



View into park from Jobalun Road as proposed



View of children's play area at end of Cloonmore Road as proposed

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TCC Submission on Part 8 Consultation Whitestown Stream Enhancement Project

2nd Sept 2021

Dear Planning Department

TCC welcome this Part 8, especially planting of more trees and the new footpath on the south side of the stream and the activity circuits.

We wish to suggest changes and checks to ensure that it is of the highest quality and reflects an ambition that has been demonstrated in best practice examples elsewhere in the County and Country.

We also raise some questions which need to be checked. The site is close to many homes and schools and upping the ambition level of the development will have a positive impact on the area. The plan has many good points, we feel it should be expanded to include new investment in CCTV equipment, the employment of the highest quality boundary and bridge finishes (aligning to the Dodder Greenway designs).

We strongly appeal to you to consider seriously our request to install a robust new CCTV system to ensure the highest standards of safety in the activity routes.

We note that the landscape and playground drawing appear to be missing? These are usually present for Part 8 consultation. They are a vital elements of the proposed project and request they are shared and placed for further public consultation to ensure the widest community input into this project.

The closing date is a weekend date. This is also unusual. We believed there was a date typo and that the closing date was Monday 5th of September, only discovering this wasn't the case when trying to upload the submission today, 4th of Sept. We therefore ask that you consider our submission as part of the wider Part 8 review and discussions,

Thank you for your help.

Le meas,

Tara De Buitlear, Gerard Stockil, Tallaght Community Council

Ensuring Safety – The need for Robust CCTV System.

There is no mention of any new infrastructure for CCTV and related power points, Page 12

There are two existing CCTV poles close to Dromcarra Grove and Cloonmore Gardens (north and south sides of the stream respectively).

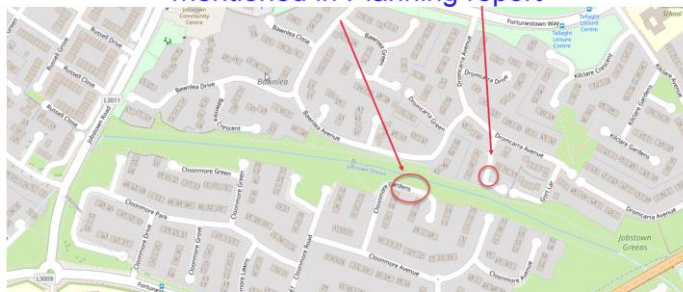
The map below shows possible locations of the CCTV posts, it is clear that there is no way that this can provide adequate coverage of all parts of the local park and as such will reduce the safety metrics and provide not deterrent potential littering and anti-social behaviour .

We note that the inspector's report states,

Just under one-in-four of those adults completing the community survey referred to the Whitestown Stream as unsafe and referred to not walking there as a result

The community survey was limited in participation. 25% feeling unsafe is a considerable level and should be taken as a need to increase the feeling of safety on this route as part of this project. Were the local Gardai consulted in terms of crime figures for this area to include in the safety assessment and future needs ? To ignore the opportunity to reduce the feeling of being unsafe is a missed opportunity.

Approximate location of two CCTV cameras mentioned in Planning report



Locations of current CCTC are inadequate to view all the park area and give a safe environment.
New infrastructure along all of stream required.
The red circles are approximate location of current CCTV, clearly they lack visibility along all the stream

All new public parks, large and local, need to be equipped with sufficient CCTV outlets to improve safety, guard against illegal dumping and reduce anti-social behaviour.

There is of course a balance to be struck between the use of CCTV and issue related to privacy, the Data Protection Commissioner discussed these issues at

<https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/dpc-guidance/guidance-on-the-use-of-cctv>

We are of the view that improving safety, reducing litter and anti-social behaviour should be the priority in all public parks , including local parks, in the county. As the CCTV will not be targeting private household but a public space, we feel that arguing that privacy consideration in a public space will override safety issue is not the right way to develop safe public spaces.

We note that the absence of new CCTV infrastructure seems contradict part of the feedback from the public in the designer's report page 21

*Improved lighting and **CCTV***

Welcomed by youth and adults alike, mainly in the context of preventing and addressing dumping of waste.

It was suggested that dumping would continue unabated unless legislation on littering and dumping was enforced.

Similarly, it was considered that CCTV cameras would only be valuable if they were regularly monitored and if there was a genuine commitment to prosecuting those caught on camera in the act of dumping.

We agree with the above and again ask the council to improve and increase the provision of CCTV so that **all areas of the local park are covered.**

Mobility and Disability

The designers report (page 21) states,

A number of participants commented on the need for paths to take into account the needs of people with mobility challenges and sight disabilities

We welcome this comment, ask the council to describe any additional features that may need to go into the local park to meet this objective.

Wheelchair inclusive seating

We ask that you consider wheelchair inclusive seating, e.g.,



Inclusive Signage

We ask you consider the use of braille and audio information in these new areas.

In the play areas, inclusive equipment should also be considered.



Request Enhancement of the Built Design – bridges & walls

The existing built features are austere and basic in many parts, particularly the boundary walls and bridge elements.

This Part 8 represents a golden opportunity to dramatically raise these standards, instil real Pride of Place aesthetically through the delivery of high-quality finishes. The finishes should be akin to that current rolling out in Rathfarnham and Knocklyon greenway project.

<https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/consultation/whitestown-stream-local-park>

New Bridges & Upgrade existing

We note that the information provided in the Part 8 for bridges etc is only indicative and that there is a caveat regarding funding. We do not want this plan to run out of funding, and want funding prioritised so that the quality of finish is delivers the highest quality finish and future proofs this active park / streamways into the 2030s.

Rather than a very austere and functional design, we believe the bridges need to be elevated to features. Traditional designs should be considered.

The Whitestown stream has been on OS maps as far back as the 1830s. So these bridges should show that heritage and history clearly in the new / upgraded bridge designs.



View from park from Jobstown Road as proposed

Entrance Area.

We welcome the picture at the entrance area with stone walls and seating.

We request that this treatment is given **at both ends of the park**, namely Jobstown Road AND the area leading up to the connection walkway with the N81 and welcome the planned continuity of the N81 area and the wildflower landscaping. There should be no reduction in quality across the scheme.



Suggested Improvements to Footbridge.

We request that the scale of ambition be raised by providing footbridges that include a larger proportion of brickwork, similar to the stonework style of the typical entrance features. There should be no reduction of quality across the scheme. It should employ the same high standards across the full scheme.



Bow Top Railing to be augmented with Stone Walls.

We ask that the proposed bow top railing be connected to a stone wall structure as shown in the sample picture below, taken from the SDCC scheme at Balrothery Weir. This not only strengthens the boundary but adds a further sense of depth. The use of stone along the boundaries introduces a sense of natural materials.



Incidental Information Area and Signage

We welcome the informal play area and as that consideration be given to placing signage describing the history of the general area be inserted beside of if these area.



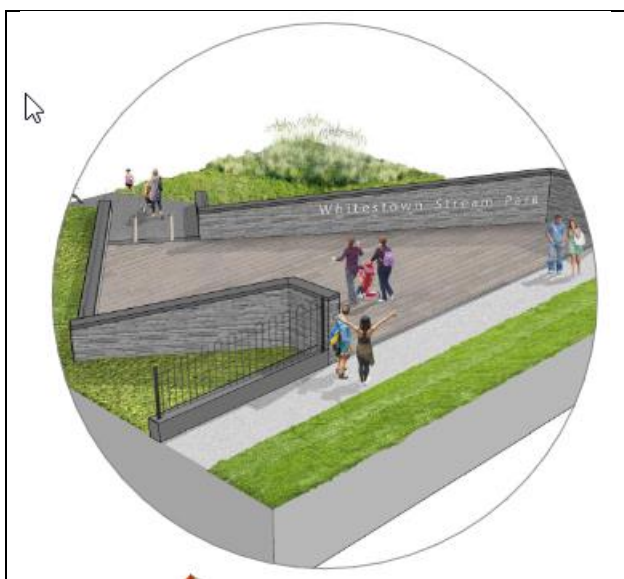
Incidental Seating Area

We welcome this area and ask that this be integrated with disability friendly enhancements as well as signage.



Feature Entrance

We note that feature entrance graphic is indicative and welcomes it ambition and wish a high standard of brickwork at the entrance to BOTH sides of the park



Details of Tree Planting and Playground Omitted

We note the omission of detailed drawing of the Playground and Tree planting . This is referred to below

*2.3 Proposed project SDCC plan to upgrade the Whitestown Stream Neighbourhood Park, it is envisioned that Neighbourhood Park will become a community gathering space for all ages that offers inclusive, and flexible recreation opportunities for all. The upgraded includes the demolition / removal of the existing pedestrian bridge within the site; the installation of two new pedestrian bridges at new bridging site towards the eastern and western extents of the site; the introduction of new pedestrian pathways; new lampposts; and enhanced landscaping, which includes tree planting. **The Site Landscape and Lighting Plan can be view in Appendix A.***

We note that Appendix A is blank and does not contain any addition information of the site landscape plan. Is this a mistake ?

Appendices

A Site Landscape and Lighting Plan

Information is missing

We note that a similar blank Appendix appears in page 46 of the document Ecological Impact Assessment (Draft) 5 May 2022 2021s035

The public planning notices mentions the following

Planting of tree, shrubs, and wildflowers/bulbs and other plants. • Play/exercise trail every 100m. • Installation of natural play area adjacent Cloonmore Rd

We note that information on this should be made available in full for consultation and community comments..