

**To the Chairperson and Members
Of the Central Area Committee**

12th October 2021

Proposed Improvement of Recreational Facilities in Martin Savage Park.

In March 2021, I reported to the Central Area Committee on proposals by Oliver Plunketts GAA Club and Phoenix FC for a number of all-weather synthetic pitches, a synthetic sprint athletics track and a handball alley with surround walls in Martin Savage Park. All were proposed to be floodlit. In initial discussions, while acknowledging the merit of improving recreational facilities for local clubs, Dublin City Council raised concerns with regard to the potential impacts on residential amenity, traffic congestion, the Brent geese which feed in the park and the integrity of the park as a public open space for the needs of the whole community.

Concerns had been raised by residents, the Community Council and local Councillors about the plans for developing the park and they had expressed their wish that any proposals would be subject to an open and transparent consultation process with the community.

Subsequently, in consultation with Dublin City Council, the clubs have acknowledged the concerns raised and have scaled back their proposals to what Dublin City Council considers to be a reasonable and achievable plan to construct only one all-weather pitch at the Glendhu end of the park close to the clubhouses of the two clubs. A number of improvements to the wider park will also be considered in the future, subject to available funding to include a children's playground, a perimeter path to enable people to walk around the entirety of the park, widening and public lighting of the pavement along the DART line for walking and cycling between Glendhu and Ashtown DART station and floodlighting of the grass GAA pitch outside Oliver Plunketts GAA Clubhouse. Measures to improve the drainage of the existing grass pitches will also be considered.

As a first phase however, it is intended to proceed with a non-statutory public/community consultation on the all-weather pitch at Glendhu which will be fenced and floodlit. A number of trees on the open space would have to be removed to accommodate the pitch but these can be replaced with alternative planting. We will also consult with Dublin City Council's Flood Protection Office to ensure that the plans for the pitch include any necessary mitigation measures.

A draft layout for the pitch will be available at the meeting.

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