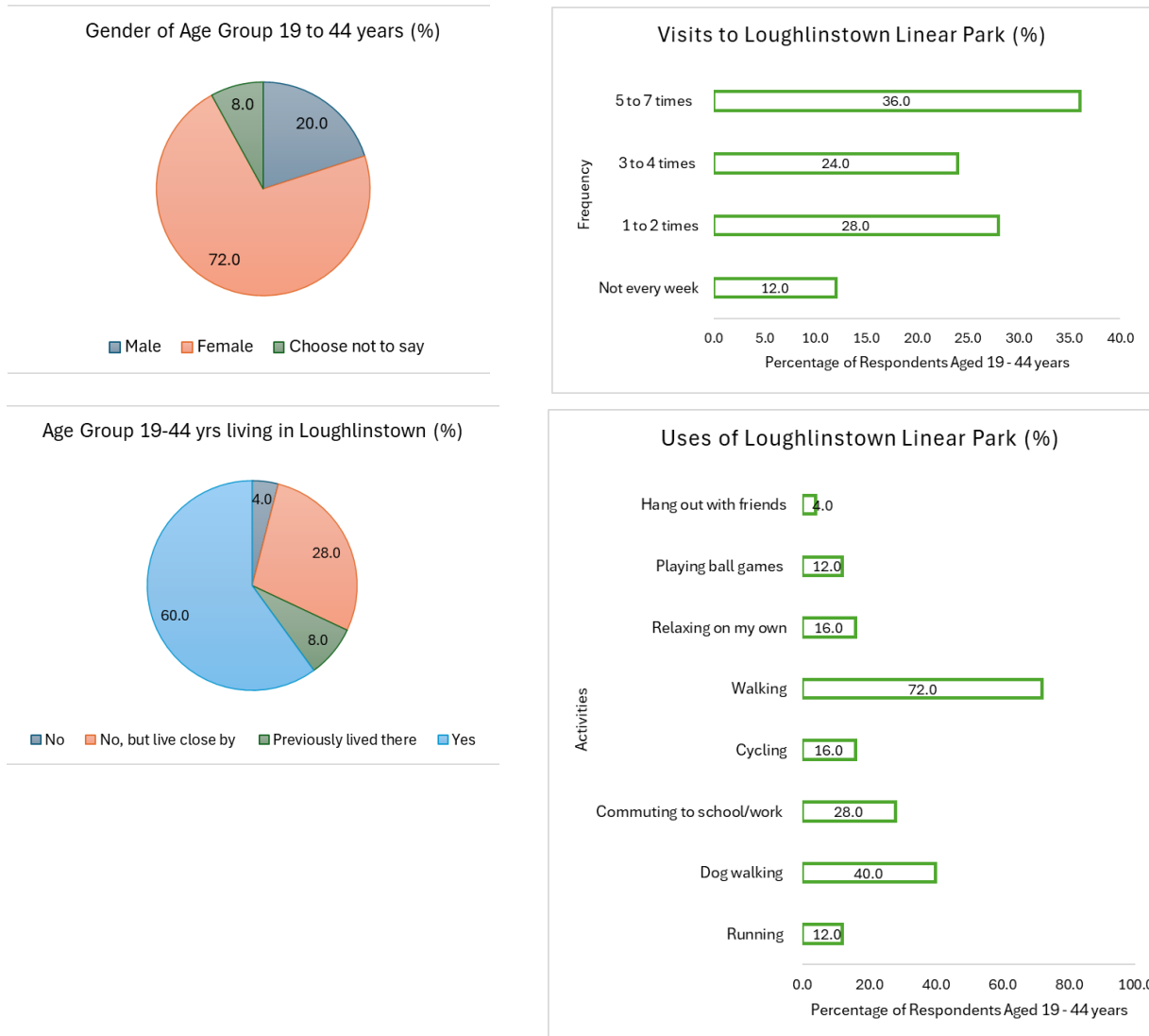
A quote that captures the view of this age cohort: “Somewhere where teenagers feel safe, wanted, included and happy.”

2. Age Group 19 to 44 years

a. Profile graphs

Number of respondents: 25

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



The majority of respondents (22 out of 25) live in or close to Loughlinstown. 18 of the respondents are female. The majority of respondents (15 out of 25) would visit the park at least three times a week.

The main reason why respondents visit the park is to walk (18 out of 25 respondents). Ten respondents also use the park to walk their dogs and seven respondents commute to school/work via the park.

b. Comments

Positive aspects of a Teens Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park:

- “Somewhere well lit.”
- “Something that will wear well as some other stuff in the community have been broken or destroyed by vandalism.”
- “Safe space for teens, promote activity for them.”

- “A small skate park e.g. small ramps, bars etc.”
- “Somewhere that teens can hang out without drinking and taking drugs.”
- “Safe area for kids to hang out.”
- “Very little. If it goes ahead, this idea will be short lived. Guarantee it will be a magnet for antisocial behaviour and will incur damage. Park is already an unofficial race track for scramblers. No enforcement of laws and this idea will not help.”
- “It's a good space for activities during the summer.”
- “There is nowhere for teens to hang out here, I rarely even see teenagers unless they are zooming around on e-scooters or hanging about. It would be absolutely amazing to actually have a place where teenagers can congregate and make their own. The young people in this area are in need of a sense of pride and the only way to do that is to make them feel like they matter. The park right now is dull and dirty, I am fully supportive of regeneration and very happy to see there is thought going into it for young people, even though I have no children myself.”
- “If it reduces the number of fire, the burning of trees and gym equipment, and things thrown into the river.”
- “Place for teens to relax and have fun.”
- “I strongly oppose this proposal because I live in the immediate area and it will have a serious negative impact on my quality of life. It will attract drinking, drug use, and antisocial behaviour, all of which are already issues locally. My house is very close by, and the noise and disturbance will make it impossible to get proper sleep. This will bring nothing positive to the community - only disruption, safety concerns, and stress for those of us who live here.”
- “It would offer a variety of new activities in an area starved of that type of investment.”
- “An astro all weather football/ games pitch.”
- “It will keep all young teens occupied and out of mischief will bring all the kids together in a safe and meaningful manner - great idea.”
- “I think having a dedicated teen space in Loughlinstown Park would bring many positive benefits. It would give teenagers a safe and welcoming place to spend time, instead of gathering in areas meant for younger children or in places that may not be safe. A well-designed teen area could support healthy activities, encourage social interaction, and help them feel a sense of belonging. It could also reduce vandalism or unsafe behaviour in other parts of the park because teens would finally have a space that suits their needs. Overall, it would create a better environment for both teenagers and the wider community.”
- “It will be an outdoor space to meet up where the young people do not appear to be being anti-social a place specifically for them but also with a focus on something.”
- “It gives teenagers a place to go to socialise and do something productive/positive. They spend a lot of time communicating online rather than in person as there are very limited places for them to go.”
- “It will give a space for teenagers to gather and socialise which is severely lacking in the general Loughlinstown/Ballybrack area.”
- Gives young people a nice space to hang out that is their own place.”
- “Sheltered places to sit and rest.”

Important considerations for the design of the Teens Space:

- “I live close to one of the walk through entrances of the park and I’m concerned that there will be even more anti-social behaviour when they have a place to hang around and I’m sure it will be vandalised. Please consider behaviours of concern that go on in that area already.”
- “Attractive, open space.”
- “Colourful and inviting with various choices of activity.”
- “Lots of separate grouped areas for sitting.”

- “It would have to be monitored with a visible security camera so it is not burned down as there is a lot of anti-social activity in this particular area.”
- “The people in the community and the groups of youth that will be hanging out which can frighten the older people in the communities and they will not feel safe walking in the local area.”
- “Location will be important. Don’t want it beside my house.”
- “It’s a good space for activities during the summer.”
- “They need to feel respected and not belittled or made to feel like children. The kids around this area are often seemingly much more mature in their years than they should be, but they just need some respect and kindness.”
- “Has to be inviting to the teenagers. Easy to enter, fun. Not going to be damaged by burning.”
- “Think of fun and safety large swings, sociable seating see make space for girls. So many teen spaces are dominated by boys.”
- “Honestly, I do not think a teen space should be created here at all. Given the location and the existing issues in the area, any teen space - regardless of design - would increase noise, antisocial behaviour, and disturbance for nearby residents. My home is extremely close, and this would seriously affect my ability to feel safe and to sleep. For these reasons, I don’t believe this site is suitable for a teen space in any form.”
- “Two matters:

1. *Equal and equitable access for all*

Please consider as an imperative gender differences and resulting differences in the usage of the youth recreational spaces. To illustrate how to create gender sensitive spaces, please consider this comment on the section from Carolina Criado-Perez's book 'Invisible women': Of particular interest to park and recreation professionals is a section addressing city and park planning and use. She cites a 2016 article in The Guardian that asked why we aren’t designing places “that work for women, not just men” and cautions that the limited datasets that track and trend data on gender make it hard to develop programs and infrastructure that factor in and meet women’s needs.

For example, planners in Vienna found that the presence of girls in parks and public playgrounds decreased after the age of 10. They subsequently found, through collecting pertinent data, that single large open spaces were the problem, because they forced girls to compete with boys for space—who largely chose not to. But when the developers subdivided the parks into smaller areas, the female drop-off was reversed. They also addressed the park’s sport facilities. “Originally these spaces were encased in wire fencing on all sides, with only a single entrance area—around which groups of boys would congregate. And the girls, unwilling to run the gauntlet, simply weren’t going in.” The simple solution? More and wider entrances. They also subdivided the open areas and sport courts. Formal sports like basketball were kept intact, but they also provided space for more informal activities, in which girls were more likely to engage."

In another example, Malmo, Sweden, discovered a similar male bias in the way they’d traditionally been planning urban recreation for youth. “The usual procedure was to create spaces for skating, climbing and painting graffiti. The trouble was, it wasn’t ‘youth’ as a whole that was participating... It was almost exclusively boys, with girls making up only 10-20 percent of those who used the city’s youth-directed leisure spaces and facilities.” So they began asking what the girls wanted—and the resultant new areas are well-lit and split into a range of different-sized spaces on different levels."

These solutions worked elsewhere and must be considered to enable equitable access to the new facilities by all.

2. *Safety and durability of the installations*

Loughlinstown park is sadly location for many destructive and unsafe activities. The frequency with which the local youth engages in burning all sorts of objects is high, drug sale and drug consumption is also present. All this contributes to fewer people using the park in the evenings, but also, I reckon, a sore lack of basic park facilities, such as benches and bins. Consider construction of facilities made of durable materials (e.g. use stone boulders as benches - I've already resorted to them in the absence of typical benches - and they cannot be burnt!). Ensure, as a matter of priority for the entire community, that the facility is not going to become a venue for anti-social activity, through monitoring and awareness campaigns in schools.”

- “Who will monitor the night time use of the facility? Who will ensure the safety of the community if the facility becomes an attraction for antisocial behaviour? What lighting will be put into the new facility and what will its effects be on the local wildlife and the community? The recently fitted LEDs are obnoxious and have the birds confused and also pose a health concern to locals.

Who will stop the facility being burned and ruined like the other gym at the river?

Has the peaceful enjoyment of the houses surrounding this facility been considered?

Where will the people who drive to the amenity, park?

Has there been any consideration for the vulnerable people who use the park if the amenity attracts an anti-social element?

It is notable that this proposal is not very well received by many local people and especially the older people who use the park daily who are unable to navigate this objection process with QR codes posted on local fences too confusing for them to navigate and they are worried their homes may be at risk if this amenity attracts unknowns and people hanging around the field after dark.

The Woods should have been densely replanted with native broad leaf species and the existing bridge into the Pond field rebuilt to its current finish in beautiful granite but not by who ever built the piers on the waterfall bridge as that work was utterly disgraceful.

It sounds like there is plenty of money to spend but no real consideration for those who live in and love our current quiet and beautiful park that is well utilised by all in a respectful and peaceful manner.”

- “Safe, accessible, open to all within the community, all year around.”
- “A bike track for the younger ones on balance bikes.”
- “When designing a teen space, safety should come first, with good lighting, clear visibility, and possibly CCTV to prevent vandalism or unsafe behaviour. The space should offer different areas for socializing, resting, and playing, with equipment that’s fun but durable. It’s also important to give teens some privacy while still keeping things open and visible so they feel comfortable. The location should avoid interfering with younger children play areas, and the design should be easy to maintain. Overall, it should be a place where teens feel welcome, safe, and able to hang out with friends.”
- Robust equipment; Anti damage / graffiti; Using other spaces as an example; Space to play football / basketball; Good lighting.”

- “It should be important to consider that an area like this could be subjected to vandalism and abuse. Although the positives of the space would inevitably outweigh the negatives, the potential downsides of anti-social behaviour cannot be ignored.”
- “Places to sit down with shelter.”
- “Shelter, seating, bins, colourful space.”

Concerns expressed by respondents:

- “I live close to one of the walk through entrance of the park and I’m concerned that there will be even more anti-social behaviour when they have a place to hang around and I’m sure it will be vandalised. Please consider behaviours of concern that go on in that area already.”
- “None.”
- “As above. The space will be vandalised regularly and become a magnet for disturbances.”
- “Fires being lit on equipment.”
- “Yes - I have serious concerns for my personal safety if a teen space is placed here. Spaces like this can attract groups, noise, drinking, drug use, and antisocial behaviour, especially in the evenings. My home is extremely close, and the idea of large groups gathering nearby makes me feel unsafe. I would worry about confrontations, increased vandalism, and disturbances late at night. Overall, I do not feel that this location would allow me to feel secure in my own home.”
- “Yes, antisocial behaviour and more CCTV for locals isn’t the answer.”
- “My main safety concerns would be the risk of vandalism or unsafe behaviour, especially the possibility of deliberate fire-setting, as well as rough play. I would also want to make sure the space is well-lit and visible so that everyone can be monitored easily, and that equipment is sturdy and maintained to prevent accidents. Considering measures to prevent fire-setting, such as using fire-resistant materials, improving visibility, or having CCTV supervision, would be important.”
- “Will need to be an open space with good lights.”
- “My concerns for my personal safety would be around the teen space becoming a breeding ground for anti-social behaviour. If it is not well-lit, if it is not well-policed, there could be great issues with anti-social behaviour, particularly drug-dealing which happens regularly enough in the area.”
- “Nope.”
- “Lighting would be important. People are afraid of teenagers gathering but we need and deserve to gather and hang out somewhere so please give us the space.”

Ideas for a successful Teens Space:

- “A drop in club where the teenagers are supervised.”
- “Teens more occupied in the area. Less Teens involved in anti-social behaviour at shops etc.”
- “One that is frequently used by teens by choice. Where different groups of teens can feel comfortable going so with designated separate areas.”
- “A space for teens and not young adults doing graffiti, drinking etc.”
- “Place that can be used in all weather, all year round. Encourages teens to socialize and exercise.”
- “Somewhere that’s managed correctly and where anti-social behaviour can be kept to a minimum.”
- “An area that teenagers can use all year, not just during the summer.”
- “Reducing fires in the park and burning of trees. Reducing litter.”
- “To be honest, I do not believe a teen space in this location could ever be successful. None of the ideas presented are suitable for this area, and I do not support the creation of a teen space here in any form. The impact on residents, safety concerns, noise, and potential anti-social behaviour mean that this is not an appropriate or workable idea for this site.”
- “Build it in the local community rooms which are already underused.”
- “Youth friendly AstroTurf pitch.”

- “A great teen space is safe, welcoming, and fun. It should give teens a place to hang out with friends, be active, and try new things, but also have spots to relax and just chill. Basically, it should meet their needs, let them socialize safely, and feel like a place they actually belong.”
- “Space that is for the young people specifically and also where maybe youth workers could also engage young people outdoors.”
- “A space that is open and accessible to all teens. Also a space that encourages teenagers themselves to take pride in their area and to protect and nurture the space as being their space.”
- “Somewhere simple but fun that is big enough for multiple groups to be there at once. Like two friends with coffee at one bench and a group of others by a swing or something but fine for others to walk or run by.”

c. *Conclusion*

Only four of the 25 respondents in the age group 19 to 44 years old are against a new teens space in the Loughlinstown. Their main concern is that a new teens space might encourage more anti-social behaviour and noise. They are also frustrated by the lack of interventions to address the current levels of anti-social behaviour and drug use.

For the majority of respondents there is an understanding that an outdoor hangout space for teenagers is lacking in Loughlinstown and will be welcomed. These respondents also have very clear requirements/caveats for this space namely:

- ***The design and features must make it a safe space including with adequate lighting, use of non-flammable materials, and monitoring of anti-social behaviour using technology such as CCTV.***
- ***That the aim should be to encourage healthy socialising and some level of exercise especially in a context where young people spend so much time on their phones.***
- ***The space should provide some protection from rain and be used in summer and winter.***
- ***The space should be inclusive especially taking in consideration the use by young girls and young people with disabilities. In this regard research and best practice from other locales should be followed especially regarding the openness of the spaces (i.e. visibility) and the segregation of uses (i.e. seating and passive space distanced from active space).***

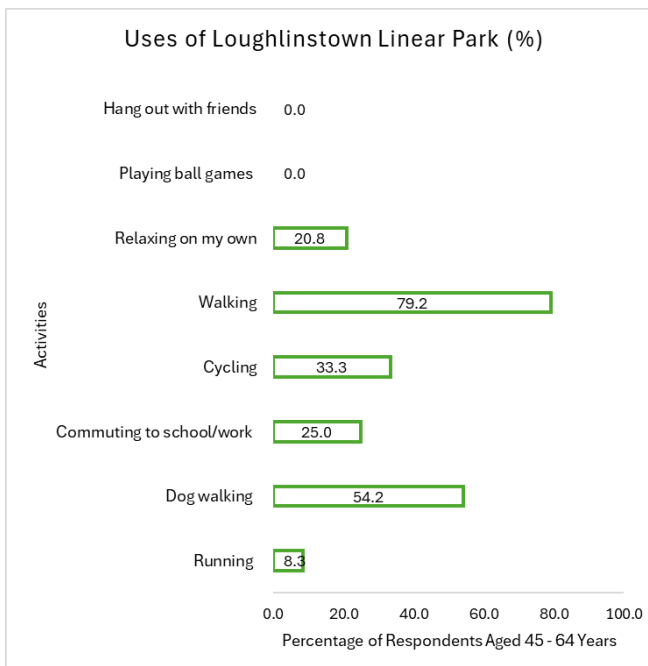
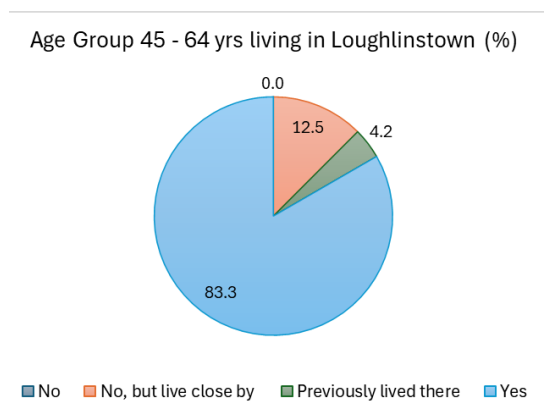
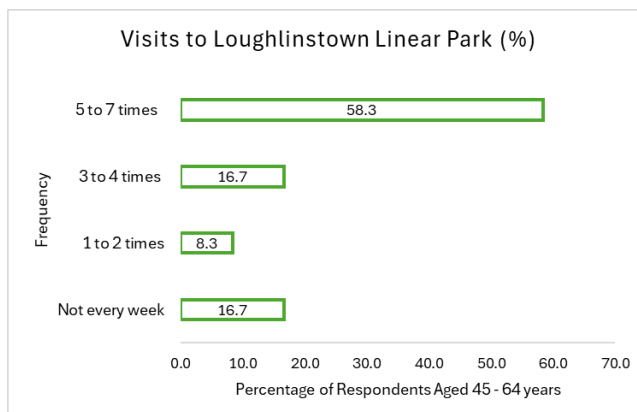
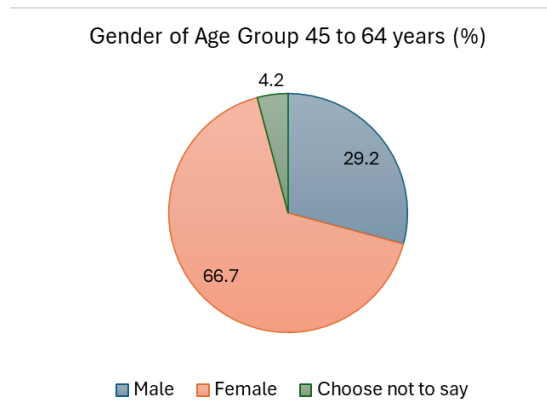
Finally, it is possible that meeting the above requirements will also address some of the concerns of the four respondents who expressed their reservations for building a new teens space. For example, a few respondents pointed out that the installation will have to be accompanied by social/community support programmes (e.g. youth work) and by awareness programmes in the community on the value and design specs for the new teens space.

3. Age Group 45 to 64 years

a. Profile graphs

Number of respondents: 24

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



The majority of respondents (23 out of 24) live in or close to Loughlinstown. 16 of the respondents are female. The majority of respondents (18 out of 24) would visit the park at least three times a week.

The main reason why respondents visit the park is to walk (19 out of 24 respondents). The majority of respondents (13 out of 24) also use the park to walk their dogs. Eight respondents also use the park for cycling.

b. Comments

Positive aspects of a Teens Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park:

- “It will give young people a place to meet and socialise.”
- “It will show that DLR invests in spaces within Loughlinstown and Ballybrack where previously the management of those areas was really poor.”

- None.
- “Hopefully it will be a space where teens get to exercise physically, skate boards, bikes, physical space would be good. They should learn the importance of movement and team work.”
- “I don't think this will be positive at all as there is already a lot of drug dealing going on in the park at the moment and providing this space will just be a hub for the drug dealers as they will have a captive audience grouped in a single site.”
- “No park. It will bring anti-social behaviour and more drug dealing to the park. I'm 47 it's a park 40 years too late. No parking in the area. And please listen to the local neighbours.”
- “No park to be here as there's enough anti-social behaviour & drug dealing around this area as it is. Putting a teenage park in will only encourage more. The trees were removed from this area years ago to try stop the likes of this with zero effect so why put an open area for large groups to meet.”
- “I don't think there is anything positive about having this. As there is a lot of drug dealings going on in the park as it is. It's only going to get worse.”
- “Hopefully it has the potential to be a positive, fun and safe space for teens to meet up. Ideally it would encourage teens to not be drawn to antisocial behaviour that is prevalent in the park, and adjoining areas. If done right it could have a positive impact on young people's wellbeing and instil as sense of belonging, ownership and respect for their area.”
- “We live right beside the park, and anyone who actually uses it can see what goes on there every day. I can't understand how this proposal makes sense. The park is used constantly by dog walkers, and many of our older neighbours meet there daily. I don't see how replacing or changing that space is going to be better for anyone. We already deal with drugs, bins being burned, and not being able to park our cars outside our own homes. I grew up here, my children have grown up here, and we've all used this park as it is. Down by the river, any outdoor exercise equipment has been set on fire. The walkway into Ballybrack village is a lovely route, but teens hang around there at night as well. So I honestly don't understand why teens need an extra designated space here. How many teens even use the track in Kilbogget Park? They already have soccer, GAA, boxing clubs, and the leisure centre up the road. I'd love to see something that supports our generation and the older generation too. I'm glad the community is being asked for input, but I really cannot understand why this is being proposed. During the summer, teens light fires, drink, and play loud music. I know that's part of life for some teens, but I don't see the value in putting money into this. Why can't the park simply remain a park?”
- “A place for teens to meet up and have fun, expend energy and have fun.”
- “I think the idea of a teen space is fantastic. It would open up the space for young people to come together where they can feel safe and secure. The physical aspect of the space is a huge factor in the development of teenagers but I also want to propose a solution that would allow the adolescence the opportunity to develop their mental health capabilities and concerns . As a former resident of Ballybrack and a fully qualified teen therapist I want to propose a further education approach around social skills and interactions that would only benefit the young people , giving them an opportunity for social interaction and development skills. Please let me know how we can develop the idea for mentoring and mental health support that I would like to see happen in the form of weekly group workshops.”
- “It would be great if there was a safe and interesting place for teens to spend time outdoors.”
- “Giving teenagers somewhere safe to go and be themselves and hang out.”
- “Teens won't have to walk around and cross roads to find a place to socialise. Teens will develop a sense a community by getting together regularly in the same place.”
- “Of all the houses around this area, there is very little teenagers. When I am out walking most of the time I see drug dealers. I think it's a bad idea. We had a exercise bikes and they were burnt out. There is a bigger park over in Kilbogget.”

- “A space for youngsters to hang out, feel safe, and learn to take ownership of local infrastructure and environs in a respectful way.”
- “A safe place for teens to hang out and play sports is desperately needed. Teens need a place to meet friends and hopefully play a game of basketball or something similar.”
- “None.”
- “A well-designed teen space in Loughlinstown Linear Park would deliver a range of positive social, health and community benefits. Firstly, it would provide a safe, age-appropriate place for teenagers to meet and socialise. Young people are often under-provided for in public space design, falling between children’s play areas and adult facilities. A dedicated teen space acknowledges their needs and helps reduce informal gathering in less suitable or more sensitive areas. Secondly, a teen space supports positive mental health and wellbeing. Outdoor spaces where young people can relax, talk, and spend time with peers are increasingly recognised as important for reducing isolation, anxiety and stress. Locating this within a green park setting further enhances these benefits. Thirdly, incorporating outdoor fitness and informal activity elements encourages healthy, active lifestyles. Facilities that support movement, balance, strength and informal play can appeal to a wide range of teenagers, including those who may not participate in organised sports. From a community perspective, visible and well-designed teen spaces help to normalise positive youth presence in parks. When young people are provided with spaces that are clearly intended for them, it supports respectful use, natural passive supervision, and better inter-generational understanding. Finally, developing a teen space through local consultation helps foster a sense of ownership among young people and residents alike. This can lead to higher levels of care, reduced vandalism, and stronger connections between the park and the wider community. Overall, a thoughtfully designed teen space would make Loughlinstown Linear Park more inclusive, healthier and more welcoming for all age groups, while supporting the goals of the dlr Play Policy 2023–2028.”
- “There is only one way to entertain teens like clubs and actual training clubs for teens as park space is useless in this computer age. They cause mayhem in the park already.”

Important considerations for the design of the Teens Space:

- “It is due to be opened in the middle of an extremely large amount of homes. The park has occasionally attracted large groups late at night - hoping due consideration is given to avoid this becoming a regular feature.”
- “Anti-social behaviour. Living directly in front of this site for many years we have witnessed many examples of anti-social behaviour from fires to drinking late into the night.”
- “Drainage system as the area indicated gets flooded in heavy rain and winter.”
- “I think it's a terrible idea.”
- “It's important to design a space inclusive of everyone, for example for people with disabilities. Not just a place to gather and hang out. It needs to be somewhere that they can engage in activities that would occupy them.”
- “The site should be moved to the field on the other side of the stream as it is more open and can be policed much easier, any facilities would need to be fire proof as there are a lot of fire lit in the park.”
- “No park.”
- “Consider the likes of the older generation who've lived here all their lives & use this area for their afternoon walks & catch up with their neighbours. These lovely people who reared my generation with no amenities for us growing up. I've lived in this area for 46 years & in my opinion your 46 years too late. My own child who is 13 had nothing in the area either while growing up we had to travel to places like this & frankly they get overcrowded & ruined in a short space of time with groups.”

- “Drug dealers. Underage drinking and of course fires, as it is this is going on, on a daily basis.”
- “That it is scaled so as not to dominate the site, and fits with the natural landscape. That it shouldn’t use poured concrete (as a surface) and prioritise natural and environmentally friendly materials (Example 1 is not appropriate for the site, but 2, 3 more so). That measures are made to make it vandalism and fire-proof, that research into how to prevent vandalism is conducted and that local young people are brought on to help inform and buy in to the process. That the project considers other park users of all ages, so they comfortably co-inhabit the park. That a commitment to regular maintenance is mandated as a requirement to installing the space, and continued efforts are made to ensure that it does not become a site for antisocial behaviour in the future.”
- “The following design aspects:
 1. Needs to be a gated space with opening/closing times.
 2. Properly policed - the young folks around here like to set fire to trees/play equipment.
 3. As a resident that will HAVE to live right beside it, we will have to endure noise and anti-social behaviour (let’s be real here, it’s Loughlinstown).
 4. We do have an ageing population who regularly walk the park with their dogs and meet up as a group in the summer months, they need to feel safe and be able to continue using linear park for both their physical and mental health.”
- “I don’t think anything - it would be so much better thinking of the older community.”
- “Security and anti-social behaviour.”
- “Opportunity for fun activities.”
- “I think the term teen space should be extended as an opportunity to develop a more inclusive and collaborative environment for the community. Offers to engage with psycho education to encourage students to participate in meaningful mental health activities, such as group therapy or group meetings or community workshops. I would like the opportunity to meet with members of DLRCOCO to discuss this topic further to make a bigger impact on our teenagers in the community.”
- “Do it somewhere else.”
- “Appropriate lighting for human and environment/animal habitats.”
- “The design and bright colours of the Meadowbrook, DLRCO example looks very nice. I think making it look special and new and built specifically for teens will make them feel cared for and hopefully they will use enjoy it. Perhaps a running/walking/scooting ring around the whole park could be added also to give the feel that the whole park is for exercise and play.”
- “The space should be well-overlooked by main paths and adjacent areas to support passive supervision, while still offering teenagers a sense of independence and ownership. Good lighting, clear sightlines and proximity to other park uses are essential.”
- “Inclusive and flexible design is also important. The space should cater for a wide age range and different interests, abilities and confidence levels, including young people who may not be drawn to organised sport. A mix of seating, shelter, informal activity and fitness elements allows the space to be used in multiple ways and at different times of day.”
- “Durability and maintenance should be built into the design from the outset. Robust materials, vandal-resistant fixtures and easy-to-maintain surfaces help ensure the space remains welcoming and well-used over time, reducing the risk of deterioration.”
- “Consideration should also be given to comfort and year-round use, including seating layouts that support social interaction, weather protection, shade, and integration with greenery and planting rather than hard, exposed surfaces.”

Concerns expressed by respondents:

- “No safety concerns. But the design must be fire proof and waste dumping proof. The space must be monitored in some capacity otherwise it will just turn into nighttime party and drinking area causing nuisance to the local community.”
- “There is a lot of ongoing drug dealing in the park at the moment, my house will be the closest to this and the anti-social behaviour this will bring by corralling the younger people into a single space will make the drug dealers job easier and most likely mean I would not be able to use my garden as I will be so close to the trouble.”
- “As I’ve said above: No park to be here as there’s enough anti-social behaviour & drug dealing around this area as it is. Putting a teenage park in will only encourage more. The trees were removed from this area years ago to try stop the likes of this with zero effect so why put an open area for large groups to meet.”
- “I have a lot of concerns as I said as it is used for drug dealing and joy riding and the teenagers don't care about anybody they are so intimidating as it is. I'd love to be able to walk around the park on my own and feel safe. But as it is I don't and it's only going to get worse.”
- “I’m listening to the radio and hearing a lot about public spaces being vandalised by teens, and I see it with my own eyes here. I would much rather see money put into education, home support, and a proper supervised hang-out space for teens. I honestly have to wonder if anyone who proposed this actually lives in Ballybrack. I have so much love and pride for where I’m from, but I’ve absolutely no idea how this plan was developed. It feels completely out of touch and, to be honest, ridiculous.”
- “Hooded teens set fire to the previous exercise machines. Broken bottles, antisocial behaviour ongoing in the park. How can this be stopped? There have to be consequences.”
- “Once the park is well maintained and lit up with plenty of room to explore and enjoy the amenities, there shouldn’t be any safety concerns.”
- “CCTV would help me feel safer when meeting strangers.”
- “It needs to be lit well and bright. No glass backboard on the basketball hoop. No glass that can be broken. No bushes that obscure the view. No hidden areas. I am also concerned about young rough adults that sometimes hang out in the park.”
- “It would be an absolute disaster waiting to happen - the teens in the area would unfortunately have it wrecked we would not get a minutes peace.”
- “Sightlines and integration with existing park activity are essential. Lighting is another key consideration. Adequate, well-designed lighting that supports evening use without causing light pollution will help ensure the space feels safe while respecting nearby residents and wildlife. There is also a need to consider design that discourages antisocial behaviour. Well-defined uses, good-quality materials, and clear expectations for how the space is intended to be used can help reduce issues such as intimidation, loitering by older groups, or misuse of the area. Connectivity and access routes to and from the teen space are equally important. Paths should feel safe, direct and well-lit, particularly for younger teenagers travelling independently or using active travel routes.”
- “It seems all the teens are based in the old 3-story houses. It's away from the Linear Park.”

Ideas for a successful Teens Space:

- “A successful teen space needs to have some form of supervision whether that's community gardai showing their face a lot more. Over the years they used to be around on bikes and you'd get to know their faces. Sadly a long time since we've seen any in the area.”
- “Space that will not invite nighttime drinking and drugs activities.”
- “Somewhere that doesn't affect any neighbours, not too close to any houses, the large green on the opposite side of the stream would be perfect.”
- “None.”

- “A youth club.”
- “I’ve pushed my dad around the park in his wheelchair, and the paths are in dreadful condition because teens have set fire to them. Don’t understand this proposal and it’s about 50 years too late when there was nothing to do growing up.”
- “Lots of teens having fun.”
- “A successful project would be to create a unique environment where people can interact and participate in projects that would enhance their feelings of belonging. Exploring and developing Emotional Intelligence and meaningful mental health skills would give people the ability to connect and foster a sense of purpose and pride in themselves and their communities. Mental Health Awareness and mentoring workshops on a weekly basis would provide this opportunity.”
- “A successful teen space would prevent further degradation of the park like burning furniture, stolen bikes thrown in the river, graffiti.”
- “Teens spaces are a great idea and are always needed. A successful teen space would be somewhere teens can gather and hang out safely and get excited to try the games available and play and enjoy.”
- “A successful teen space would be one that is well used, well respected and well-integrated into Loughlinstown Linear Park. It would be a place that teenagers choose to use regularly, where they feel welcome, comfortable and safe, and where a wide range of young people can spend time together in positive ways — socialising, relaxing, being active, or simply spending time outdoors. From a community perspective, success would mean the space coexists comfortably with other park users, without causing conflict or displacement. It should feel like a natural part of the park rather than a hidden or isolated area, benefiting from visibility, passive supervision and good connections to paths and surrounding neighbourhoods.
- A successful teen space would also show signs of care and ownership: it would be clean, maintained and largely free from vandalism, reflecting that users value the space and feel some responsibility for it. This is often a strong indicator that the design and engagement process has worked well. Importantly, it should support health and wellbeing outcomes, encouraging outdoor activity, movement and social connection, while also providing quieter areas for conversation and rest.”

c. Conclusion

The comments from this Age Group show that respondents hold strong views on the proposed development of a new teens space. Those vocally against the development (9 out of 24) referenced a history of anti-social behaviour in Loughlinstown Linear Park which continues to this day as well as the proximity of the proposed location of the new space to their homes. Those in favour of the development saw the potential of a new teen space alleviating anti-social behaviour by giving teens a space for more constructive physical activities and socialising.

With the exception of one or two respondents, those against the proposed development did not deny the need for dedicated spaces for youth activities and socialising, but they did not think the proposed location in the Loughlinstown Linear Park is the appropriate place.

Some of the respondents in favour of the proposed development made detailed constructive suggestions for the design and development process, including an emphasis on mental health and wellbeing by providing the social support required to accompany a new development and to continue thereafter. One respondent, who is a therapist in this field, volunteered her services.

It is also clear that the design should include a number of safety measures to allay the concerns of residents, the main elements being robust non-flammable materials, adequate lighting and CCTV. Respondents also want to see some oversight from community gardai and/or local monitoring.

4. Age Group 65 years and older

a. Profile graphs

Number of respondents: 10

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



All the respondents (10 out of 10) live in or close to Loughlinstown. 6 of the respondents are female. The majority of respondents (8 out of 10) would visit the park at least three times a week.

The main reason why respondents visit the park is to walk (9 out of 10 respondents). Four respondents also use the park to relax on their own. Respondents (3 out of 10) also use the park to walk their dogs.

b. Comments

Positive aspects of a Teens Space in Loughlinstown Linear Park:

- There will be no positive aspects of having a teen area in the park as we don't have a lot of teenagers in the area. This will attract further attention to the park which will have a noticeable increase in activity and noise it will be used for drug dealing. It is too close to the houses for all residents not any parking around any entrance to the park as we find it very difficult to park at the moment. As we

have to put up with people parking dropping children to and from school in the Irish school . 50 years later you propose to give us a teen area that we don't have any use for this is not going to be of any interest to this area as we don't have to many teenagers. We are a mature community and this project is far too late and will bring nothing but trouble to us along with the resources of the police having to deal with ongoing issues problems The fitness area that is at the bridge along the river has already been burnt and same is going to happen to the teen area. It would be better for the council to have a park for teenagers in areas where there is teenagers not in this area were you are inviting trouble to a settled community."

- "I don't see any."
- "It will be burnt out within weeks."
- "I can't see any positive aspects of a teen space in Linear Park as there are very few teens living in the area and it will just draw trouble makers into the area. It would have been a great idea 30 years ago when there was a lot of teens living in the area. Linear Park is now mostly used by people from the area who are in their 60s and upwards for walking. It is a lovely peaceful place to walk and meet neighbours. The park is used by more dogs than teens."
- "None."
- "An area where youngsters/teenagers can congregate and spend time."
- "I don't think their will not be any positive aspects with a teen space, it will be a hang out for drug dealers and users."
- "None."
- "None."
- "None."

Important considerations for the design of the Teens Space:

- "Don't think there's anything to consider as we don't have teenagers in this area. Council needs to do a better assessment of the situation and need to include the police , people from the surrounding areas."
- "Unsociable behaviour at night."
- "It should be on the other side of the river."
- "A space for dogs to run free and poo bins would be a much better idea for the Park."
- To consider the following issues:
 1. Lack of Community Consultation
 2. Biodiversity Impact
 3. Loss of Quiet, Restorative Green Space
 4. Safety Concerns for Older Residents
 5. Risk of Increased Anti-Social Behaviour
 6. E-Bikes and Scooters
 7. Existing Vandalism Issues
- "An outcome following inputs and suggestions from teenagers themselves."
- "There are lots of older people and no teens living in the these areas."
- "None."
- "None."

Concerns expressed by respondents:

- "The concerns would be the impact of teenagers who are not interested in the park but want to bring trouble, sell drugs, and will hangout and intimate the community and old people that use the park every day to exercise. This project has not taken into consideration the impact it will have on our

environment and community. We have had a lot to put up with over the years and we are at a very nice place now with no problems and it is going to bring a lot of unrest. To all residents.”

- “Our concern is the the unsociable behaviour at night.”
- “It will draw a lot of trouble into this area which is something nobody living here want. Please consider the residents living here. A lot of us will be here 50 years this year.”
- The concerns are:
 1. Lack of Community Consultation
 2. Biodiversity Impact
 3. Loss of Quiet, Restorative Green Space
 4. Safety Concerns for Older Residents
 5. Risk of Increased Anti-Social Behaviour
 6. E-Bikes and Scooters
 7. Existing Vandalism Issues
- “Gangs of teens gathering in one space just brings trouble. We don't need a teen space as all our children are in their 30s and 40s. It should have been put in when these houses were built in 1979.”
- “I would not be walking there if this teen space is installed as it would be dangerous.”
- “Teens from outside the area. Drug taking and dealing. Intimidating older people.”

Ideas for a successful Teens Space:

- “No teens.”
- “See previous comments.”
- “Not to be installed.”
- “A teen space is an open area i.e. next to a main road not surrounded by houses of elderly people.”

c. Conclusion

The comments from this Age Group show that most respondents (9 out of 10) are vocally against the proposed development of a new teens space. Those views are informed by past incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour attributed to teenagers who gather in the park. The respondents articulate their fears of severe disruption of their living environment and a sense that as older people they will be disrespected and dismissed.

The respondents point out that where they live in the vicinity of the proposed location of the new teens space, is a mature area where few teenagers live and that such a proposal for a new teen space would have been more relevant 30 years ago for the local neighbourhood.

They also point to existing initiatives in the park for young people that have been vandalised, i.e. the outdoor fitness equipment next to the river. They see this as a foreboding to any new initiative such as the proposed teens space.