



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services

## VENTRY PARK REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

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Birds-eye View of new design proposal for Ventry Park

### Report on Progress

- A public meeting was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Ventry Park Recreation Building.
- Approximately 60 residents attended the meeting, Lots of comments and concerns from the residents were heard on the night.
- Following on from the public meeting, we engaged Bernard Seymour Landscape Architects, to develop a proposal for the park, taking on board the concerns and comments heard on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- A second public meeting was proposed for March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, however, due to covid-19 restrictions, the meeting was cancelled.

- It was decided to present the designed scheme was to present to the central area committee on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via zoom, which was presented by Bernard Seymour.
- The design boards were displayed on the railings of Ventry Park for a period of 6 weeks to allow residents to view the proposals and make comments on the design.
- In addition to the display of boards on Ventry Park, we also uploaded the design proposal, along with an audio description of the project onto the Citizen Space web public consultation page.
- A leaflet drop was also carried out to all of the houses adjoining Ventry Park to inform the residents of the various methods of commenting on the proposal, either by DCC public consultation page, email, post or phone call to the parks department.

### **Public Consultation period - 16<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

- A total of 16 responses were received on the proposal.
- 9 were received via email, 1 by phone, 1 by post and 4 through Dublin City Council Citizen Space public consultation.
- The main topics for comment from residents were Park Security, Trees, Maintenance and playground.
- In addition to some park operational and maintenance concerns raised, there were many comments from local residents and councillors in support of the proposal.
- Following the presentation to the councillors in June 2020, we held a meeting with the local policing forum to discuss any concerns they may have regarding the new design proposals. Park security was raised as a potential issue and it was agreed that there would be CCTV installed (monitored by the Garda) in the new park to assist the Gardai in monitoring any anti-social behaviour within the park.
- All questions/ comments received have been answered and will be issued to the participants in the public consultation process.



Design proposal boards on display on Ventry Park

## Summary of comments from Public consultation

- **Existing park layout** - Overall, there was support for the refurbishment of the park as many residents commented that they did not visit it as there was nothing for them to do in the park and that there was too much hard surface and not enough green.
- **New Park Proposal Comments** – Many comments in favour of the park proposal, that it will be very positive for the local community and that improvements will only enhance this park as a valuable resource for the area in terms of recreation, biodiversity and the enjoyment of nature.
- **New Community Garden** – Many comments were received in support and interest in the community garden
- **New Multi-Sports Area** - Some concerns were raised about the sports area attracting crowds to the park. The sports pitch will be a Multi games area, which will not be used for matches. It will be a kickabout area with basketball and other game markings
- **Proposed Soft Landscaping** – Supportive comments on more planting, such as planting native, pollinator-friendly trees, flora and fauna around the edges of the park.
- **New Access Gates** - Alternative new entrances are most welcome.
- **Existing trees** – Comments on maintenance of trees, with concern expressed over the frequency of pruning.
- **Existing Railings** - The existing perimeter fencing will be largely retained in the new proposal.
- **Park Security** – This was raised an issue by many residents about locking at night and CCTV/lighting.
- **Dog Fouling** - Dog-foul was raised as an issue - Bins and signs will be located throughout the park.
- **Park Maintenance** – Maintenance of the park was raised as a concern – the maintenance schedule will be more regular once completely under Parks remit.
- **New Playground** – Some concerns were raised about the proposed sand pit and this element will be reviewed as part of the tender package.

## Next Steps

- Citizen Space Public Consultation closed date 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020
- 6 weeks total Public Consultation period
- Report compiled based on responses received
- Possible design changes based on feedback
- Report to be sent to be made to the area committee.
- Reporting of public consultation findings to be issued to local residents

- Presentation of proposals and report to other DCC Depts
- There is provision to commence works on a phased basis in 2021 in the draft Capital Programme 2021-2023.
- Detailed Cost estimate exercise to be carried out
- Develop tender documents for issue
- Apply for Mangers Order
- Issue project for tender
- Tenders received and contractor appointed
- Possible site commencement to be agreed.