

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE
15th June 2020

Area Matters A: Edenmore Pitch and Putt Course

The pitch and putt course in Edenmore park occupies approximate 4 hectares of the park which represents just over half of the space of the entire park. It has long been considered that the opening of this part of the park to the public rather than for the sole use of a club of about 40 members would be much more advantageous to the local community than its current use. There is little demand for pitch and putt in the area and the opening of the course as parkland would be like the creation of a new park in Edenmore. This additional 4 ha of undulating parkland which was never previously open to the community would no doubt be welcomed by the Edenmore Community who have been very active in enhancing the park and their local area.

However, as the Committee is more than aware, incidences of anti-social behaviour including joy-riding, fire setting and congregation after dark have all been on the increase in recent years. The soccer pitch in the park has been out of commission for well over 12 months and was just recovering from the repairs carried out after a car was burnt out when another car significantly damaged the pitch over the winter.

The most successful way to reduce such incidences of anti-social behaviour is to increase the number of visitors to the park by making improvements such as has been achieved in Stardust Park over the last 2 years. At present the 4 ha course is enclosed with fencing and dense vegetation. The intention would be to remove the fencing, reduce the vegetation cover to allow for clear views for public safety and to construct a footpath around the park which would give a perimeter path of 1.25km around the entire park suitable for running and perhaps a local Parkrun.

The unsightly concrete pavilion that was used for taking cash payment will also be demolished and the site returned to parkland.

Due to the covid event and restrictions which derived from social distancing requirements, maintenance priorities had to be set and the pitch and putt course (which requires a much greater level of work than normal grassland) was one area where maintenance was not continued as it was not open to the public. As the course has not been maintained in 3 months it would take some considerable investment of time and resources to bring it back into commission and it is unlikely to be playable for the remainder of the summer.

The pitch and putt course costs in excess of €60,000 per annum to maintain and operate however, the income generated has fallen considerably in recent years from €14k in 2010 to €3k in 2018 and €4k in 2019 which reflects the lack of demand and interest locally for this facility. A preferred alternative use of this funding would be a phased improvement programme for an extended Edenmore Park.

The Parks Service is more than happy to engage with the community to canvass opinion locally as how they would like to see the park developed over the next few years and to ascertain if there are any other facilities such as boules or pétanque which could be provided in the park to act as a social outlet. The par 3 in St Annes Park is also available to those interested in pitch and putt.

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