

Killinarden park Upgrade – TCC Submission to the Public Consultation 16.06.21

Our submission is made in the context of wanting the best possible outcomes for our community and hometown of Tallaght. We respectfully ask that our views be taken into account.

1. New greenway route.

- Secondary entrances – exact design is not clear ? given the known issue with unauthorised scrambler bikes accessing public parks, we would not like to see entrances create an undesirable impact of this issue becoming more wide spread and making it adjacent business park less attractive to business to stay or move into the park to create employment.
- Halting site sits at an entrance site and reducing considerably the entrance onto Whitestown Way.
- The plan shows only 2 CCTV points – there should be a 3rd midway through the route to encourage greater use and personal security during darker hours and months.
- There is no detail on water features to be created making fuller use of the Whitestown stream as a natural feature.
- Signage on the heritage of the stream should be included. OS maps back to 187-s show this stream.
- There is no mention of landscaping the banks of the stream and planting plants such as iris and water lilies to inject colour and appropriate waterway planting to improve the public realm and also the biodiversity of the stream.
- In the EIS report, it outlines a lot of scrub and Stoney ground in the existing environs of the stream. There could be an opportunity to strengthen the biodiversity value of this vegetation, but we can't find information of it in the plan.
- It is not clear if a new park entrance is proposed into Sean Walsh park opposite the new greenway route, in the maps of the Part 8.
- It is also not immediately clear from the map keys, what is the blue/grey circles along the greenway route?
Trees – new, existing?



2. Sports Pitches in the Part 8

We support the local sporting teams who have continuously called for greater security around their pitches. The incidents of burn out cars and wheelie bins on the pitches here is undeniable.

This plan shows there is scope to add in more access controls, fencing, a strong mature tree line, moulded mounds protecting the pitches from cars, bikes and other malicious and damaging behaviour.

The spirit of a club can be seriously damaged by a very small minority who persist on engaging in damaging and dangerous behaviour in open spaces, where there are no barriers or obstacles – natural or artificial to illegal use of cars and bikes in this park.

This area of sporting pitches is still very open, with only small copse of trees dotted towards the outer sections of this area. Planting for protection and the use of moulded mounds or granite rock features could be strategically placed around the borders of the pitches. Or indeed mid-rise bow rail topped fencing.



3. CCTV

We welcome more CCTV. Can we confirm if the Gardai will monitor the cameras and that they will all be working cameras, not dummies?

4. N81 Entrance point – Knockmore Gardens – Killinarden estate

There are no street names on the Part 8 plans, so it is difficult to be sure at all times of the exact locations. We believe this entrance onto the N81, is at Knockmore Gardens. There are existing security boulders and access control low stubb wall preventing car access into the parkland. They are not shown on the maps? Are they being retained as access controls? If not, have the adjacent residents been consulted? We believe they are successful features.



5. Boundary treatment Knockmore Gardens along N81.

The granite wall with railing that fronts the Killinarden estate, stops at the pedestrian crossing. It then continues as a green palisade fence. Why has this opportunity not been taken to upgrade that boundary to complete the run of grey granite walls and pillars?

6. Bridges over the Whitestown stream – boundary treatment is austere, needs upgrade

There is a real opportunity here to make an impactful upgrade to the bridge designs. Currently they are very austere and basic flat structures. They do not resemble bridges you expect to see over a valued waterway. We would ask that the bridge structures are included in the program of works to change them to include stone masonry work. To create statement features that clearly position this significant series of bridgeways right beside the primary entrance. The bridges should form an integral part of the primary entrance and place visible value on the waterway features that flow beside the main park entrance. Now they just seem a functional part of the road. Nothing to value.



7. Community Orchard – question location?

There is a considerable expanse of grassland adjacent to the new houses in Killinarden estate. The ash trees planted there at the time of the house building have all been maliciously burned. There is repeat, largescale domestic dumping occurring along this grassland also. Litter Mugs and Dodder Action volunteers have worked regularly and tirelessly removing very largescale items of furniture, electrical goods and domestic rubbish from here in 2020 and 2021. The proximity of the houses provides very good passing surveillance, but that has not helped reduce or stop this pattern.

Placing just 1 feature in this space, where trees have been targeted in recent times is a risk. It puts 'all the eggs in one basket' so to speak. We suggest mixing the features in this area might yield a better result. Locating the 7 - MUGA / skate park for example might inject positive footfall here.



8. Wildflower Meadows – involve all local schools.

We welcome the inclusion of these around the park. Could we ask if all the local primary and secondary schools could be included in the planting of them to embed ownership in them across all corners of the park in the local kids who will be among the primary users of the park.

9. Trees – Minimum girth of Standard Trees

Could we ask what the minimum girth of the trees being planted across the park is? The tree planting in Dodder Valley park and along the Avonmore Roads have been hugely successful in establishing and resisting tampering due to their girth and size.

We note there are signature trees, which we assume will be very mature trees. We do hope that the standard trees are not the younger trees planted on Aylesbury park in 2018/9. These were too young and easily damaged and broken.

Killinarden Park sweeps up to Killinarden Hill. The winds here are extremely strong all year round. Only very strong, mature trees will survive this constant force.

10. Public Art

Killinarden Hill has lots of ancient history associated with it. From farming, to Malachi Horan to the Easter sunrise masses. It would be nice to see very local heritage celebrated in this park upgrade.

11. Access Points – number and locations

We ask if all opportunities to improve overall park security have been taken through a streamline or moving of the secondary park entrances from known vulnerable points where anti-social behaviour are experienced ?

12. Biodiversity

We welcome the creation of a new more bat friendly habitat. Creation of New Bat Foraging Habitat in the park and along the stream. Who will monitor this as the habitat embeds? Who will get the updates?

13. New Paths & Cycle lanes

We welcome the improvement in these public amenities.

14. Park Facilities for wheelchair users / older park users

There are no details of any wheelchair facilities in the park upgrade plan. Simple additions such as the park benches that allow wheelchair users sit between their fellow park users would be a welcome addition.

15. Waterway Connections to protected areas

We note this project does impact nearby areas of special interest and temporary impacts to air pollution are possible.

Project Area of Influence

The project will primarily affect the site only, but a wider area of influence is used for impacts relating to noise disturbance (1km), air pollution (10km), surface water (15km), with an additional 2km from connecting transitional waters to coastal areas; and any supporting habitat for SAC/SPA species (15km).

Table 4-1: Natura 2000 sites located within the 15km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the proposed development.

Natura 2000 site	Site Code	Approximate direct distance from site	Surface water connection?
Glenasmole Valley SAC	001209	2.0km	No
Wicklow Mountains SAC	002122	4.0km	No
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	7.5km	No
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	001398	11.4km	No
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	12.6km	Yes
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	12.6km	Yes

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	004063	12.1km	No
Knocksink Wood SAC	000725	13.2km	No
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	000397	12.8km	No
North Bull Island SPA	004006	15.6km	Yes
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	15.6km	Yes

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project Relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
	(NPWS, 2018)		
South Dublin Bay SAC	This intertidal site extends from the South Wall at Dublin Port to the West Pier at Dun Laoghaire, a distance of c. 5km. The seaward boundary is marked by the low tide mark, while the landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The designated site possesses a fine and fairly extensive example of intertidal flats. Sediment type is predominantly sand, with muddy sands in the more sheltered areas. A typical macro-invertebrate faunal assemblage exists within the SAC. The SAC has the largest stand of Dwarf Eelgrass (<i>Zostera noltii</i>) on the east coast. It also supports part of the important wintering waterfowl populations of Dublin Bay (NPWS, 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] (NPWS, 2013b)	Discharges: Moderate Impact (both) Accumulation of organic material: High Impact (inside) (NPWS, 2018b)

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	This designated site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay, as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of Brent Geese, which feeds on Dwarf Eelgrass in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species including: Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) and Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>). It is an important site for wintering gulls, especially Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) and Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>). South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>), with up to 20 birds present at times. Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns, including Roseate Terns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] - Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] - Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] - Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] - Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] - Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] - Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] - Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] - Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] - Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) 	Discharges: High Impact (inside) (NPWS, 2017d)
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Cumulative impacts via land pathways are therefore not anticipated.

Air Pollution

Dust release and vehicle emissions can travel considerable distances and could potentially affect the Annex habitats and species, even if they are not located within close distance to the proposed project. The distance and direction of travel is dependent upon wind speed and direction. The proposed site has a west south-west prevailing wind year-round (Windfinder.com, 2020), therefore, any dust generated on-site will most likely be transported towards South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and South Dublin Bay SAC/SPA, which are located east of the site. Machinery and transport emissions, and dust from excavations are likely sources of air pollution from this project. However this will be temporary in nature (construction phase only) and negligible within the context of urban environment. Given the small scale of the project, the urban location, and the distance from the Natura 2000 sites (>10km), any dust and vehicle emissions are not anticipated to have a significant impact on the QIs of the Natura 2000 sites.

16. Stepping Stone Forests

Could these be considered as part of the planting plan for this park? Perhaps to help create stronger natural boundaries around the sports pitches.

17. Solar Bins

Could this location be included in the first round of post pilot roll out of these bins in public parks?

18. Park benches

Could durable materials such as brushed concrete be considered given the exposed conditions on a hillside ?

19. Running / Walking tracks

Could pathways include markers for 5km and 10 km walking/running routes ? This outdoor activity which is self-managed is gaining popularity in Tallaght.

20. Allotments / Community Gardens

Is there scope for community gardens and allotments in this large park ? The removal and loss of the community garden in Sean Walsh Park has yet to be addressed.

21. Sensory Garden

Is there scope to contain a sensory garden in this planting plant ?