

Shanganagh Park Phase 1 Development Pre-Part 8 Public Consultation Report

February 2023





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1. Introduction

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council seeks to upgrade Shanganagh Park to support the diverse uses of the space by the community, while also ensuring this important resource continues to serve a growing local population into the future. Through the development of a Masterplan for the park in 2019, DLRCC aims to integrate and reallocate the spaces within the park in a way that balances the needs of passive and active users, and of local wildlife, allowing for better enjoyment and access to the park for all.

Phase 1 of the Masterplan looks to upgrade and consolidate sports facilities in the park in response to the high sports participation rates in the county and the huge demand on local clubs to provide facilities for growing memberships. Following a legal review of the initial planning application for Phase 1 plans in October 2022, DLRCC hired Connect the Dots as community and stakeholder engagement consultants, to carry out a series of consultation events with the local community in advance of the preparation and submission of new Phase 1 plans. The purpose of these events was to ensure the local community was fully informed on what Phase 1 of development would involve and to listen to their feedback on the existing plans. This feedback has been used to revise the plans for the latest round of planning application.

Between the 11th and 21st of January 2023, Connect the Dots facilitated a series of individual workshops with local schools, sports clubs and residents, as well as two public information sessions open to the wider community. A variety of outreach methods were used to recruit participants including direct emails and phone calls to key stakeholders, website and social media posts on DLRCC channels, information boards in Shanganagh park, posters in key locations in the Shankill area and a local press release. The findings from each individual session were analysed separately, with emerging themes and suggestions across the sessions then cross-referenced to create six final themes. This report outlines these findings. The report has been prepared solely by Connect the Dots as

independent consultants to DLRCC, and as such is an impartial analysis of the information we gathered at each session.

A revision of the plans will be considered by DLRCC for the next phase of consultation. DLRCC and Connect the Dots look forward to continuing to work with the local community to shape the future of Shanganagh Park.



2. Youth Sessions Results

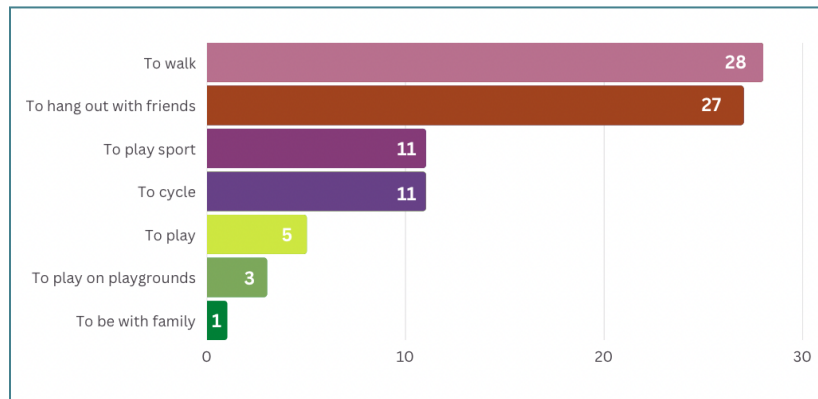
2.1 About the Respondents

All local schools were invited to participate in the consultation process, with final workshops held in Woodbrook College on the 11th January (secondary school) and Rathmichael National School on the 13th January (primary school). Students' ages ranged from approx. 11 - 18 years old. Each student was given an individual worksheet to fill out, which asked them questions about how they currently use the park and what they would like to see in the park in future. 23 responses were received from secondary students and 20 responses from primary students.

The primary worksheet was also made available to young people attending the public information sessions. 3 responses from the sessions have also been included in these results, giving a total respondent number of 46.

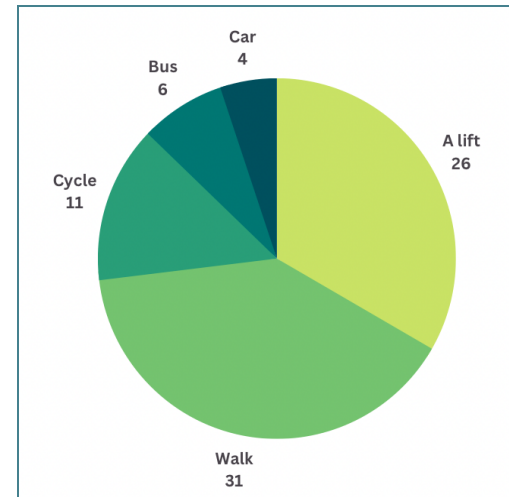
2.2 Worksheet responses

How do you currently use Shanganagh Park?



Multiple choice question

How do you get to and from the park?



Multiple choice question

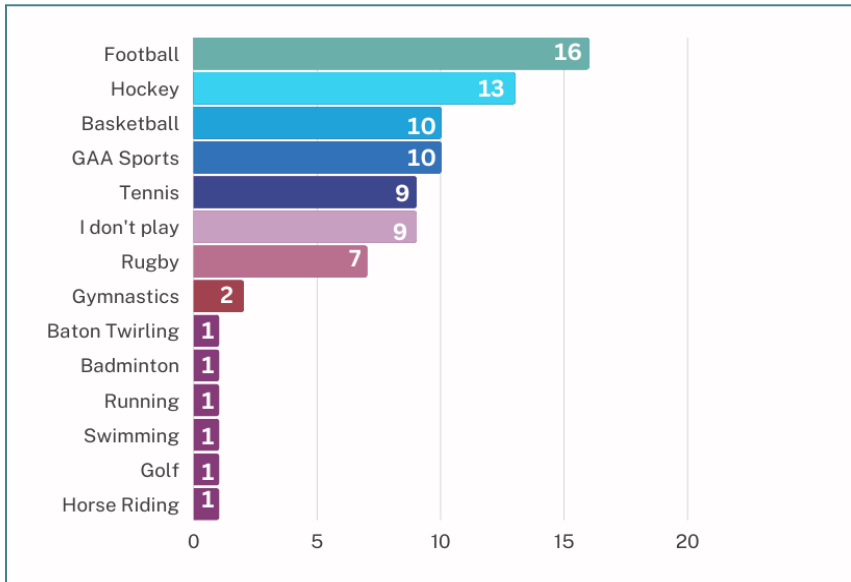
If you hang out in the park with friends, where do you go?

Astro Pitch
 Walk around
 Beaches The Green
 Chill at benches
 Dog Park The grass
 Football Pitches
 Sit at fields
 GAA Pitches
 Shankill Beach
 Park
 Playground

This question was open-ended.
 A word cloud was generated to visualise most popular answers.

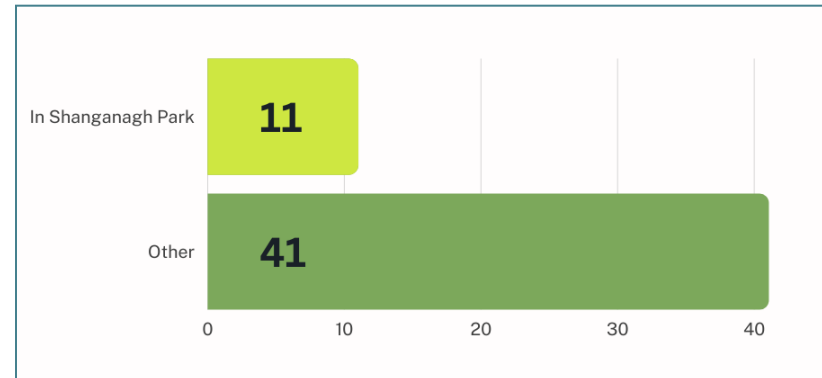


What sports do you play?



Multiple choice question

If you play a sport, where do you currently play?



Multiple choice question.

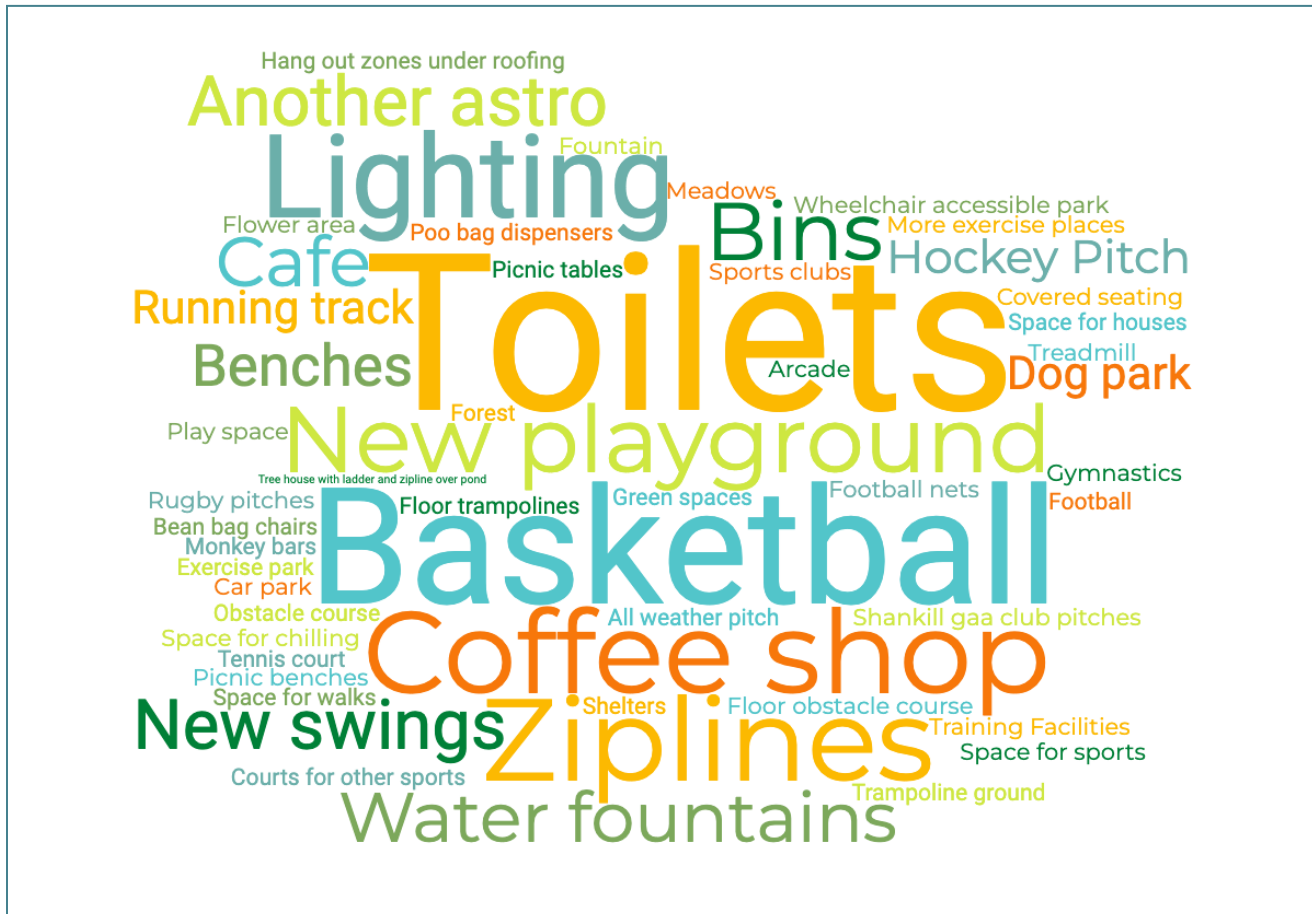
A word cloud was generated to visualise the answers given for 'Other'.

Three Rock People's Park
Bray Emmets Public Courts
 School Rover Hockey Club
 Greystones In Shanganagh Park
 My House **Monkstown Hockey**
Cliffs Wesley Bray Monkstown
Stonebridge Woodbrook College
 Rathfarnham **County Wicklow**
Shankhill Tennis Club Tennis Club



Do you have any ideas for what might be needed in the area for your age group in terms of outdoor space - and for what activities?

This question was open-ended to allow students to give answers in their own words. A word cloud was generated to visualise the answers.

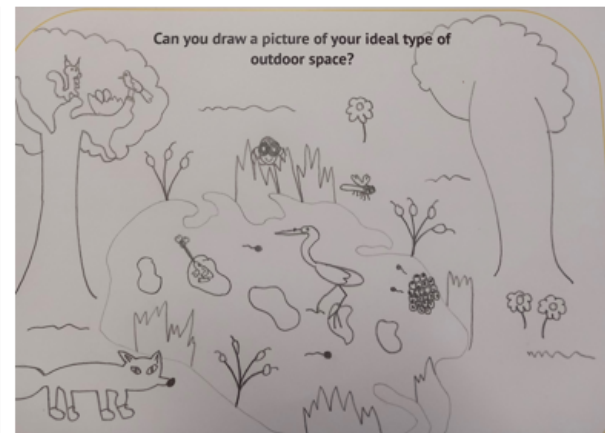
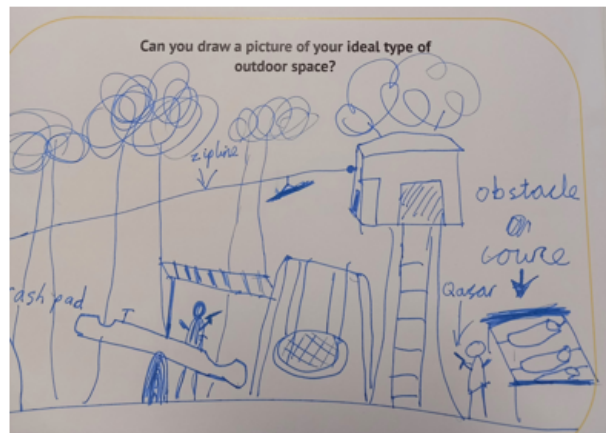
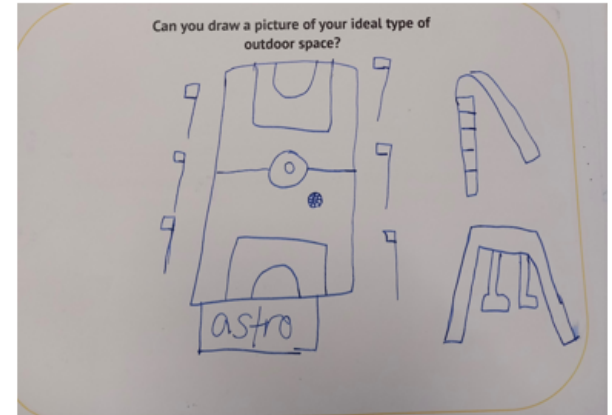
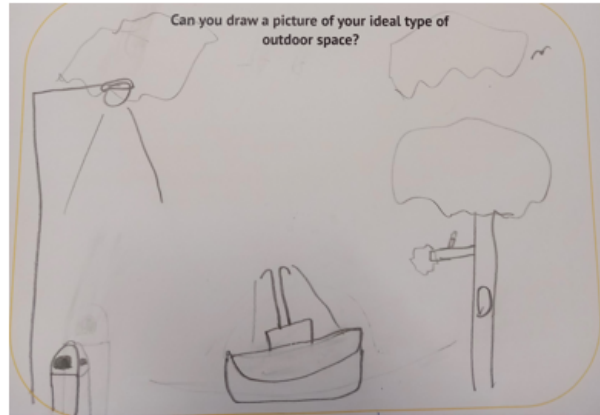
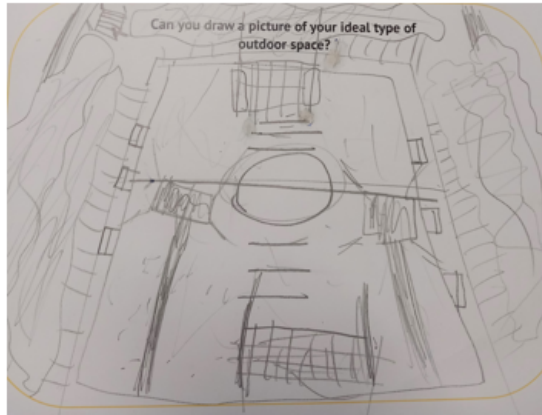


The most popular suggestions were sports facilities, lighting to improve safety, sheltered areas, more park services and amenities, play facilities and a café. See section 2.4 for further details on amenity and design suggestions.



2.2a Primary specific questions

The final question for primary students invited them to draw their ideal outdoor space. The images included a mix of sports & play facilities, natural spaces and blended spaces incorporating both. A selection of these pictures can be found below.

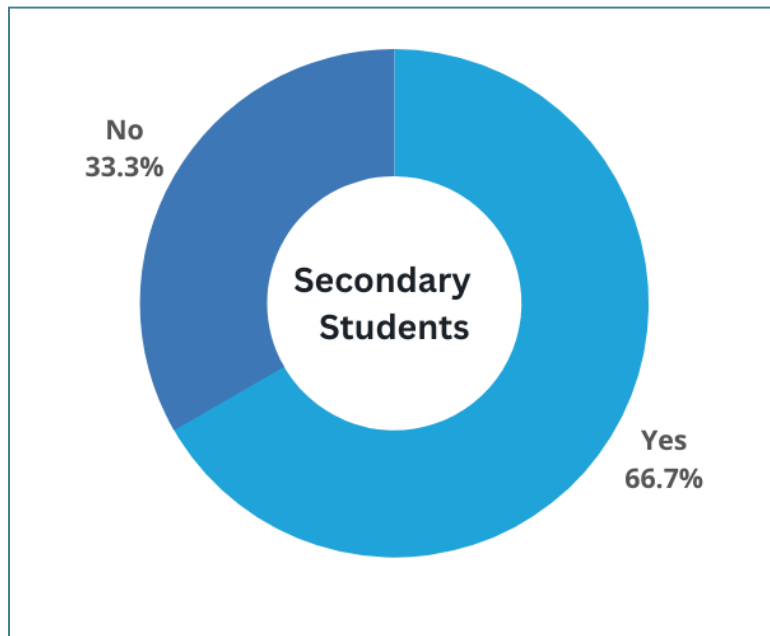




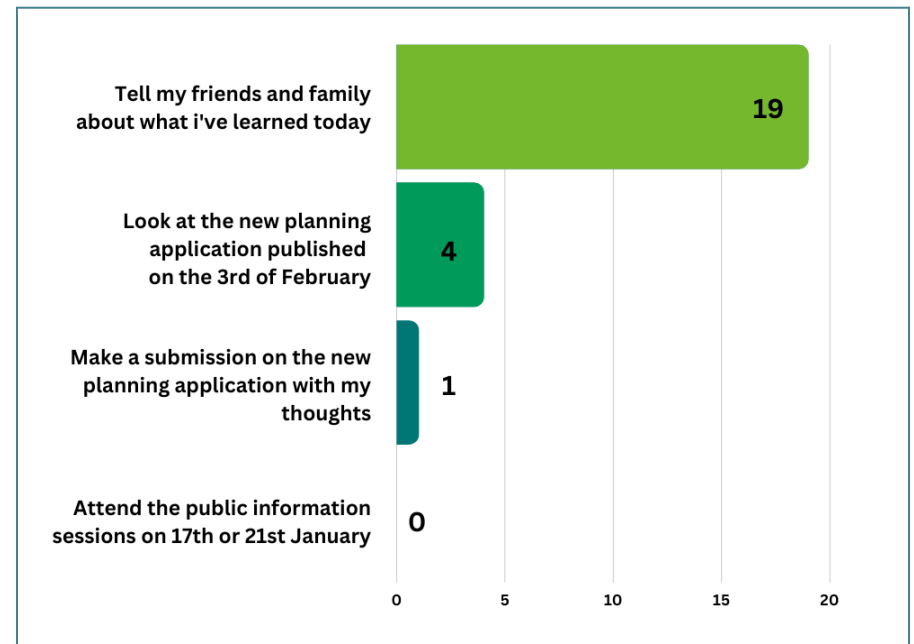
2.2b Secondary specific questions

Older students were asked additional questions to gauge their interest in further participation in the public consultation process and to remind them of the ways they could get involved in democratic decision making in the future.

Would you like to participate further in the development plans for Shanganagh Park?



How will you participate? Select all that apply





2.3 Relevant Themes

Students were invited to write down any other questions or ideas they had about the plans on their worksheets. Each session also included a Q&A session with a representative from DLRCC Parks & Landscape Services. A number of themes emerged from this.

Biodiversity

Students asked a lot of questions about biodiversity measures in the park. They wanted to know how the current habitats and wildlife in the park would be protected while development was happening and details of what kind of planting would be done. Students emphasised the importance of preserving natural green spaces in the park to use for wildlife and biodiversity purposes and to accommodate more passive recreation such as hangout spaces, walking and dog walking, picnics and kite flying.

Managing additional crowds

Students were aware of current parking and traffic issues in surrounding areas at busy times of park use. They also talked about how the park could generally be crowded when events such as matches and park runs were on, with crowds spilling onto footpaths that were too narrow. They were curious to know what measures would be taken to ensure additional facilities and park users wouldn't make these problems worse.

Allocation of pitches

Students were interested to know how the new pitches would be allocated fairly between all the clubs using facilities. Many were members of local clubs and wanted to ensure their club was going to get good access, particularly local clubs who don't currently have access to local facilities. Questions were also asked about public access to the new facilities, and whether the facilities would be locked up when not being used by clubs or if anyone could use them.

Location of pitches

Students asked why the pitches could not be kept at the existing location and upgraded. They highlighted some of the impacts the proposed location would have on nearby residents such as light pollution from floodlights and the loss of meadow space used regularly by residents and other park users. They also made suggestions for other nearby areas where existing sports facilities could be used and upgraded instead such as Stonebridge, Cherrywood.

Safety

A theme of particular interest in the secondary session was perceived safety of the park. Students reported not using the park at night as it was too dark and they felt isolated, particularly towards the back (east) of the park. Female students were more likely to avoid using the park after dark due to safety concerns.

2.4 Design suggestions

The below are a list of specific design suggestions from students, to be considered for incorporation in final Phase 1 plans and future phases.

- Increased lighting in the park to improve safety
- Public toilets
- Fountains for drinking water
- Additional bins
- Seating - benches and picnic tables that can be used as hangout spaces
- Sheltered/roofed areas that improve park usability throughout the year
- Improved wheelchair accessibility
- Improved facilities for dogs eg. poo bags
- First aid kits
- Cycle lanes

Sports facilities mentioned that are not currently included in the plans:

- More astro pitches
- Golf impact netting
- Soft ground for gymnastics, baton twirling
- Hockey pitch
- Skate park
- Speed clock on sprint track

Play facilities mentioned:

- Ground trampolines
- Swings
- Obstacle course
- Ziplines
- Monkey bars
- Treehouse



3. Sports Club Session Results

3.1 About the Respondents

On the 11th January, a workshop was held with representatives of Shankill GAA, Cuala GAA, Shankill FC, Shankill Athletics, Bray Runners Club, DLR Cricket Club. Invitations were issued to all sports clubs who currently use facilities in the park, or are likely to in the future. A total of 9 participants from these local clubs attended the session.

3.2 Relevant themes

A session worksheet was developed to guide discussion, which asked participants to share their ideas and concerns on the plans and to share what their members thought about the plans. Participants were also given the opportunity to ask DLRC for clarifications on the plan. The below section highlights a number of themes that emerged from the discussion.

Demand for sport facilities

All participants welcomed plans to provide more and better quality sports facilities in the area, outlining the challenges all local clubs currently have in meeting the demand from growth in club membership. The lack of facilities such as changing rooms and equipment storage space in the park was mentioned.

Participants appreciated that space in the park needed to be balanced between passive and active use. However, they highlighted that even with the additional allocation of space proposed in the plans, the demand for sports facilities across the county would still be far from being met. They noted that when not being used by clubs, the pitches would still be accessible for everyone to use as they wanted, for either active or passive use. This kind of mixed use already happened in other pitches in the area, with young and old using it to play informal sports, for picnics and for many other uses.

More clarity on the booking system for pitches was requested. Clubs wanted to ensure that they would be given fair access and wanted to know how equal allocation would be calculated. Participants felt that they hadn't been

duly consulted on plans to change the allocation system to date, and requested more information before the new system was finalised.

Parking and traffic management

Parking and traffic was the main concern raised by participants. Existing issues including parking in residential areas and the general flow of traffic in the area at busy times were raised. The ongoing improvement of public transport in the area was acknowledged as a good alternative to cars, however it was questioned whether people would actually use it, particularly senior members travelling directly from workplaces and away teams travelling long distances, and for sports where a lot of kit was required to be transported. It was suggested that the planned crematorium be moved elsewhere in order to make space for additional parking.

It was felt that there was a general lack of clarity on how parking and traffic would be managed. Participants urged the council to ensure that there was clear and open communication with both clubs and residents on traffic management plans. The need for a traffic management plan to be circulated amongst key stakeholders and the public was noted.

Proposed pitch location

The need to move the pitches from their current location was questioned. Members of Cuala GAA in particular felt strongly that the pitches should be kept where they are, noting a strong attachment to the pitches they have played on for over 40 years. Some felt it to be unfair that only Cuala GAA and cricket club members were being asked to make a sacrifice by moving and decreasing their current facilities.

Participants were also very vocal on the need to ensure that residents' needs and concerns were considered. The location of the pitch was challenged as being too close in proximity to nearby housing, with the impact of parking, floodlights and more people congregating at estate entrances to park highlighted in particular.

Consultation process and clarity of plans

Overall, participants felt there was a lack of clarity and consistency of messaging on the proposed plans to date. This was identified as a key barrier for club management in communicating plans to their members and in generating support for the development amongst members and the wider community. It was felt that DLRC were asking clubs for a lot of



commitment, and that this needed to be reciprocated with commitments and concrete plans from DLRCC.

A number of issues with the timelines, maps and plans of proposed development were raised. Participants asked that the plans be revised to show the following:

1. Consistent dimensions of the pitches across all images. Change the colouring of pitch markings so it's easy to differentiate between different pitch layouts.
2. Access points from surrounding estates and other areas of park
3. Revision of statistics re. allocation of space to sport in the park to be clearer how they were calculated.
4. Clear timelines for public consultation and development.
5. Visual of new playground location and proposed design.

Biodiversity measures

Participants supported the need for biodiversity to be carefully managed in the park, but worried that the biodiversity measures proposed for the active recreation zone would impede the usability of the area. For example, the difficulty of finding lost balls/sliotars in wild grass edging was highlighted. Participants also warned that grass pitches would require additional regular maintenance such as removing thistles and that grass pitches could only be played on for a limited amount of hours a week to remain in good condition.



4. Residents Session Results

4.1 About the Respondents

On the 13th January, a workshop was held with residents of a number of estates neighbouring the park, with representatives of South Shankill Residents Association, Corbawn Residents Association and independent residents from Shanganagh Grove, Lower Quinns Road, Shrewsbury Road, Olcovar, St Annes Park and Castlefarm. Invitations were issued to residents associations who were encouraged to extend the invite to other residents. A total of 10 participants from these estates attended the session.

4.2 Relevant themes

A session worksheet was developed to guide discussion, which asked participants to share their ideas and concerns on the plan. Participants were also given the opportunity to ask DLRCC for clarifications on the plan. The below section highlights a number of themes that emerged from the discussion.

Preserving the meadow space

Residents strongly emphasised how important it was for the meadow space in the 'middle field' of the park to be preserved. It was explained how the park became a lifeline for the community during COVID 19, with people now having more appreciation for the importance of green spaces and access to nature for mental health benefits. Wild, green spaces where one can go to get peace and quiet are limited in the area and it is feared that once these spaces are taken away they will never be replaced. It was noted that open space in the park had already been reduced after the land swap with Woodbrook Golf Club.

Residents asked that the existing pitches at the front of the park be kept and upgraded rather than moving to the meadow, and that other sports facilities in the area be considered for additional use instead. They felt that sports clubs were being given priority over other users of the park who lack formal representation, and that the current plans didn't represent a fair balance of active and passive use. Some residents felt the plan was against DLRCC's

Sports Strategy. The logic of keeping pitches close to parking, main road and public transport was noted.

Consultation process and clarity of plans

Residents expressed a lot of frustration with the previous consultation process on this project to date. It was felt that the community's concerns had been repeatedly dismissed, including a well supported petition that showed widespread community opposition to the plans. Participants found it difficult to trust DLRCC now given previous experiences and were concerned that this round of consultation would just be a 'box ticking exercise'. Participants felt that DLRCC were asking for too big a leap of faith on the phased development when trust in the council has yet to be rebuilt. There was concern that the phased approach to Masterplan implementation would lead to 'piecemeal' development, although it was appreciated that this approach was led by funding constraints.

This frustration was exacerbated by issues of clarity with the current consultation process. The following amends and additions to plans were requested to help with this:

- Addition of the proposed route of the East Coast Cycle Route for transparency on future development.
- A clear timeline and budget for Phase 1 and 2 of development.
- Clearer distinction between current and previous iteration of designs.

Clarity was also requested on how the public information sessions would be run and where the feedback from all sessions would be available. A Q&A format to the public sessions was requested. Concern was also raised over the short timeline to proceed with the new Part 8 process on February 3rd, as participants felt this wasn't long enough to give proper consideration to community feedback and to revise plans accordingly.

Parking and Traffic Management

Parking and traffic was identified as an existing issue for residents that would be exacerbated by additional facilities. Residents highlighted issues with driveways being blocked and ambulances being prevented from accessing houses during busy periods at the park. It was felt that the burden to police parking was being put back on residents and that DLRCC and sports clubs needed to do more to solve this issue.

Residents did not believe that public transport was a viable solution to the issue of parking as human nature meant people would use the most



convenient option. They also noted that a lot of non-locals used the park for sports and so would be more likely to drive. Cyclists highlighted that they wouldn't let their own children cycle as the volumes of traffic made it too dangerous.

Particular queries were made about the resident parking allocation at the new Shanganagh Castle housing development and what the size of the temporary parking facilities proposed in the plans would be. The crematorium land was suggested as space that could be reallocated to additional parking or to sports facilities.

Environmental issues

A key issue raised by residents was the loss of biodiversity the new facilities would bring. The meadow area was noted as an important habitat for a wide variety of nesting birds, plants and other wildlife. There was concern that the construction of the new facilities, the increased noise and people present, and the floodlights would have detrimental impacts. Light, noise and litter pollution was also noted as having a negative impact on nearby residents.

Environmental assessments completed in previous planning phases were felt to be out of date, as there is now a lot more development in the area. Many of the residents requested that DLRCC consider carrying out a new EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) before proceeding with Phase 1, noting that this would go a long way towards addressing many of the concerns the community had.

Residents also noted biodiversity issues in their own estates such as asking for confirmation that green spaces would be preserved and reiterating previous requests to DLRCC for less grass mowing and more wildflower planting.

Additional discussion

Residents wanted reassurance that local clubs would be given fair access to any new facilities, and that larger clubs wouldn't be given undue preference.

The safety of the proposed location for the new playground was questioned. Concerns included decreased visibility for parents and general passive surveillance of the area, and hazard of the equipment itself becoming damp and slippery in a woodland area.

The suitability of the current meadow as an age inclusive space was discussed. Older residents use the space as it is the shortest walking

distance from their house and is flat. It was noted that St Joseph's nursing home also use this central space. There was concern that new sports facilities would bring hazards for older park users such as crowds spilling out on paths, more children running and balls/sliotars hitting people.

4.3 Design Suggestions:

The below are a list of specific design suggestions from residents, to be considered for incorporation in final Phase 1 plans and future phases.

- Look into the possibility of extending the footprint of the park with Clontra and Allies River Road land across from the park. These could be linked with an under road passage linking the park to the mountains
- Investigate methods to store rainwater to use for pitch irrigation during summer months.
- Investigate feasibility of temporary floodlights.
- Accessibility on the bridge over the DART line needs to be improved on both sides, not just west to east direction.

Suggestions for additional services in the park:

- Dog warden
- Sports club clean up days to address litter on sidelines and in ditches
- Cleaning the cemetery, particularly plastic in hedgerows



5. Public Information Sessions Results

5.1 About the respondents

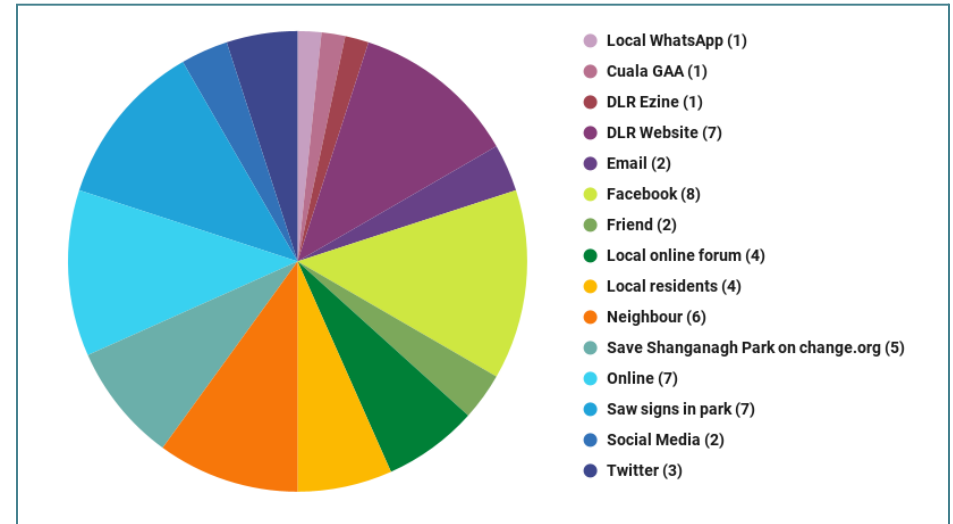
Two public information sessions for the general public were held in Woodbrook College Bray, on Tuesday 17th January from 18:30 to 20:30 and Saturday 21st January from 14:00 until 17:30. The sessions were designed in an exhibition style, with a series of information boards (see Appendix 1) providing attendees with an overview of the plans. Staff members from DLRC were present to answer any specific questions. Attendees were invited to give their feedback on the plans through shared central feedback sheets or could also complete anonymous individual feedback forms. Based on feedback gathered in Session 1, a formal presentation and Q&A segment was incorporated into Session 2. More details on this change in format can be found in section 5.6.

The sessions were publicised on the DLRC website and social media channels and with posters in the local area. Email invitations were sent to key local stakeholders, who were encouraged to spread the word to friends and neighbours. A total of 77 people attended the Tuesday 17th session and a total of 75 people attended the Saturday 21st session.

5.2 Pre-session website survey

Those interested in attending the sessions were invited to register their interest on the dlrcoco.ie website. A short survey was designed to better understand the attendee's area of interest in advance of the public sessions. 67 people completed the survey, providing the following insights.

How did you hear about the consultation?



Which of the following themes are you most interested in when it comes to Phase 1 of the Masterplan for Shanganagh Park?



Multiple choice question



5.3 Relevant Themes

The below section highlights a number of themes that emerged from the feedback forms and group discussions over the course of the two public sessions.

Role of sports in the community

Achieving a fair balance between active and passive recreation emerged as one of the most contentious issues surrounding the development of new sports facilities in the park. Many attendees emphasised the strong attachment the local community had to the existing meadow area and the importance of preserving such wild, open spaces in a quickly developing suburban area. People did not want this well-loved resource to be given to sports users in the park to the detriment of all other users. The need for more and better sports facilities in the locality was appreciated, but it was strongly felt that the existing pitches at the front of the park should be upgraded or that alternative locations outside the park should be considered instead.

“Whilst we appreciate the need/demand for organised sports facilities, there is also huge demand from local people for an open space, where they can walk, sit, enjoy picnics... no more land should be taken from the majority for the minority.”

“Upgrade existing pitches instead of destroying the most intact part of the park.”

“The park does not need a 'balance' - nature must take priority, not sports needs!”

On the lack of sports facilities, representatives of sports clubs spoke about their struggles in meeting the demands of a growing membership. Shankill GAA noted how the huge growth in participation rates for girls in the area has led to a need for double the facilities. A lack of access to local facilities means the club has to send teams to distant locations for training. Cuala GAA noted that their motivation in increasing sports facilities in the area is so that they can continue to provide services to local children and other local residents. Non sports club members also voiced their support for the plans.

“We need more playing facilities for all clubs - growth of sport in DLR is growing exponentially and we also have over 4000 extra properties in area between Woodbrook and Cherrywood”

“Why don't we trust the experts in DLRCOCO with our future? They have done a wonderful job with the park up until now... Future children need sporting facilities, biodiversity, walking areas, trees & flowers which are guaranteed by DLRCOCO”

Sports club members reminded attendees that they are also community members and some felt unfairly villainised for trying to provide much demanded services for the benefit of the wider community. They emphasised that they also cared about the future of the park and wanted to ensure the correct balance of active and passive space was struck. Other attendees echoed this feeling that the proposed plans were *“pitting the community against each other on two types of uses that are equally important”*.

It was suggested that DLRCO should give more support to school sports, so that participation could be accessible to all children for free and school facilities could be developed instead of in the park. Some attendees also felt that clubs not from the immediate locality of Shankill shouldn't be given access to facilities in the area. Attendees wanted reassurance that local clubs would have fair access to any new facilities and that bigger clubs would not be given preference.

Role of park in the community

As mentioned above, the important role the park plays for the whole community was continually highlighted across the sessions. The value of untouched, open spaces was mentioned in particular for mental health and general wellbeing and how appreciation for such spaces has grown since COVID. It was noted that the park is used by a diverse range of community members - parents and children, older people, dog walkers, those with accessibility issues - and that the needs of all these groups should be considered in any development plans. Local wildlife were also noted as important members of the local community whose needs must be considered.

“It is spectacularly beautiful. Located between the mountains and the sea, it still has many large trees and woodland areas and it is a haven for wildlife.”



"Though there is sport demand, we also have other people, wildlife etc. who have to fight to make sure that DLRCOCO knows that this park means the world to people. For those with disabilities, they use this park as an escape."

"There are mental health benefits to walking in the meadow - you won't get that same sense of calm walking around a busy sports field"

"This area, the heart of our park, brings great solace, calm and access to nature for the local community. It needs to be protected, not levelled and floodlights added!"

The loss of two back fields to Woodbrook Golf Club was highlighted by many, increasing the need to protect what spaces are left. Given the current demands for open space in the area and planning for the growth in local population, it was suggested that DLRCOCO consider increasing the size of the park. Adjacent land at Allies River Road and Clontra were noted as particularly suitable, with an opportunity to connect the coast and the mountains at each end of the park.

Environmental Issues

Environmental and biodiversity issues were a key concern raised at the public information sessions. Many attendees did not feel that the proposed biodiversity measures went far enough to protect existing habitats in the park and believed that the plans contradicted government targets on the climate crisis. Particular species of importance mentioned included sand martins and other nesting birds, bats and amphibians.

"There seems to be little thought of biodiversity. We have already lost one field to the golf course. This plan will remove another large area - we are bound to lose more and more species of plants, birds and insects - another complex ecosystem gone forever."

"The plan contradicts the government's commitment to addressing the climate & biodiversity emergency, it ignores the science and the value of intact meadow ecosystems & ignores local concerns that have been voiced in multiple ways."

"I appreciate the intent in consolidating sports facilities but wildflower borders proposed are not adequate replacement for an entire meadow. There is no point having biodiversity corridors that lead to nowhere."

An increase in both light and noise pollution were noted by many attendees, particularly from nearby residents. There were concerns that the impacts of these would be felt by both residents and wildlife in the park. It was noted that the existing pitches at the front of the park are in an area that already has street lighting and road noise, making it more suitable for floodlit sports facilities but inappropriate as a proposed biodiverse area of the park.

"Noise pollution from existing sports clubs is already significant. Adding extra pitch with floodlights will only promote longer playing hours and disrupt a mature peaceful community."

"The visual impact of seven story floodlights will be overwhelmingly negative. Huge loss of visual amenity."

"Users of the Park know that traffic noise only starts to diminish as you reach the meadow area... Now increased footfall and floodlights will bring noise, light and disruption into the meadow as well"

There were calls from some attendees for a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out, as previous environmental studies were now outdated and had been carried out at times that were not optimal to studying impacts on wildlife. Many felt that an EIA would go a long way towards reassuring the public that sufficient environmental measures were being implemented.

In addition to the scope covered by current plans, the beach, dunes and cliffs were identified as areas in need of investment and better environmental protection. It was also noted that the land around Shanganagh Castle is home to rich habitats and that these need to be protected when this area is eventually opened to the public.

Parking and Traffic

Parking and traffic management was also of huge concern, with particular impact again raised by surrounding residents. It was noted that parking in nearby estates at peak park times was already a serious issue for residents,



and the proposed location of the new active zone would only exacerbate this. Also noted was the limited allocation of parking spaces in the new Shanganagh Castle housing development which would place additional pressure on the area. It was requested that additional permanent car parking spaces be provided in Phase 1 to help alleviate this, and not in later phases as is currently proposed. It was also suggested that increased community policing with Gardaí patrolling on foot at peak times to manage illegal parking would be beneficial.

There were opposing views on providing additional car parking as a solution to this issue. Many felt that an increase in the proposed number of parking spaces was essential, however others noted that this goes against national policies to reduce car reliance and carbon emissions. Many attendees mentioned the additional public transport services being developed in the area and highlighted that the existing pitches were closer to transport stops. Others felt that these services would not be used by sports users of the park, particularly away teams who would be more likely to travel by car. DLRCC's aim to create 15 minute communities was highlighted, and it was noted that placing sport facilities on the very edge of the county boundaries went against this. Some attendees asked for cycling routes to be upgraded and extended within the park to encourage more active travel, however others felt that these should be kept outside the park.

In relation to the traffic management study carried out by DLRCC in December 2022, attendees pointed out that this was done at a time when clubs were not active and requested that another study be carried out during peak sporting activity period.

Issues with consultation process

Strong feelings of frustration, anger and mistrust were expressed by many attendees in relation to community consultation on this project. Many explained that the same or very similar plans had been presented by DLRCC a number of times already, and that each time strong community disagreement was ignored. It was felt that local councillors were pressured to make a rushed decision on the previous planning application. Attendees noted that they had made legitimate and lengthy submissions on previous plans, and felt it was unfair that they were being asked to go through this process again on plans that were essentially unchanged. The community felt that their voices were not being heard or taken seriously.

There was also a feeling by many that this round of consultation would be no different, and that these sessions were just a 'tick the box' exercise to

appease the local community without actually taking on board their concerns. Many attendees had an issue with this round of public sessions being referred to as 'information sessions', feeling that it confirmed their suspicions that DLRCC were there just to tell them what they'd already decided and not take on community feedback. The need for DLRCC to take actions that start to re-establish trust with the Shankill community was noted by many.

"You're asking us to trust you, but we haven't been able to do that in the past. There is no trust built from previous consultations"

"I don't get the sense that the views of the broader public are being seriously considered. This feels like a fait accompli."

"The process does not seem to be "consultation" rather simply giving predetermined information."

The timeline of the project was queried, with the proposed Part 8 start date of February 3rd felt to be too early for due consideration to be given to the feedback gathered and changes to be made to the plans. Attendees also requested clarity on the general timelines of Phase 1 of the project and beyond, and details of what would be included and what each phase would cost. Better clarity on the plans and designs was also requested, it was noted that different documents showed different maps and figures, making it difficult for the public to follow and to know what is actually proposed.

References were made by some attendees to EU and UN conventions that should be considered on a project of this nature.

"The Council needs to make sure that their consultation processes are in line with Aarhus Convention."

"Project should follow UN Geneva conventions on sustainability. It must be socially acceptable, ecologically sound and economically justifiable. This current project is socially unacceptable."

"Splitting the project into phases is against European laws on requirements on EIA. Appreciate that it is a funding issue, rather than anything cynical but still needs to be considered."



5.4 What was displayed?

The following is an overview of the information boards displayed at these sessions. For a more detailed view of individual boards, please see Appendices.

1. Details of relevant DLRC plans and policies
2. Biodiversity measures proposed
3. Sports & active recreation in the park
4. Overview of proposed park upgrades
5. Active travel and parking measures
6. Detailed plan diagrams 1
7. Detailed plan diagrams 2
8. Overview of consultation sessions to date

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY PHASE 1 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

PLANNING AND RELEVANT POLICIES
The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) 2022-2028 sets out the vision for the park and aims to ensure the development of Shanganagh Park in accordance with the relevant and to be planning and policy objectives of the County Council.

DLR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

WHAT IS A MASTERPLAN?
A Masterplan is a strategic long-term planning document that provides a framework for future growth and development. The Masterplan for Shanganagh Park includes the strategy, recommendations, and proposals for the park that is a combination of active recreation, green, transportation, community facilities, and high quality development. The park is a key component of the county's high quality, coherent design, leading a journey approach.

WHAT IS A PART 8?
Development that is not subject to planning permission is referred to as a Part 8 development. This is a reference to Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2000, as amended, which sets out the procedure for carrying out such developments.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?
Participation in our public events allows you to highlight your support or concerns for the project. It also provides an opportunity to engage where you are opportunities to improve the proposed to make it more in line with the needs of the park. During the Part 8 public consultation period, you are invited to make a submission/observation. This submission/observation will be considered by the County Council for the park development.

WHAT'S NEXT?
We will be holding two public information sessions on the Phase 1 implementation plan in mid-July. Full details will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY NATURE IN THE PARK

BIODIVERSITY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
A key goal of the 2024 Shanganagh Park Masterplan is to protect and enhance biodiversity in the park. The proposed Phase 1 plan for the park aims to enhance biodiversity in the park by creating new habitats and to ensure increased diversity in wildlife and to encourage new habitats to develop.

PHASE 1 - BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS IN THE PARK

AMPHIBIAN PLAN
Amphibians are a key indicator of environmental health. The plan includes measures to protect and enhance amphibian populations in the park.

NEST BOXES
Nest boxes are a key feature of the park and will be installed to support local bird populations.

POLLINATOR BELLS
Pollinator bells are a key feature of the park and will be installed to support local pollinator populations.

LIGHT POLLUTION
Light pollution is a key issue for the park and will be addressed through the installation of low light fixtures.

GRASS MANAGEMENT
Grass management is a key feature of the park and will be addressed through the installation of low mowing regimes.

WATER RETENTION
Water retention is a key feature of the park and will be addressed through the installation of water retention features.

MEADOWS
Meadows are a key feature of the park and will be addressed through the installation of meadow habitats.

BIODIVERSITY
Biodiversity is a key feature of the park and will be addressed through the installation of biodiversity habitats.

WOODLAND
Woodland is a key feature of the park and will be addressed through the installation of woodland habitats.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY ACTIVE RECREATION IN THE PARK

PITCH CAPACITY
The park will have a capacity of 4000 people for active recreation.

PARTICIPATION
The park will have a participation rate of 40% for active recreation.

NEW FACILITIES
The park will have new facilities for active recreation, including a sports field, a playground, and a community center.

SOCIAL SPACES
The park will have social spaces for active recreation, including a cafe, a bar, and a community center.

ACCESSIBILITY
The park will have accessibility features for active recreation, including a wheelchair accessible path and a wheelchair accessible sports field.

NATURAL PLAY
The park will have natural play features for active recreation, including a natural play area and a natural play area.

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES
The park will have developing communities for active recreation, including a community center and a community center.

WHY IMPROVE SPORT FACILITIES IN THE PARK?
The park will have improved sport facilities for active recreation, including a sports field, a playground, and a community center.

PHYSICAL INACTIVITY IMPACTS MENTAL HEALTH
Physical inactivity impacts mental health. The park will have improved sport facilities for active recreation, including a sports field, a playground, and a community center.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY OVERVIEW OF PARK UPGRADES

AN OVERVIEW
The Shanganagh Park & Cemetery Masterplan sets out a vision for the park through a series of detailed site studies and a well-considered process of public engagement. The aim is to improve facilities for both active and passive recreation in the park in line with the overall growth objectives of the County Council. Another important aim is to enhance the biodiversity of the park while protecting existing habitats and wildlife.

EXISTING | **MASTERPLAN**

ACTIVE RECREATION
At present, approximately 20% of the park is dedicated to sports, sport use. This is a key feature of the park and will be enhanced through the installation of new sports facilities. The park will have a capacity of 4000 people for active recreation.

WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT
Currently Shanganagh Park and Cemetery has a woodland area of 14ha. This is a key feature of the park and will be enhanced through the installation of new woodland habitats. The park will have a capacity of 14ha for woodland development.

WALKING ROUTES
The park will have walking routes for active recreation, including a walking route and a walking route.

CAR PARKING
The park will have car parking for active recreation, including a car parking area and a car parking area.

ACCESSIBILITY & PLAY
The park will have accessibility and play features for active recreation, including a wheelchair accessible path and a wheelchair accessible sports field.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY ACTIVE TRAVEL AND PARKING FACILITIES

CAR PARKING
The park will have car parking for active recreation, including a car parking area and a car parking area.

BICYCLE
The park will have bicycle facilities for active recreation, including a bicycle path and a bicycle path.

RAILWAY
The park will have railway facilities for active recreation, including a railway station and a railway station.

BUS
The park will have bus facilities for active recreation, including a bus stop and a bus stop.

HOW TO INCREASE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TO THE PARK?
To promote public awareness around sustainable travel, the County Council will be working with the park to encourage sustainable travel. This will include the installation of new sustainable travel facilities, including a bicycle path and a bicycle path.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY MASTERPLAN DEVELOPMENT

EXISTING PARK LAYOUT
The existing park layout shows the current state of the park, including the sports field, the playground, and the community center.

MASTERPLAN LAYOUT
The masterplan layout shows the proposed new facilities for the park, including a sports field, a playground, and a community center.

PHASE 1 - WHAT TO EXPECT?
Phase 1 of the masterplan will include the installation of new facilities for the park, including a sports field, a playground, and a community center.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK & CEMETERY PHASE 1 LAYOUT

The Phase 1 layout shows the proposed new facilities for the park, including a sports field, a playground, and a community center. The layout includes a detailed plan of the park, showing the location of the new facilities and the existing facilities.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE

SHANGANAGH PARK PHASE 1 DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION PROCESS SO FAR

Along with the public information sessions being held this week, DLR County Council and Connect the Dots held a series of workshops on Wednesday 13th and Friday 15th January with key local stakeholders for Shanganagh Park.

At these sessions, participants had a chance to question DLRCC on the details of the Phase 1 development plans and to raise any concerns or ideas they might have. All discussions were noted by Connect the Dots facilitators and are now in the process of being summarised into a report that will be presented to DLRCC to inform the upcoming planning application for Phase 1 of Shanganagh Park development.

This report will be made publicly available at [dlrcc.ie/shanganagh23](https://www.dlrcc.ie/shanganagh23) once completed. You can register for project updates at this link to be notified when the report is ready. A summary of the group workshop details can be found below.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

SCHOOLS
Connect the Dots are passionate about empowering young people to be a part of public consultation and educating them on their right to be involved in democratic decision making processes. An important current and future aim of the park is to ensure that young people in the park are able to participate in the park's development.

SPORTS CLUBS
Representatives from sports clubs currently using the park's sports facilities were invited to a roundtable discussion on short presentation on the proposed Phase 1 plans was followed by a Q&A and a general group discussion on both the benefits the plans would have for clubs and any outstanding concerns the members had.

RESIDENTS
Representatives from sports clubs currently using the park's sports facilities were invited to a roundtable discussion. A short presentation on the proposed Phase 1 plans was followed by a Q&A and a general group discussion on residents' concerns about the park and current issues in relation to the park.

EXPLORE OUR FULL PLAN HERE



5.5 Design Suggestions

The below are a list of suggestions for design elements or additional services that DLRC could offer in Shanganagh Park, for consideration in final Phase 1 plans and future phases.

DESIGN SUGGESTIONS

- Covered bike parking
- More bins for dog poo and general waste
- More innovative seating e.g. seating facing each other to cater for different users/ages
- Add drinking water fountains to the park, particularly near dog park
- Toilets throughout the park
- More lighting throughout park, particularly on paths so people can use them at night and early morning
- Put a running track around the park
- Widen new bridge over railway
- Keep playground where it is, good visibility and safety
- Use wasteland by recycling depot for additional parking
- Improve pedestrian access to the beach and Corbawn Lane
- Put the proposed duck pond in St. Anne's field next to DART line, already floods
- Include an orchard in tree planting
- Planting in raised beds
- Vegetable planting area
- Pond & water features
- Wading bird allocation - long grasses, reed pond, to filter water
- Planting that will tolerate drought, floods, etc.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Facilities in the park for weekend markets
- Concert area
- Sensory garden
- Woodland school
- Lifeguards at beach, more people swimming there now
- Dog park should be upgraded and subdivided for large and small dogs
- Indoor facilities such as public swimming pool and gyms are also lacking in the area, could be considered as part of active zone in park

5.6 Feedback on Sessions

In addition to providing feedback on the plans for Shanganagh Park, attendees at both public sessions were asked to fill out a short feedback form on the format of the consultation event itself. 30 submissions were received across both sessions with 18 responses from Session 1 and 12 responses from Session 2.

Participants were asked to rate the event on a scale of 1-10. The average rating given by Session 1 attendees was 1, with a highest rating of 7 and lowest rating of 1. Many responses noted that a Q&A session was expected to allow for wider discussion and public debate. It was felt there was not enough DLRC staff present to answer the volume of questions. Respondents felt there was a need for more real dialogue and not just a 'top down information session'. When asked what they hoped the outcome of the event would be, the most common answer was that the council would genuinely take on board the feedback being given and that plans would be amended accordingly.

This feedback was taken on board for Session 2, with the addition of a formal Q&A session for part of the event alongside the original exhibition set up. The average rating given by Session 2 attendees was 3, with a highest rating of 8 and lowest rating of 3. Generally respondents felt that this session was informative and worked well, and were glad that the community was being given a chance to voice their opinions on the plans. Issues highlighted included the poor sound quality of the presentation element and a continued lack of trust that community feedback was genuinely being considered. One respondent suggested that the session should have been live streamed to accommodate people who couldn't attend, such as elderly people or carers. In line with feedback from Session 2, respondents hoped that the outcome of the event would be that DLRC listened to feedback from the community and changed the plans to reflect this.



6. Key Findings & Conclusions

The demands on Shanganagh Park are intense, as one of a limited number of open green spaces in an area undergoing increased levels of development. It was clear from the consultation process that Shanganagh Park is much loved by the local community and that it plays many important, but often conflicting, roles for different users. Participants had very strong feelings on the proposed plans, with most generally expressing negative opinions. It was accepted that sport would continue to play a role in the park in some capacity, but the presented designs were generally not felt to be an appropriate solution to the demand for more sporting facilities across the county.

Throughout each session, a number of related themes emerged that captured the key concerns that the community had about Shanganagh Park. A summary of these themes can be found below.



1. A park for everyone

The consultation process gathered insights from a rich variety of park users. All life stages were represented, from young families and teenagers through to older people. Different users have different accessibility requirements. Reasons to visit the park vary - to play an organised sport, to hang out with friends, to walk the dog, to get some much needed headspace, among many others. The park should remain a space that meets the needs of all visitors.



2. Location of sports in the park

The need to provide additional facilities to meet the huge demand for sports participation in DLR County was generally recognised. However, a recurring suggestion across all sessions was that the existing location of sports in the park was much better suited to facilitating this than the area proposed in the plan. The existing pitches at the front have additional benefits of being close

to public transport links and parking facilities. Any noise or light pollution associated with sports activities is lessened by virtue of them being located in an already busy area.



3. Importance of open spaces

In the context of a quickly developing area, huge value was placed on the quiet, natural space that the central meadow provides. Such spaces provide much needed respite from the bustle of daily life and allow people to connect with nature in an otherwise built up environment. DLRCC should recognise the immense value of this type of use of the park as much as they value the benefit of formal sports for health and wellbeing.



4. Biodiversity in the park

The park plays an important role as a biodiverse haven in a built up area. A variety of wild flora and fauna call the park home, with the area proposed for the pitches known to be one of the richest areas for biodiversity. Disturbing these habitats with the introduction of floodlights and crowds of people would have a huge impact. In the midst of a climate emergency, DLRCC should be protecting such habitats and putting nature ahead of people.



5. Parking & traffic

Parking & traffic in and around the park is already known to be a serious issue, for local residents in particular. Sustainable travel policies are not felt to be a realistic solution to the additional footfall the proposed new facilities would bring. The proposed location was also felt to be leading the flow of traffic directly to existing pressure points in nearby estates. DLRCC should rethink the plans and traffic management systems to find a way to solve and not exacerbate these issues.





6. Meaningful community consultation

There was a general sense of frustration in relation to community consultation on previous development plans for the park. A lack of trust in DLRCC was noted by many. Many were encouraged by the increased transparency and engagement being shown in this current period of consultation and hoped that this would translate into meaningful changes being made to the plans. This would go a long way towards starting to build a positive relationship between DLRCC and the Shankill community in the future.



7. Appendices

Communications material

1. [Poster](#)
2. [Press release](#)
3. [Decision making & Roles Charter](#)

Workshop material

4. [Consultation boards](#)
5. [Secondary school worksheet](#)
6. [Primary school worksheet](#)
7. [Sports club worksheet](#)
8. [Residents worksheet](#)
9. [Public information session worksheets](#)

Consultation material

10. [Summary of consultation questions](#)
11. [Summary of consultation design suggestions](#)
12. [Summary of consultation actions for DLRCC](#)