

Project: Proposed Development of Shanganagh Park Masterplan – Phase 1, Shankill, Co. Dublin
Information: Project Overview

- The Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan seeks to balance active and passive recreation and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is a key aim of the plan. This is phase 1 for the park upgrade which should be fully considered in the context of the overall plan. The submissions and observations from the Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan demonstrated a high level of support with in excess of 350 submissions and observations being received.
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has the highest participation rate in sport per capita in the country. However, In Ireland, only 42% of adults and 13% of children met the National Physical Activity Guidelines in 2021. The proposal will encourage and facilitate physical activity for all members of the public and park users. Similar facilities and upgrades are being rolled out throughout the parks of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. Sport and physical activity are known to have a significant positive impacts on mental and physical health.
- The masterplan identifies an active recreation zone in the centre of the park and this area is a priority for the park upgrade because of a dire lack of facilities to support local clubs. The proposed development will increase active participation in the county through a multiple of different facilities for GAA, Soccer, Baseball, Cricket, Athletics, etc. It will also encourage free play and other forms of unstructured active participation with a new basketball area and callisthenics workout zone.
- This project includes the provision of sand based and floodlit grass pitches, a sprint track with floodlighting, a shared baseball and cricket area all with associated safety netting and minor fencing. There is a proposed net increase of one GAA sized pitch and a sprint track as part of this proposed development. The cricket and baseball facilities which take up large areas will be amalgamated so that they can share the space.
- None of the facilities will be closed off and there is no fencing around the pitches so all facilities are free for the public to use. In addition, further works are proposed to entrances and to improve access over the DART line which will also create a focal point for sitting, viewing and play. Significant additional tree planting will take place throughout the site to sequester carbon and encourage biodiversity.
- The facilities will be constructed to the highest industry standards and will be given the time to be grow-in to a similar standard. Even with the development of the facilities to the highest industry standards, it is anticipated that usage on the pitches will be maximum 20 to 30 hours on any given week.
- Space to Play, DLR Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 – 2022 sets out a logical, deliverable pathway for the optimum use of existing, and the development of new public sporting and physical activity facilities within the County. The proposed development at Shanganagh Park is multi-use and facilities will be shared and their uses maximised. As stated in the strategy ‘Collaboration and shared use must be a central part of future development of larger scale sporting facilities’.
- The masterplan includes a sports building and car parking in the nearby Shanganagh Castle site which should be considered in the context of this proposed development. Within this area, further facilities will be developed including an area for yoga and a boules/petanque court, among others. In addition, a pitch is to be removed from the front of the park and this will be

developed as a natural area with attenuation, mounding and meadow.

- At the May 2022 Council meeting (held on 9th May 2022), a Motion put forward for Part 8 “Shanganagh Park Masterplan - Phase 1” as amended was agreed by the Elected Members. However, a local Resident on the 1st of July last through his Legal Team made an Ex-Parte application to judicial review the Decision of the Council members on a number of grounds. Judge Meenan adjourned the hearing of the preliminary application seeking leave to issue the proceedings for Judicial Review to the 3rd October 2022. In advance of the hearing date, the Council (through it’s Legal Department) sought the advices of Junior Counsel who advised that there would likely be a delay and significant costs arising in defending the Judicial Review proceedings. She also advised specifically that there appeared to be procedural issues in the Part 8 process relating largely around a technicality of the new development plan coming into effect on the 22nd April 2022. She advised that it would be best to start the process again with knowledge of this technicality. In light of the advice received and to reduce the risk of significant legal costs and delay, a decision was made not to challenge the Judicial Review on the 3rd October 2022.

Project Aims & Objectives:

- Upgrade Shanganagh Park in line with the Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan on a phased basis to meet the current and future needs of the users.
- Develop the park in collaboration and partnership with the sports clubs and local community.
- Create high quality multi-use and shared sports facilities to make the most efficient use of the available space in the park and ensure facilities are available for a wide variety of users.
- Provide inclusive and accessible facilities for everyday park users and seek opportunities for natural play and other forms of active play.
- Protect existing habitats and integrate the facilities into the parkland setting while maximising the potential for tree planting and biodiversity.
- Provide facilities constructed to best practice industry standards.
- Ensure that a portion of the park continues to be dedicated to unmanaged ‘wild’ open spaces, acknowledging the benefits of these spaces for wellbeing and biodiversity