



Parks, Municipal Services Department

Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan 2019

Have Your Say Report

Prepared by: Dara O'Daly, Executive Parks Superintendent

Approved By: Eoin O'Brien, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

Revision: 0

Date: 28th Nov 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A public consultation “Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan- Have your Say” was carried out from the 1st July to the 15th September 2019. As part of this process, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) undertook a presentation followed by questions and answers in St. Anne’s Church Community Centre on the 18th July 2019 from 19:30-21:30. A second public information session took place on the 29th August 2019 from 17:00-21:30. The first 2.5 hours of this session consisted of a drop-in service where interested parties could discuss the plan directly with DLRCC Parks staff. A total of 357 submissions were received consisting of 347 through the consultation hub and 10 direct email submissions. In several instances, there were multiple comments made within a single submission relating to different aspects of the masterplan. These were extrapolated and placed under the relevant heading.

A complete site analysis of the park was carried out which formed the basis of the Masterplan proposal. Documents were made available on the DLRCC citizen space website (<https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/>) and the documents included in the consultation are as follows:

- *Shanganagh Park Site Analysis*
- *Shanganagh Park Masterplan*
- *Shanganagh Masterplan – Written Statement*
- *Shanganagh park AA Screening*

The submissions were made up of many different comments/observations on a range of issues. In order for clarity, these observations have been reported on under a range of headings arranged alphabetically and summarised. Where multiple people made same observation, the number of people is indicated in brackets.

The response of the design team is provided in relation to the headed item under the observations received in relation to that item.

Where changes to the Masterplan are proposed, these are outlined in red in the design team response. Where changes are not proposed, the reasons have been addressed in the design team response.

The majority of the submissions were by private individuals whom are not listed in this report. Organisations/Public Reps who made submissions were as follows –:

*An Taisce South Dublin
Cuala GAA
Shankill GAA
Bray Runners AC
Corbawn Residents Association
Rathmichael FC
The Shankill Residents Association
Herpetological Society of Ireland
Mariners Baseball Club*

Shankill FC
Old Connaught and District Community Association
Shanganagh Barkers
South Shankill Residents Association
Save Shankill Village Group
Cabinteely Boules Petanque Club
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS:

Active Recreation

GAA, athletics and baseball all feature under their own specific headings. There were a total of 12 submissions relating to the provision of other forms of active recreation. The comments submitted are as follows:

- *proposed plan includes nothing for residents that participate in non-conventional sports*
- *BMX/skateboarding/scooters*
- *bushy park and lucan skateparks along with BMX racing tracks such as lucan and rathoath*
- *Delighted with the proposals for Shanganagh Park*
- *Would like to see some outdoor fitness / gym equipment added*
- *Would also like to see some "skills walls" added to the GAA or soccer areas*
- *exercise machines*
- *definitely benefit from more fitness equipment*
- *Soccer pitches are not being upgraded*
- *any thoughts on Padel Courts*
- *Shankill FC give the masterplan their full support*
- *Open basketball and tennis courts*
- *Create a covered walkway from the existing pitches to the sports centre*
- *outdoor fitness equipment is in poor condition and should all be replaced*
- *accommodate a large concrete skatepark and a tarmac pumptrack*
- *2 or 3 French Boules pistes in the park*
- *One possibility is extending our astro to a full size soccer pitch*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

One of the main challenges while developing the masterplan is the balance between active and passive space. Within that there is a more nuanced balance that needs to be achieved between the provision of space for mainstream sports while also providing space for niche sports. The provision of a skateboard/bmx facility may not require the use of a large body of space and this will be explored. A skills wall may be integrated on the outside of the sports pavilion. The upgrade of the exercise machines and stations will form part of ongoing maintenance. Boules pistes will be included close to the castle.

Baseball

There were a total of 2 specific submissions relating to the proposed reconfigured baseball facility in Shanganagh Park. The comments submitted are as follows:

- *Is not adequate in size.*
- *Baseball fields are typically at least 100 square metres in area.*
- *Conflicting overlap of cricket schedule with the baseball schedule.*
- *Possible overlap with soccer club as there is less overlap in the season*
- *Increase the numbers of players 10-fold over the next 10-years*
- *Floodlights*
- *Not fit for purpose*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Balancing the provision of active, structured sport with passive, nature-rich space is the biggest challenge for DLRCC in maintaining and developing Shanganagh Park. It is important that an array of sport is encouraged to create an alternative to the mainstream such as soccer, rugby and GAA. At the same time, baseball is a niche sport and the physical amount of space that is required to create the outfield area is disproportionately large.

The allocation of large areas of open space for a specific, prescribed sport is unsustainable into the future. Greater pressure will be placed on the park facility in the coming years as the local population increases and land around the park is developed. As part of Space to Play, dlr Sports facilities Strategy 2017-2020, the sharing of facilities such as these identified as a key part of the strategy. It is the opinion of the Design Team that it is reasonable to overlap the provision of baseball and cricket. It may be possible to expand the proposed space to create the requested dimensions.

Baseball Field/Meadow

There were 7 submissions in relation to the development of the baseball field in the middle of the park. In recent years this space has been managed as a large meadow area. This area is to be converted to 2 GAA pitches. The following comments relate to this:

- *a blot on the landscape in what is a wonderful open space for those currently using the sky by day*
- *vistas of Carrickgollogan, the Sugarloaf, Wicklow Mountains and Killiney Hill*
- *floodlight posts leave a blot on the landscape*
- *Leave the existing layout of cricket oval, baseball/softball diamond and meadow as is*
- *A peaceful spot that, again, is away from where all the other GAA pitches*
- *strongly against this plan as it makes the park a sport's campus*
- *The proposal for these pitches to be located here results in the park being almost entirely set out as a sports park*
- *light pollution that will come from the pitches and it's flood-lighting*
- *it is wrong to be considering the floodlighting of two playing fields*
- *installation of sports lighting is of concern to encroaching existing residents*
- *shocking proposal to create two new floodlit sand-based pitches at point 22 on the map would be an act of vandalism*
- *loss of the beautiful meadow with its gentle camber*
- *loss of the meadow will therefore impact severely on the swallow, house martin and sand martin*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

As part of the masterplan it is proposed to develop this central area into 2 sand based, floodlit pitches due to the demand for GAA facilities. This proposal is based on the fact that this area is large enough to accommodate 2no full size GAA pitches (145x90). Another reason is the fact that this area is in close proximity to the castle and the existing sports pavilion which will be renovated to provide shared sports facilities. These pitches will not feature enclosing fencing and will be open to public use when not in use for club fixtures. The removal of the meadow will be offset by creating a new meadow in the castle grounds around the pond and if feasible, on the crematorium site. Linear

meadows will be created in all the perimeter areas around the existing and proposed pitches and in any other area of grassland that can be identified.

Biodiversity, Tree Cover & Passive Recreation

There were a total of 17 specific requests relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Shanganagh Park & Cemetery. The comments submitted in relation to biodiversity are as follows:

- has become even more beautiful with the implementation of the eco-areas and the plush meadows*
- Promoting biodiversity by managing the existing meadows*
- Planting more trees is great.*
- Do not disturb wildlife and reduce existing habitats by reducing the park area*
- Really important to conserve wildlife and create habitats for pollinators*
- Not in favour of losing any passive spaces*
- Less football pitches and more planting of wild meadows in their place*
- Predominance of sports will result in the loss of wildlife habitat*
- Imperative that substantial tree planting is undertaken*
- Include lands currently zoned Green Belt along Alleys River Road*
- Woodlands and all the other vegetation are left to grow naturally*
- Smooth newts currently reside around the castle lake and allotments*
- Common lizards present along the coastal edge*
- Walking in a park with meadows is a sheer pleasure*
- Sand Martin colony on the cliffs*
- The hedgerows are far too slim within the park*
- More native hedgerows, trees and pollinator friendly plants*
- Healthy woodland habitat adjoining the castle*
- passive recreational space is all the more precious and important*
- wonderful diversity of native wildlife, birds and bat colony*
- Felling of mature trees is to be avoided*
- several bat species in the area, and also such species as Barn and Long-Eared Owls and Badgers*
- Department notes and welcomes that the masterplan proposes to minimise light spillage from path lighting and pitch flood lighting*
- presence of a known Soprano Pipistrelle Bat roost in St. Anne's Park Court near the northern edge of the park should be considered*
- Other bat roosts in the area should be identified and lighting designed to avoid disrupting flight paths to and from these roosts*
- A flock of Curlews from 60 to over 120 has wintered for at least the last 50 years in the Shanganagh area*
- Traditionally the part of Shanganagh Park most frequented by Curlews is the field/meadow between Shanganagh Castle and the railway line*
- additional tree planting proposed for this area would likely conflict with its continued usage by Curlews. The installation of "Prunty type" football pitches may also interfere with their foraging here*
- detailed botanical survey of the crematorium field, which at present contains much disturbed ground, should therefore be carried out at a suitable time of the year to identify this species and other rarities which may occur here*

- usage by Curlews of the various areas of the park should be established by regular surveys so that any possible conflicts between the proposals set out in the masterplan and this species' continued usage of the park may be resolved.
- Stonechat, Reed Bunting and Whitethroat, have traditionally nested along the hedgerow adjacent to the old railway embankment on the seaward edge of Shanganagh Park
- Sea Buckthorn has become established in this area in recent years. As this species is classed as an invasive it should be removed
- Several nest mounds of Yellow Meadow Ants *Lasius flavus* have been established on this bridge
- Claffey's Grove, as many of these trees as possible are retained

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The park contains an existing collection of passive spaces, tree cover, vegetation and varied habitats. Guided by the masterplan, the management of the park will preserve these existing habitats and take full advantage of every opportunity to strengthen the biodiversity and nature value. A trade off is required in some areas of the park due to the overwhelming demand for the provision of active recreational facilities. In these instances, innovative ways of replacing passive space will be created.

Proper scientific surveys are needed to understand the health of the wildlife populations within the park. Surveys will also help to highlight the movement of wildlife around the park and the hotspots of wildlife activity. These findings will directly inform the detailed response as the park is developed. The AA screening highlighted rare and unusual There is ongoing ecological research taking place at the moment. A smooth newt survey, bird flight path survey and a bat survey. A common lizard survey is also to be conducted.

All bird species occurring in Ireland are listed in the Wildlife Act 1976 (amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) as protected species. This legislation makes it illegal to kill or injure nearly all birds, nests and eggs in the wild and also places restrictions on clearance of breeding bird habitats.

Other terrestrial mammals such as badger, fox, rabbit, rats and grey squirrel. Fox and rabbit are not considered endangered in Ireland and rats are considered pests. Badgers and their setts are legally protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended. Grey squirrel is an invasive species and is on the List of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern.

Footnote:

BoCCI - Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland (2014-2019)

<https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VcYOTGOjNbA%3D&tabid=178>

EU Annex I Bird Species

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm

Café/Tearooms/Food offering

There were 3 requests for café/tearooms to be located within Shanganagh Park & Cemetery and the associated comments are outlined below:

- A café and designated picnic space

- A coffee shop is lacking
- Picnic tables/ chairs
- A market would be a wonderful attraction, like the one in Dun Laoghaire
- Most parks have a coffee place, ice cream van etc
- Park should have a coffee shop or hug for take away coffee
- Like the kiosks on bray seafront small shops selling ice cream, coffee, cakes, sweets etc

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is proposed to develop a café as part in the cluster of existing buildings in the Shanganagh Castle. Initial proposals propose a café facility on the southern groundfloor/ basement level of the castle building which is subject to a feasibility study. This will tie in with a sunken terrace, seating space with a water feature and ornamental planting. This will be strategically located in the centre of the park and conveniently located beside the proposed sports facility.

Coastal Paddocks

There were 7 submissions that included references to the loss of the 2 paddocks on the eastern side of the park. The associated comments are outlined below:

- *I see a huge chunk of land to the right of the proposed Dart Station is disappeared from the intended plan*
- *two of the largest meadows on that side having been sold off*
- *will result in a vast loss of habitat*
- *The east meadows are a rare source of natural beauty*
- *removal of the back fields and meadows as far as we are concerned is nothing more than vandalism*
- *loss of the two fields to the golf club is very sad and is anti-community*
- *loss of the meadow will therefore impact severely on the swallow, house martin and sand martin populations*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

There has been an exchange of land as part of a tripartite agreement between DLRCC, Woodbrook golf course and Castlethorn Homes to allow the development of the Woodbrook lands and the creation of a DART station at Woodbrook. This agreement will see DLRCC taking ownership of Shanganagh Castle and the associated buildings as well as the castle land in exchange for the two paddocks on the coastal side of the park. A route is being maintained by DLRCC along the coastal side of the Dart line for the future East Coast Greenway and to create a further looped path within the park and cemetery. The loss of the paddocks will be offset by an increase in meadow areas and the planting of additional trees in the park and castle lands.

Masterplan Change: *It is proposed to increase the meadow areas on the castle land and in linear configurations around the perimeter of the open spaces in the park.*

Coastline

The park is located on the coastline. There were 5 submissions and requests in relation to developing the connectivity and accessibility between the coastline and the park. The comments and observations are listed below:

- develop more of the coastal element of the park
- The beach at Quinn's Road is quite secluded
- opportunity to open up the view at the back of the park
- create a promenade-style walkway
- benefit more from that than creating a viewing platform
- The proposed spiral sculpture seems a bit a waste of money and of public amenity

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Coastal erosion is a long-term challenge facing the eastern edge of the park. The use of hard infrastructure is being avoided due to the effect of erosion on the local coastline. The viewing terrace is conceived as a sculpted mound of soil using only natural products such as timber and loose stone to create seating, barriers and surfaces. In this way the intervention can be absorbed back into the landscape without any undue effect on the local environment.

Cycling permeability and cycling infrastructure

There were five comments in relation to cycling facilities. The following comments and observations have been made in relation to cycling in Shanganagh Park:

- provision for segregated cycle lanes
- improvement in cycle parking facilities to encourage active travel
- if 10 car spaces were converted it could provide parking for 60+ bicycle spaces
- designated cycling area or designated cycling paths
- pathways should be accessible to trishaws for Cycling Without Age initiatives
- Cycling Without Age has proven an incredibly popular and positive activity for residents
- Objecting to cycle lanes through the park. Its currently a walking/running park for families and dog walkers

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Traffic and the space taking up in the neighbouring housing estates by parked cars has been consistently raised as a key issue throughout the consultation process. As a local authority, it is imperative that we provide safe, convenient, green routes to promote and encourage walking and cycling in the local area. Encouraging members of the public to walk and cycle rather than driving for short journeys is one of the key strategies in tackling local traffic and parking issues. The development of the Woodbrook residential lands and the proposed Dart station will create a demand for access through and around the park to the new station. A combination of DLR providing high quality safe routes and a local population willing to tackle the issue by making a modal shift for short journeys will help to tackle car usage in the local area. The detail of cycling and walking routes in the park has to be carefully managed to eliminate, as much as possible, any potential conflict between the two users. This may be in the form of surface differentiation and other park elements.

Dog Running Area/ Dog Control

A dog's off leash area is an important facility within Shanganagh Park and all of the main parks within Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. There were 8 submissions in relation to dogs in the park. The following are comments related to this:

- *Very disappointed with the lack of provisions for dog owners*
- *totally unsuitable and unfit for purpose in regards to exercising dogs*
- *We need off lead times and areas*
- *It is far too small and there is no water provided for the dogs*
- *Separate dog off leash area for smaller breeds*
- *More seating in the dog area*
- *Water tap at the dog park is a must*
- *Water and some obstacles on the dog park would be great*
- *Maybe make it bigger as used by so many dogs*
- *Dog park should be made bigger and cordoned into two parts*
- *More bins required*
- *Enforcement of dogs off the lead*
- *The current dog park is not fit for purpose*
- *One thing I would like to see is more bins for dogs 'pooh'*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Dogs provide many positive social benefits. A pet dog helps to promote an active lifestyle, encourage social interaction and good mental health. If not properly managed, dogs can cause anti-social issues in terms of fouling and intimidation. The plan proposes the expansion and upgrade of the existing dog's off leash area. Dogs can be very disruptive to the establishment of and the preservation of wildlife in the park. Off lead times may cause conflict with the efforts to preserve and promote greater wildlife and biodiversity.

Entrances

There were 3 submissions in relation to the entrance points around the park. The associated comments are outlined below:

- *The existing main entrance should be maintained*
- *the existing entrance will allow additional enhancement of the wetland pond*
- *users should be encouraged to walk to and from the park*
- *Relocating the entrance of the park is not beneficial*
- *unduly costly and unnecessary*
- *the ducks, may tend to wander directly onto the main road*
- *Castle Farm –already seriously impacted by the current park users parking near the entrance*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The alterations to the existing entrance points around the park are a response to the historic analysis undertaken and informed by the proposed developments that will occur in the future. The reconfiguration of the entrances along the Dublin Road are informed by the proposed alteration to the access avenue. There is a lack of any historic merit to the grand entrance on the corner. The over scaled paved entrance is an incongruous feature on the edge of the park. The masterplan seeks to maintain a smaller more inconspicuous entrance at the corner while shifting the piers and metalwork to the centre. This new central location will be a folly entrance, meaning that it will provide a setting and a view but will not actually function as access. The entrance in Castle Farm is a

shifting of the entrance from its existing location approximately 20m back to the historic connection. This will serve to re-establish the historic entrance and allow the additional woodland planting along the existing, convoluted path.

Footpaths and Lighting

There were two submissions that directly mentioned footpaths and lighting. The associated comments are outlined below:

- *avoid any unnecessary paving of the park*
- *I understand the accessibility argument*
- *detract quite considerably from the beauty of the park*
- *Lighting along the paths*
- *full park would receive path side lighting*
- *park is used as a "shortcut" for the communities when walking towards Bray*
- *Noise and light pollution, environmental impact (bats)*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The need for fully accessible paths is one of the basic provisions of any park. Concrete and macadam are utilitarian finishes. They are widely used as they are economical and the inherent flexibility in a macadam finish is a beneficial feature in a park. Alternative path finishes will be explored as part of the final masterplan. These will include porous surfaces and materials that are more complimentary to the colour and texture of the indigenous granite. A greater integration of soft landscape with hard landscape is a goal within the masterplan. This implies the paths more visually imbedded in the park landscape. The provision of lighting has to be balanced with issues of light pollution and the disruption of nocturnal wildlife activity.

GAA Club

Play games in Shanganagh Park at present. There were 3 submissions in relation to their ongoing use of the park and to suggestions on future developments for GAA games there:

- *Formed in 1918 with 3000 members*
- *790 members living in the Killiney Shankill Electoral Area*
- *Playing on the 2 front pitches in the park for over 35 years*
- *2 All Ireland club hurling titles*
- *Pitches are vital to the success of Cuala GAA*
- *The provision of all-weather surfaces and lighting*
- *Enable greater flexibility of usage*
- *The continued growth of GAA in the area*
- *Essential public amenities*
- *Explosion of young women playing GAA in the area*
- *Tackle sedentary lifestyles, obesity and mental health*
- *Acknowledge the huge demand on land in DLR*
- *Acknowledge the work of the council in providing playing pitches*
- *At present, there are 2 portacabins and a container*
- *No electricity, toilets, showers or running water*
- *Suggest a two thirds (60 acres) passive versus one third (31 acres) active split*
- *Essential that the new pitches are 145x90*

- 2 new pitches need to be prioritised for adult games
- Suggesting the allocation of 140 car spaces at Shanganagh Castle sports pavilion
- The two front pitches are the only 2 full size pitches available to Cuala adult teams
- Require 2 portacabin changing rooms to service the front pitches
- Publish a definitive analysis of the planned balance active/ passive
- Sports pitches are flexible amenities for all
- UNESCO have granted hurling and Camogie Cultural Heritage status
- Maintenance of the pitches is vital
- Pitches used 26 hours a week in the Summer months

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

DLR acknowledges the clubs long running association with the park and the number of people representing their club from the Shankill area. Also, the success of the club, particularly in recent years and the expansion of their membership is noted. DLR acknowledges the suggestion for 140 car spaces adjacent to the proposed sports facility. The area around the castle is particularly important and the provision of this many car spaces would have a detrimental impact on the provision of open space, the natural and historic importance of the park. More parking spaces perpetuates more car journeys and traffic. It can be confirmed that the proposed new sand based pitches will be 145x90m. In terms of ongoing maintenance, DLRC Parks intend to conduct a survey of all the pitches in the county. A specific maintenance programme for each pitch is being created. The statement that sports pitches are a flexible amenity for all to use is true to a certain extent. In the context of fully developing the nature value in the park and proper passive space, a playing pitch cannot be included as a true passive space. The need for running water and changing rooms is acknowledged and a short term solution will be explored.

GAA Club

There were 154 submissions in relation to use of the pitches in Shanganagh Park. 105 of these were a copy & paste generic submission. The associated comments are outlined below:

- local children should be accommodated in the plans
- GAA club does not have a pitch in Shanganagh Park
- have no clubhouse, toilets or changing facilities in grounds that are located outside of the village
- GAA club is a growing, local club for local children
- this development plan includes the provision of playing pitches that are proposed for use by another GAA club
- provide access to these proposed sports facilities and playing pitches
- allocating us one flood lit pitch and changing facilities
- clubs from the local community in the plan for the park
- to bring together fragmented green field resources into a single area and would strengthen our children's sense of local identity
- GAA club has a fantastic community spirit and great involvement, enthusiasm and support
- Our club is growing in numbers
- the re-established and thriving Shankill GAA club

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The revised park layout within the masterplan has added an additional GAA pitch to the park layout. The proposal includes upgrading 2 of these pitches to sand based pitches and floodlights. This will allow for an intensification of use between GAA clubs and the pitches in the park have been designated as shared facilities.

General Comments

There were 19 submissions that have been categorised under this heading as they covered a broad range of topics, some unique requests, vague statements and in some instances blank submissions. The associated comments are outlined below:

- opportunities that would arise from having a caravan and camping park facility*
- too much is being attempted within the space available*
- there is a need for a comprehensive, integrated plan for the Shankill area*
- welcome proposals that ensure connectivity between Shanganagh Park and the various parts of Shankill*
- connectivity could then be a basis for enhanced links with other parks in the county*
- welcome the early development of coastal access from Shanganagh Park to Bray*
- with the inclusion of the castle, should be configured to facilitate the staging of appropriately sized events and festivals*
- Just trying to figure out what u r all up to*
- lack of joined up thinking in terms of co-ordinating this as part of a larger local development plan*
- Every kids, yours and mine has the right to enjoy life. Please, do not take it away from them*
- I say no no no to this development*
- It been great place to visit*
- Concerned about development in the area*
- this redevelopment should wait until the new residents are settled*
- I think the plan is outrages!!*
- We have the beautiful seascape for those who enjoy water*
- If there is one thing not needed in the park it is yet another place to buy fatty foods*
- (Blank Comment) x3*
- I can see no reason to change it at all*
- reduces the amount of green space at a time when Shankill is about to grow exponentially*
- The lack of joined up thinking is astounding*
- propose the westerly extension of the park to through to Woodbrook to create a rural looped walk and cycle way*
- Alleys River Road and surrounding lands to become again the natural gateway linking the mountains and the sea*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Many of these submissions highlight the challenge in meeting the broad spectrum of demands placed on a park. The main challenge in a park is to provide a balance between active, structured sport and a passive, nature rich amenity. The masterplan seeks to utilise every piece of land in the park to support both sports facilities and at the same time foster a rich mosaic of natural habitat. Also noted are the submissions related to the broader scope of green infrastructure. These ideas are beyond the scope of this project but may form part of future projects.

Housing

The provision of housing does not directly form part of the park masterplan. The proposed Castle development is immediately adjacent to the park and the sketch layout was included on the masterplan for broader context. There were 5 comments in relation to the proposed provisions of housing. The following comments relate to this:

- *hesitant about social housing but that is besides the point of "the park"*
- *Very happy that more housing will be built HOWEVER*
- *I want it to be affordable rental and purchase wise*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The proposed housing in the castle lands and in Woodbrook along the other edge will help to create better security in the park. The buildings will overlook at different points which will create passive surveillance 24/7. DLR Parks & Landscape Services has helped to guide the layout of the new developments to better tie into the character and strengths of the park.

On site Power Generation

It is imperative that any proposed new facilities in the park have a net zero carbon footprint. The provision of lighting, new community buildings and other infrastructure will have to be powered from energy created in the park. There were 5 submissions in relation to power generation in the park. Relevant comments are listed below:

- *I am impressed with the plan*
- *would hate to see it covered in solar panels or intrusive high rise wind turbines*
- *Solar panels should be source of power generation*
- *more flexible and not as noisy as wind generators*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

To combat our impact on the environment we need to act now in everything that we construct and manage. Shanganagh park has great potential to produce green electricity. There is space in the park but, as mentioned repeatedly, there is a finite provision of space to be juggled between different pressures. The infrastructure for the power generation will have to be located somewhere. This decision will be made taking into account neighbouring residents, sports facilities, wildlife flight paths and optimum power generation.

Park Run & Running Facilities

The Shanganagh Park run is one of the most successful park runs in the county. Bray Runners AC are an active athletics club in the park. There were 25 submissions in relation to running in the park. The following are comments related to this:

- *Can a running track be incorporated into the design*
- *I use the park for running*
- *Will there be room to continue the "Park Run"?*
- *Need full 400m track (x9)*
- *there should be a proper running track and possibly a marked 5k running route*

- *There needs to be a place for the runners included in the Masterplan*
- *athletics numbers growing steadily especially with young children*
- *I would love to see a fully lit running track*
- *My kids are in the running club and the facilities in the area are poor*
- *can you please put lighting in the park which will allow running/walking*
- *provide the large and ever growing running community with a 200m/400m track*
- *Would it not be possible to put a 2 or 3 lane 400m track around one of the football pitches?*
- *I remember (and used) the track that existed in the field where the dog run is now*
- *With regard to provision for athletics the plan is seriously deficient*
- *provision of a sprint track is welcome, but it needs to be longer than currently envisaged*
- *Would be great to have lighting in the park*
- *it would be greatly improved if there was lighting installed so that runners*
- *record number of children who are members of Bray Runners*
- *We also need a definite guarantee of jump facilities*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The Park Run in Shanganagh Park is acknowledged as one of the most successful in the county. Also, the growth of Bray Runners AC in the local area is encouraging. A full 400m running track facility would occupy a large expanse of finite space in the park. The provision of space for athletics has to be weighed up with the provision of space for other popular sports. The space needed for all the sports facilities have to be balanced with the provision of space and habitat for wildlife and habitat. The request for lighting has to be balanced with issues of light pollution and the disruption of nocturnal wildlife activity.

Pedestrian Permeability - Shanganagh Grove

This item was given its own heading due to the volume of submissions relating specifically to the proposed pedestrian link through Shanganagh Grove. There were 42 submissions related to the pedestrian permeability link through Shanganagh Grove and the associated comments are outlined below:

- *Opposed to an entrance to the park from my estate (x41)*
- *This is now an elderly community who do not need cars flying up and down*
- *Increase risk of burglary and antisocial behaviour*
- *Parking problems and increased traffic*
- *there are multiple cars per house and we already have parking issues*
- *Safety for the children that play and the elderly residents that walk*
- *We fully support the Council's plan*
- *easy access to the park and cemetery, particularly elderly people who don't drive*
- *It will also take the pressure off St Anne's Park*
- *Potential parking / traffic problems can easily be alleviated by introducing disc parking*
- *Removing the wall at the top of Shanganagh Grove will deter anti-social behaviour*
- *More residents walking through will act as a natural deterrent*
- *new DART station is built, easy access through Shanganagh Grove will be a great boost for locals*
- *Increased risk of burglary and anti social behaviour*

- *whole plan that I've seen will be wonderful, but I would question the part where it includes the top of Shanganagh Grove*
- *We have ease of access to the park through St Anne's estate or via Quinns Road*
- *Shankill dart station is a mere ten minutes' walk from the estate currently through Foxes Grove*
- *Extra footfall to the estates*
- *particularly in the grove and park where cars cannot park on both sides of the street as it exists*
- *Right now the kids of SG can play safely, cars or people coming into the grove can be seen by most residents*
- *Wheelchair user, cars are also likely to park on the paths*
- *serious concern is to do with the accessibility of ambulances to our houses*
- *20 are occupied by OAPs in our 70s and 80s. They include 7 elderly widows and 4 elderly widowers*
- *Many elements of the plan appear a positive addition*
- *grave concerns about the additional access points, in particular the additional access point from Shanganagh Grove.*
- *its demographic largely now consists of either elderly people or young families with young kids*
- *plan demonstrates commendable environmental planning*
- *negatively affecting the air quality, noise, carbon footprint, in Shanganagh Grove*
- *is a lovely safe cul de sac with a great mix of original residents, who have lived here since the '60s, and new families*
- *We do not want or need direct access to the park*
- *creation of an entrance to the park at the top of Shanganagh Grove is unnecessary*
- *myself and my husband would not appreciate having to pay for ourselves and our visitors to park in front of our own house*
- *if such an entrance is opened up this will introduce the same chaotic parking that is seen in neighbouring estates*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

It is imperative that DLR seek to create solutions to the mass over-reliance on cars. The provision of convenient pedestrian links is a proven way to encourage a modal shift away from cars for short, local journeys. These pedestrian access points form part of a wider community network of safe, convenient routes and should not be judged in isolation. Reading the submissions there is fear that the access point will bring increased traffic and anti-social behaviour. Many of the arguments run counter-intuitive, stating that there is a large number of old people in the estate and young children. Whereas, this access point would be hugely beneficial to these vulnerable members of the community, it is felt that it would be a threat to them. Indeed, at the first public meeting, one member of the audience stated that he lives in the cul de sac next to the park but drives his children around to the park playground.

The introduction of new facilities around the castle will be a draw for local residents and the fear of increased traffic is overriding the fact that this would create a safe, civilised walking entrance to the community facilities. A direct access point would also help to discourage any loitering that is occurring behind the wall. At present, the space behind the wall is a dead end and encourages anti social loitering. The wall is only 1.83m high and doesn't deter someone able bodied from scaling it. An option may be to provide a gate in the wall which will be locked and opened according to park hours.

***Masterplan Change:** Given the overwhelming number of submissions in relation this It is proposed to remove the pedestrian access point between Shanganagh Grove and the park in the masterplan. This access point may be visited again once the Dart station is developed at Woodbrook. There may be greater local appetite for it at that stage.*

Play Facilities

The existing playground beside the Dublin Road is to be relocated into the woodland area and into a playful landscape adjacent to the woodland. Informal play element are proposed throughout the Masterplan including the footbridge over the DART line which utilises the change in level to create natural play. There were 8 submissions in relation to play facilities. The associated comments are outlined below:

- *Would like a bigger playground (x2)*
- *I was in Cabinteely Park & it is amazing for the kids (x2)*
- *the visibility from the road leaves it less likely that predators would approach children*
- *Moving it to a less visible place will expose it to vandalism*
- *I welcome the redevelopment of the children's playground away from the main road*
- *During the week it is the key attraction and focal point of activity for many families living nearby*
- *An adventure playground in a woodland setting is very exciting for children. But there should be a play area with activities suitable for younger children*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The playground is to be moved further way from the main road into the trees flanking the entrance road boundary of the park. This area is to be drained and the water redirected to create the proposed pond element of the masterplan. The development of a nature based play facility is an important component of the park masterplan. Encouraging children to be more tactile and interactive with nature and their immediate environment is a key component of the play concept. The play offering will be less structured and based more on child decision making.

Proposed Crematorium & existing cemetery

There were 5 requests related to the construction of a crematorium and the inclusion of the cemetery in the park masterplan. The associated comments are outlined below:

- *I welcome a crematorium in the area*
- *concerned if there was 'open' access to the cemetery by all 24 hours*
- *source of dangerous air pollution at the heart of its new regional park*
- *water cremation ceremony is identical to flame cremation*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The crematorium has already been through a statutory public consultation through the Part 8 planning process. The permeability across the cemetery is to allow for the future development of Woodbrook and the proposed train station there. The permeability will be corralled along a pathway that is flanked by a ditch and a low hedgerow. This will maintain a physical separation but maintain an open, visual connection with the cemetery.

Shanganagh Castle

There were 4 submissions in relation to the development of the castle. The associated comments are outlined below:

- concentrate on making the house more accessible first
- use the house and green houses for an environmental learning hub
- Highlighting the castle, Marlay style, will enhance the park and give a context for the land
- Perhaps some consideration could be given to making this park a science hub
- the base for all local historical, archaeological organisations
- an emphasis on science and astronomy events
- urge the Council to put a timeline on the development of the Castle
- put into active use within the time of the County Development Plan expiring in 2022
- Has any provision been made for a premises for a forest school, like the Park Academy in Kilruddery

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The castle is a fabulous asset. It is understandable that the requests are looking for a rapid development of the facility. A robust concept with a long-term vision for the use of the building is needed. There are some excellent suggestions above including a base for cultural organisations and a forest school. These ideas need to be fully examined to develop a sustainable use for the building.

Technology

There were 2 submissions in relation to technology in the park. The associated comments are outlined below:

- Please do not install 5G infrastructure anywhere in the park. It is a complete health hazard
- No 5G masts to be installed in the park to safeguard public health

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

5G is not being considered as part of the park masterplan.

Traffic & Carparking

There were 19 submissions in relation to traffic and carparking in the estates adjacent to the park. The associated comments are outlined below:

- encouraging users of the pitches to park in local estates
- as someone who brings their kids to matches and parks responsibly in other estates
- risk turning Castle Farm and St Annes into a carpark whenever games are on
- residents have to put up with people coming down all day long walking dogs and parking
- we have to contend with the 5k run in the park and the problems these people are causing
- Instead of extending the car parking areas, I would urge to rather develop bicycle parking
- sports facilities and the new DART station will be used mostly by people living in the area
- Creating bicycle parking rather than car parking will encourage people to use bikes
- residents of St Anne's Park and Castle Farm will have to put up with cars coming into the estate
- the bus stops immediately outside, and is very convenient, and safe
- make no sense to direct this traffic back through the village into residential areas
- What will divide this car parking area other than our boundary wall

- SSRA have written to the DLR County Council regarding the ongoing traffic problems
- bringing increased traffic into a residential area
- Castle Farm resident parking space will be overwhelmed on busy match days
- bottom of the road is very badly cut up due to cars parking on the verges
- park should be 'served' directly off a national route/road or next available alternative
- will be increased incidences of parking by visiting sports teams in the Castle Farm

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The masterplan seeks to promote alternative modes of local journeys with the development of routes through the park and convenient access through the local estates. This will create quick, safe access into the park and may encourage locals in some of the convoluted cul de sacs to walk or cycle rather having to rely on car journeys. It is proposed in the existing carpark to increase the provision of carparking from 150 spaces to 190. The plan also proposes the development of 74 parking spaces at the castle. The only meaningful way to tackle traffic, local speeding issues and carparking is through the transition to public transport, walking and cycling for journeys. The development of a DART station at Woodbrook will help to promote alternatives to car dependent

Trainline Bridges

There were 6 submissions in relation to the development of the castle. The associated comments are outlined below:

- Corbawn Drive will be used for construction traffic
- upgrade one of the bridges across the train tracks so it is suitable to carry the tall maintenance, construction and emergency vehicles
- upgrade the existing bridge near the cemetery
- perfect time to develop the bridge from the cemetery road
- bridge is currently locked by gate but is structurally sound
- to upgrade the bridge in the park so as it may be used for construction traffic

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Creating greater connectivity between the east and west of the park is one of the important aims of the masterplan. There are 2 existing bridges that it is proposed to upgraded and the creation of a third bridge will act as a crossing half way between the them. It is proposed to upgrade the pedestrian bridge by improving access on the western side. The existing bridge at the cemetery requires only superficial renovation and it could opened up in the short term. It is preferable to retain as much of the green character of this bridge as possible. The proposed new bridge will be designed as a green bridge. This will act as a wildlife corridor as well as access across the trainline.

Toilets and drinking water facilities

There were 3 submissions in relation to the provision of toilets and drinking water facilities in the park. The associated comments are outlined below:

- Can you please provide water supply at dog park
- some toilets toward the back of the park
- Public toilets

- some decent toilets
- unreasonable to offer no toilet service in a park this size
- Lack of toilet facilities

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

Public toilets and drinking fountains are to be offered as part of the integration and renovation of the castle and sports pavilion.

Water features

There were 6 submissions in relation to the pond feature at the front of the park. The associated comments are outlined below:

- *why DLR are taking away valuable green space to put in an additional hazardous pond*
- *drainage issues at the south border of the park and the water needs to go somewhere*
- *do we need a pond to provide the solution?*
- *This in my view is a waste of resources*
- *could be foreseen to lead to children being enticed to run into the park and straight down the (potentially slippery) viewing deck*
- *Our beloved park does not need to fit the mould of a 'big house plus lake' regional park*
- *I commend and welcome the proposed creation of a new attenuation lake/series of ponds*
- *some attention should be made to ensure that the pond and associated terrestrial habitats on the castle grounds has an appropriate management plan*
- *We hope that the changes proposed do not formalise the park too much*

Design Team Response to the requests and associated observations/comments:

The public presentation and the supporting documents possibly did not convey the functional importance of the proposed pond feature to help manage the ongoing issue of standing water. This issue has been persisting for years and is particularly evident amongst the boundary trees that flank the the southern boundary along the access road. The pond is proposed at the lowest point of the park which is adjacent to the Dublin Road boundary. The local water filters naturally down to this but prevented from percolating any further due to the hard infrastructure of the local roadways. The pond has been strategically placed at the lowest, optimal point to gather water. Drainage works will have to be undertaken to divert water from the woodland area to the pond in the creation of the playground. The location of the proposed pond will be exploited to create a local amenity. It will be framed by rolling meadow and the viewing deck will provide a way for the public to enjoy the body of water. The design of the pond will mirror a similar water feature in Cabinteely park where the edges of the water are very shallow and marginal planting will provide a buffer zone.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a decision be made by the Elected Members of the Council to adopt the Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan 2019 in accordance with the drawings and reports, which were on display and to any such minor and immaterial alterations to the plans and particulars of the development as outlined in this report and on the updated drawings. Accordingly, it is recommended that the following resolution be passed by the Council:

“The foregoing report of the Chief Executive is **APPROVED** and it is **AGREED** to adopt the Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan 2019”

Ruairí O’Dulaing, Senior Parks Superintendent