

Quarryvale Park Up-grade, Clondalkin, Dublin 22



PART 8 PLANNING REPORT

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1. PROJECT INTRODUCTION

1.1 Main Purpose

The purpose of this report, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), is to describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and principal features therein. South Dublin County Council (SDCC) appointed Nicholas de Jong Associates | Urban Design to lead and manage a multi-disciplinary team for the redesign and upgrade of Quarryvale Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

Quarryvale Park is a large Local Park (around 6.5ha) located in the neighbourhood of Lucan / Palmerstown / Adamstown. The park lies immediately south of the River Liffey valley, which forms the natural division with Fingal County and is protected under a Special Amenity Area Order. The valley is of significant ecological and amenity value and is identified as a Primary GI Corridor in the Development Plan. The park is also in close proximity to the M50 Primary GI Corridor, extending south-eastwards through the neighbourhood.

The overall aim is for Quarryvale Park to become a community gathering space for all ages, offering accessible, inclusive, and flexible recreation opportunities for all, together with enhanced amenity, interconnected Green Infrastructure (GI), and biodiversity enhancement including habitat for pollinators. The vision is to create a safe, clean environment free from anti-social behaviour for people of all ages to meet, exercise and enjoy nature.



Aerial photo of park context

2. PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 National Policy

The Masterplan proposals have been developed in the context of:

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework
- The Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031, and
- Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020
- National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020
- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets

2.2 Regional Policy

2.2.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031, including the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)

To achieve the vision the MASP identifies a number of Guiding Principles for the sustainable development of the Dublin Metropolitan Area, which include:

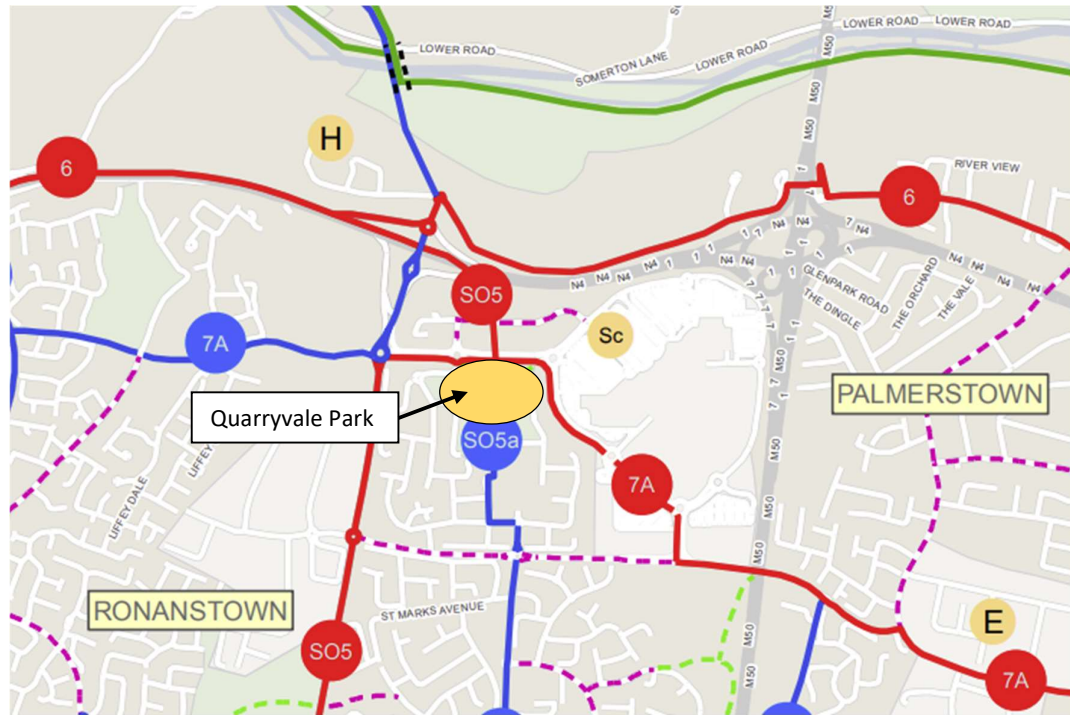
- Metropolitan Scale Amenities – To enhance provision of regional parks and strategic Green Infrastructure, to develop an integrated network of metropolitan scale amenities, and to develop greenways/blueways along the canals, rivers and coast, as part of the implementation of the National Transport Authority's Cycle Network Plan for the Greater Dublin Area.

2.2.2 National Transport Authority (NTA), Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan, 2013

This document sets out existing and proposed cycle network plans for the urban network, inter-urban network and green route network for each of the seven Local Authority areas, which includes SDCC.

Quarryvale is well served by the existing and proposed Dublin Cycle Network. The park is linked to the following two strategic cycle routes:

- Radial Route 7A: Bridgefoot Street to Lucan South via Kilmainham, Inchicore, Ballyfermot and Liffey Valley shopping centre.
- Orbital route SO5: from Liffey Valley Shopping Centre southward Fonthill Road and Ninth Lock Road to Clondalkin Village and Tallaght (with a parallel variant SO5a along Neilstown Road and Fonthill Road west of Clondalkin Village). A northward link will extend across the River Liffey to Blanchardstown.



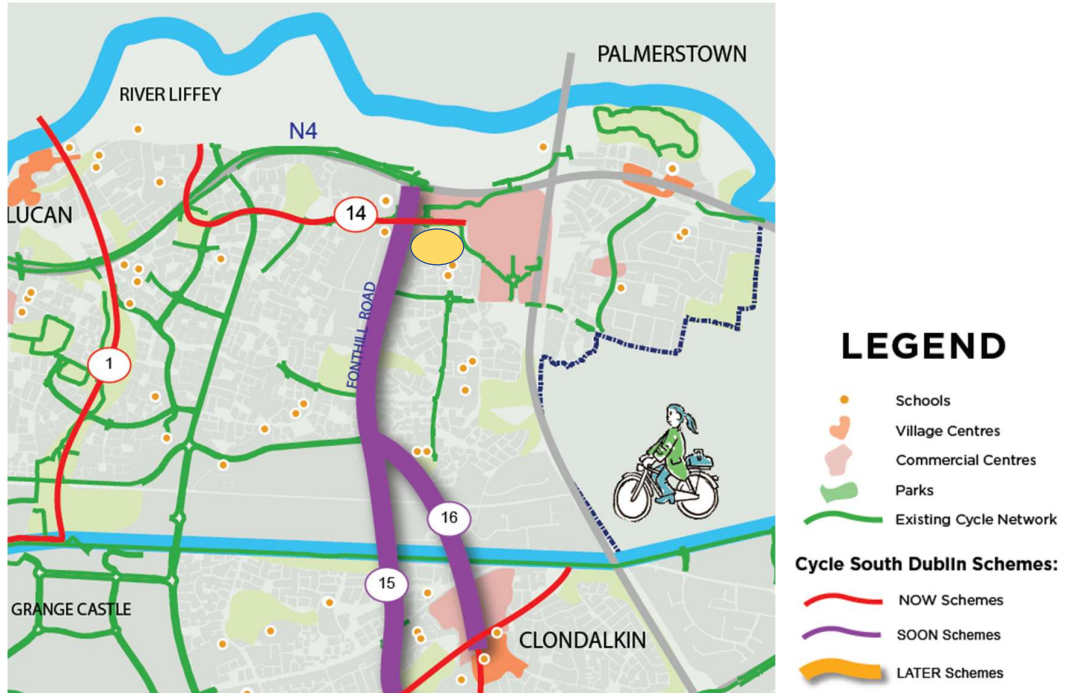
Proposed Cycle Network, Dublin Mid-west Extract (Sheet N5)

2.2.3 South Dublin County Council, Draft Cycle South Dublin 2020

SDCC published the Cycle South Dublin document for public consultation in November 2020, and following completion of this process an updated version will be issued.

The Cycle South Dublin document sets out the vision for South Dublin to become one of Ireland's most cycle friendly counties. This includes the identification of several plans and proposed cycle routes, complementing the NTA GDA Cycle Network document. The cycle priorities are categorised into three: Now (next 4 years), Soon (4 to 8 years) and Later (8+ years).

One of the Now Schemes identified in the Cycle South Dublin Plan includes a cycle route from Liffey Valley Centre to Lucan (Route 14), extending along Fonthill Road at the northern boundary of the park. There are number of improvements already in place, but the ARC roundabout presents a significant design challenge and further work is needed. There is also an existing cycle lane along Fonthill Road southwards, which will part of the Clondalkin Boot Road to N4 Soon Scheme (Route 15).



Cycle South Dublin Now Soon & Later Cycle Routes (with Quarryvale Park highlighted in yellow)

2.3 Local Policy

2.3.1 South Dublin Development Plan 2022-2028

The new South Dublin County Development Plan (the Plan) sets out the framework to guide future development where a focus is placed on the places we live, the places we work, and how we interact and move between these places while protecting our environment. The aim is to progress to a more sustainable development pattern for South Dublin in the immediate and long-term future up to 2040 and beyond.

Chapter 8.7 'Parks and Public Open Space' deals with the function, hierarchy, quality and quantity of parks and public open space in the County. As set out in the Plan, the overarching aim of the Council in the provision of parks and open space is to encourage the development of a well-connected and integrated public open space network that contributes towards achieving a broad range of policy objectives, including:

- *Improving community, health and wellbeing – Parks and open spaces provide a valuable role as a sanctuary for the community; the benefits of engaging with the natural world are now widely understood to be particularly beneficial to mental and physical health.*
- *Enhancing visual amenity – Parks and open spaces form an attractive green and open setting which enhances the character of urban neighbourhoods in particular.*
- *Promoting sustainable development – Parks and open spaces contribute to sustainable development objectives where they are appropriately located and accessible by walking,*

cycling and public transport.

- *Promoting climate change adaption and mitigation – Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for sustainable drainage while trees and plants perform a vital role by capturing and storing carbon.*
- *Reinforcing Green Infrastructure – Parks and open spaces are core elements in the County’s green infrastructure network (see Chapter 4: Green Infrastructure).*
- *Promotion of biodiversity – Parks and open spaces offer opportunities to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems. They are often focused on natural environments such as river valleys which support valuable wildlife habitats; parks also offer opportunities to increase pollinator-friendly planting.*
- *Supporting culture and heritage – Parks and open spaces often contain heritage elements and play host to many outdoor community, arts and cultural events.*
- *Supporting the local economy, including tourism – Many parks and open spaces contain facilities such as cafes, heritage features and other attractions that are valuable visitor amenities.*

It is the policy of the Plan that a hierarchical network of high-quality open space is available to those who live, work and visit the County, providing for both passive and active recreation, and that the resource offered by public open spaces, parks and playing fields is maximised through effective management.

The hierarchy of open space is a key element of the green infrastructure network, which connects and forms green corridor linkages across the County.

Objective 1 of the Green Infrastructure strategy (GI6) of the Plan is:

To support a hierarchy of accessible open spaces and recreational facilities, appropriate for neighbourhood size and catchment area, which are adaptable and capable of accommodating multiple uses.

The Public Open Space Hierarchy outlined in Table 8.1 sets out the rationale for the existing and planned parks and open space network for the County, identifying the range of functions at each level in the hierarchy. Quarryvale Park falls within the hierarchical category of ‘Local Park’, which is defined in the Plan (Table 8.1: Public Open Space Hierarchy) as:

‘Local parks range in size from between 2 to 20ha. They provide mostly for amenity and passive recreation, although some may have playing pitches and play equipment; they are located in close proximity to homes and thereby easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists.

Examples of local parks in South Dublin County are Vessey and Hermitage Parks in Lucan, Ballycragh Park, Firhouse Community Centre Park and Quarryvale Park.

Local Parks serve a local population within a 400m catchment.

These parks primarily consist of improved grassland but offer considerable opportunities for contributing to the local level GI network through enhancement schemes that include native trees, small woodlands, hedgerows, meadows and other planting’.

The Plan stresses that the provision of high quality public open space that is appropriately designed, located and maintained is a key element of placemaking. Public open space should have active and passive recreational value and should enhance the identity and amenity of an area. The key principles of particular relevance to Quarryvale Local Park are:

COS5 Objective 8: *To ensure the design of parks and public open space areas is of high quality; to provide a pleasant setting, accommodate use by people of all ages and abilities, to support life-long activity and good health and well-being by the provision of a balanced mix of active and passive recreation and access to, or view of, nature, ensuring that the design considers:*

- *provision of an appropriate mix of hard and soft surfaced areas;*
- *enhancement of biodiversity and existing trees and hedgerows;*
- *incorporation of water courses, other natural features and existing built heritage into the design of parks and open spaces as appropriate;*
- *provision of new planting, landscape features and appropriate site furniture including a variety of accessible, well located and designed seating.*

COS5 Objective 9: *To ensure that parks and public open space are appropriately located within the County and within development sites, to facilitate and support its multifunctional role.*

COS5 Objective 10: *To support and facilitate the key role of parks and open spaces in relation to green infrastructure including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), flood management, biodiversity and carbon absorption and to promote connections between public open spaces and the wider GI network.*

COS5 Objective 11: *To promote the role of parks and open spaces in conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021) and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2026 or any superseding plans. In the development of individual management plans for parks the requirements of the aforementioned biodiversity and pollinator plans will be taken into consideration and will form a part of the management requirements for the park. The development of individual management plans for parks will include consultation with local stakeholders.*

COS5 Objective 12: *To ensure that proposed SuDS measures are only accepted as an element of public open space where they are natural in form and integrate well into the open space landscape supporting a wider amenity and biodiversity value.*

COS5 Objective 13: *To ensure that parks and open spaces provide for a wide range of recreational and amenity activities that are easily accessible to all in the community, irrespective of age or ability.*

Objective 14: *To ensure that public open space and associated recreational facilities are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, as appropriate to their position within the open space hierarchy set out in Table 8.1.*

COS5 Objective 15: *To support the development of passive recreation within open spaces, such as walking trails, seating provision and areas which provide for passive amenity/hobbies, and visual interest.*

COS5 Objective 16: *To ensure that parks and public open spaces are carefully designed as safe spaces, by implementing the following measures:*

- *Providing active frontages and maximising passive surveillance from adjacent housing and/or public thoroughfares;*
- *Eliminating buildings which back-on or gable-front public open spaces;*
- *Designing corner units with active frontage;*
- *Encouraging increased use through improved access and quality of facilities'; and*
- *Careful location, design and choice of surface materials and site furniture.*

COS5 Objective 17: *To ensure that incidental areas of open space which do not function as useable open space and/or are not clearly visible from the public realm, are designed out of a proposed scheme.*

3. NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 The Existing Situation

3.1.1 Land Use Zoning

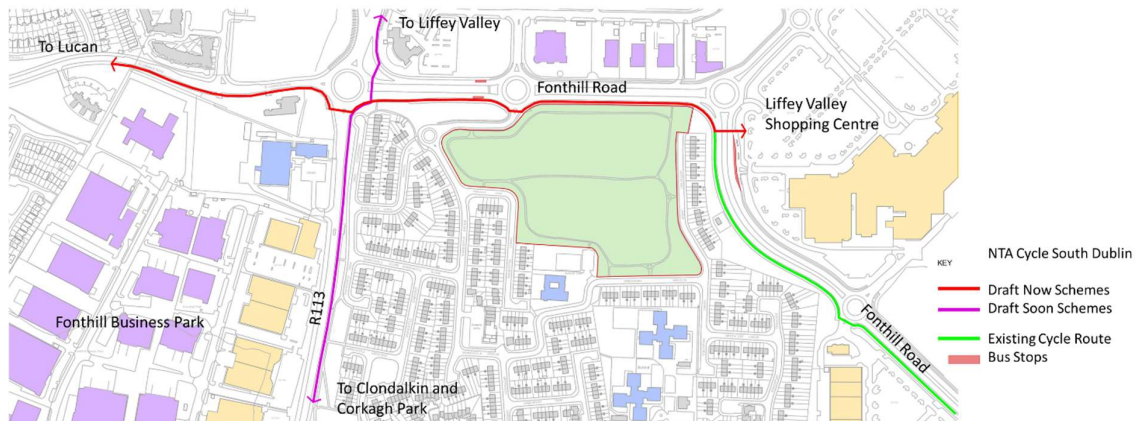
Quarryvale Park is zoned in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 as Objective OS, 'To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities'.



South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028, Use Zoning Objectives Sheet 2 extract

3.1.2 General Context

- The park extends to around 6.50ha, defined to the west and south by the established residential areas of Greenfort and Shancastle.
- The northern edge borders the busy Fonthill Road.
- Commercial hubs such as the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, car dealerships and industrial estates, adjoin the northern and eastern edges.
- There are three schools and a Community Centre in the immediate vicinity.



Context Plan

3.1.3 Existing Conditions

- The local Community Centre, playgrounds, community gardens and MUGA are located in the south-west corner of the park.
- The site is mostly flat, with few features apart from a distinctive avenue of semi-mature Oak trees planted along the eastern and southern boundaries.
- A tarmac footpath extends around the periphery of the park, and a single path through the middle.
- The park boundary is well-contained to the north, with a low stone wall, railings and a hedge. The other boundaries are mostly limited to low stub walls.
- Pedestrian access is through 6 kissing gates.
- An unused soccer pitch is located in the south-eastern corner of the park, currently bisected by a strong pedestrian desire line.



Existing Conditions Plan

3.1.4 Access and movement

- The Park is well-connected to the surrounding residential areas by segregated pedestrian routes.
- It is linked to two strategic cycle routes (NTA Cycle South Dublin) and existing cycle track along Fortunestown Way.
- There are bus stops on the northern and eastern edges of the park.

3.1.5 Recreation

- The open space is of poor and deteriorating amenity value and lacks recreational facilities.

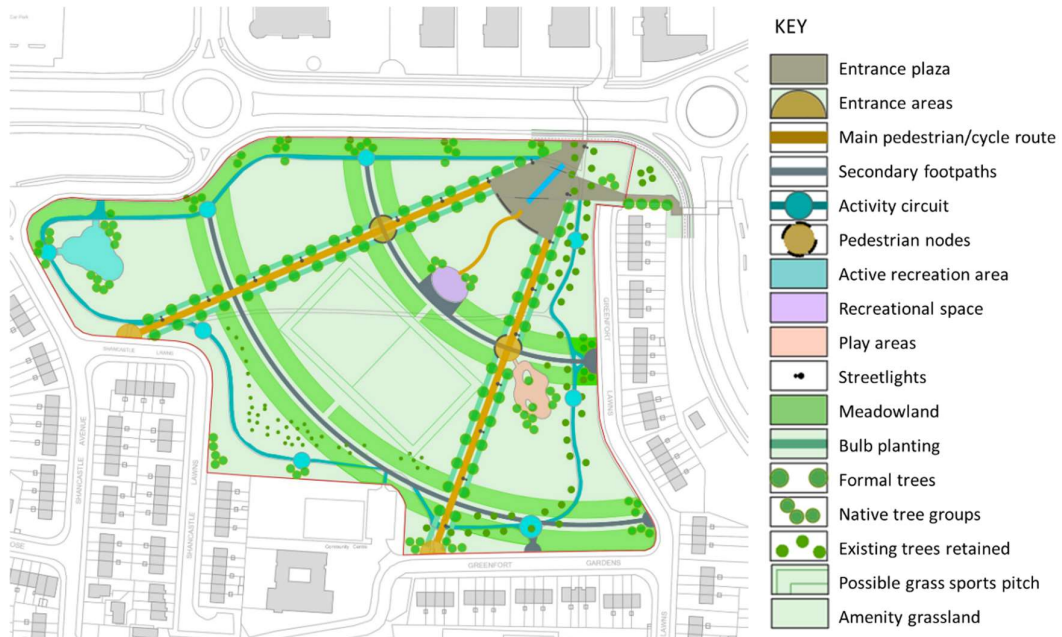
3.1.6 Street Lighting & CCTV

- There is no existing provision within the park.

3.2 Masterplan Development

3.2.1 Masterplan Proposals

The Masterplan Proposals have been developed in response to the site appraisals and the feedback from the community consultation exercise (refer Section 4).



Masterplan Proposals Plan

In summary the works comprise:

- New park structure focused on a formal entry plaza at Fonthill Road junction, with possible rain gardens, linear feature, sculptural element, seating and street lighting.
- Major shared footpath/cycle routes linking the entry plaza to Shancastle Lawns and Greenfort Gardens, with street lighting and formal trees.
- Pedestrian nodes with seating.
- Existing oak trees retained, providing an informal memorial walk.
- Provision for active recreation – e.g. Teenspace, natural play areas and pump track or similar.
- Activity circuit, 800m long - with exercise stations and seats/play equipment.
- Grass sports pitch.
- Biodiversity improvements - existing boundary hedge retained, grass meadowland management bands, bulbs in linear strips, informal native tree groups.
- All associated landscape design including street furniture, surfacing and signage.
- All ancillary works.

In consideration of the overall up-grade potential of Quarryvale Local Park, and the aspirations of the local community for developing a meaningful open space for all age groups and abilities, further consideration may need to be given to prioritising the masterplan proposals and to possible implementation in phases according to available resources and funding opportunities. The delivery of the up-grade proposals will continue to be reviewed by the Council through ongoing engagement with all interested parties.



Illustrative views of the park as proposed

3.3 Anticipated Benefits

The up-grade proposals for Quarryvale Local Park will bring this currently under-utilised open space back to life, providing a renewed focus for the communities that surround it, as well as linking and integrating the park into a wider network of high-quality open spaces and routes/greenways.

Given its proximity to existing and new residential areas, employment and retail areas, and to the N4, M50, Coldcut Road, Fonthill Road and routes serviced by Dublin bus, there is great potential for the park to be used as both a recreational and transitional space, requiring a new structure of footpaths, enhanced entrances and new amenities.

The park also needs to achieve a general enhancement in biodiversity as part of the interconnected series of green spaces that comprise the wider GI network. The existing avenue of Oak trees and the hedge around the periphery of the park can be supplemented to provide the structure for introducing a wider range of habitats, such as tree planting, native bulb planting and wildflower grasslands, to enhance overall biodiversity and support local pollinators.

Other associated benefits of the proposed scheme include:

- **Improved Sense of Security**
 - The introduction of a variety of recreation facilities will promote increased use of the park by different age groups and abilities.
 - The proposed entry plaza and other enhanced entrances will strengthen the image of the park and provide a more welcoming experience.
 - Street lighting along the main spine routes through the park will optimise the safer use of the park at different times.
 - Providing adequate lighting levels will add to safety and security, encourage use into the evenings, and help to discourage anti-social gatherings and behaviour.
 - The overall up-grade of the park should become a source of pride for the local community and a place they feel ownership of.

- **Enhanced range of Recreation Facilities**
 - The improved footpath network will provide direct pedestrian/cycle links through the park, between residential areas and the Liffey Valley Centre, as well as other commercial uses to the north.
 - A looped Activity Circuit (800km in length), with exercise/play facilities at regular 100m intervals, for use by individuals of all ages/abilities as well as local community and sports groups.
 - Fully-equipped children's play and Teenspace areas will provide active play opportunities for a wide range of age groups and act as a focal point for guardians to meet and socialise.
 - The provision of a grass sports pitch will help satisfy the demand for organised sport within the area and provide opportunities for local clubs to become actively involved with the park.
 - The up-grade and new facilities will provide an attractive, safe, enjoyable, healthy and inclusive park.

- **Enhanced Landscape and Biodiversity**
 - The formal signature tree planting of semi-mature species will reinforce the identity of the main northern footpaths through the park.
 - The existing avenue of Oak trees are to be retained and will provide an established vegetation structure to the eastern and southern edges of the park.
 - Groups of informal tree planting, with clear stems that allow views beneath the canopies, will reinforce the amenity of the area and improve the definition of edges and functional spaces.
 - Hedgerow planting to boundaries with no over-looking will help deter anti-social activities, such as dumping, while increasing the biodiversity interest with a mix of low-maintenance native species.
 - The management of wildflower grassland in formal swathes through the park, together with broad bands of native bulb planting, will provide seasonal amenity interest and enhanced bio-diversity throughout the space.
 - The introduction of more diverse habitat types support the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021), the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2026.

- **Minimal Environmental Impact**
 - The characteristics of the proposed development are not considered likely to result in a significant impact on the environment by virtue of its size, nature, or operational activities.
 - Once operational, the proposed development is expected to be low in environmental impact, with largely positive impacts.
 - The development will provide an important recreational resource for the local community, and will bring positive impacts on amenity value and biodiversity, in line with the Parks and Public Open Space policies and objectives of the County Development Plan.

3.4 Overview of Environmental Impacts

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment. The Planning Authority has made a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the proposed development, and concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, and a determination has been made that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

3.4.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Report Screening (EIARS)¹

The assessment determined that the proposed development does not fall under Schedule 5 (Parts 1 and 2) of the Act. As such, an EIAR has not been automatically triggered. To determine whether the development may fall under the category of Sub-threshold development, with the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects, a screening exercise was undertaken.

¹ Quarryvale Park, Redevelopment (Draft) EIAR Screening Report, JBA 22 March 2023

During construction, typical impacts such as noise, dust, traffic disruption, and the generation of small amounts of waste are to be expected. These are typical construction phase impacts, and will be mitigated against by environmental operating plans devised by the on-site contractor, following best practice guidance.

The EclA has outlined mitigation measures to ensure there will be no significant impacts as result of the development and associated works on the ecology and local species of the area and on any designated conservation sites. Provided these protection measures are put in place and strictly adhered to, significant adverse impacts are not anticipated, with positive impacts to biodiversity expected once operational.

An AA Screening Report completed by JBA for the proposed development determined that no likely significant impacts are expected as a result of the proposed development. This is due to the small size of the development and the distance and lack of pathways to Natura 2000 sites. Once operational, the proposed development is expected to be low in environmental impact. The scale of the development is in keeping with the surrounding area, and will enhance the public realm in the area, providing tree planting and improved access in the area.

It has been concluded that the proposed development does not fall under the category of subthreshold development, and thus an EIAR is not required.

The overall conclusion is based on the details of the scheme available at the time of preparation of the report. If the extent of the scheme or the construction methods for the scheme are changed then the EIAR Screening assessment should be reviewed.

3.4.2 Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)²

The assessment concludes that the proposed development project has been shown to potentially impact on a number of different habitats with high local importance (dry meadows, hedgerows and treelines,) and faunal groups (ground-dwelling mammals; bats; breeding and wintering birds; and terrestrial invertebrates), whose ecological importance ranges from low to high local level in the context of this proposed site.

Based upon the information supplied, regarding the site layout, drainage, lighting descriptions and landscaping; and provided that the development is constructed in accordance with the mitigation measures outlined in the report, there will be no significant impacts alone or in-combination with other projects and plans, as result of the development and associated works on the ecology and local species of the area and on any designated conservation sites.

Given the scale of this development and its suitable landscape plan, the local ecology, /including ground-dwelling mammals, bats, birds and terrestrial invertebrates will benefit from the maintained and improved ecological function of the site (planting of trees and wildflower meadows and installation of bird boxes) associated with the operational phase of this project.

² Quarryvale Park Redevelopment Ecological Impact Assessment (Draft), JBA 29th March 2023

3.4.3 Appropriate Assessment (AA)³

On the basis of the screening exercise carried out, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant impacts on any European Sites, whether arising from the project itself or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded beyond a reasonable scientific doubt on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.

3.4.4 Traffic

Quarryvale Local Park is considered to be highly accessible by foot, by cycle and by public transport. There are busy Regional Roads on two sides of the park, and residential streets on the other two sides. There are several existing and proposed good quality cycle and pedestrian links in the locality, providing excellent opportunities to link the site to the wider area by sustainable travel modes.

Levels of traffic to the site during the construction phase will increase traffic to the area but will be temporary in nature. All construction access to the site will be on pre-existing roads.

3.4.5 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

There are no Protected Structures or Recorded Monuments located within or adjoining the open space.

3.4.6 Flood Risk

The OPW's Eastern CFRAM Mapping and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 (January 2016) and Flood Risk Mapping information from JBA Consulting and the OPW PFRA will be used for specific Flood Risk Assessment at detailed design stage.

3.4.7 Waste

During construction, the proposed development will generate a small amount of typical construction waste. This will be disposed of following best practice guidance implemented by operating plans to be devised by the appointed contractor. Once operational, the proposed development will not produce waste.

³ Quarryvale Park Redevelopment (Draft) Screening for Appropriate Assessment, JBA 29th March 2023

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Engagement Process

The development proposals have been informed through an extensive and ongoing community engagement exercise, undertaken by Neil Haran (Haran-Blake Social Research Consultants). The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Inform the community that the park upgrade is due to happen.
- Explore ideas for the upgrade, take feedback and seek out proposals.
- Build interest, pride and a sense of ownership of the park.

A wide range of stakeholders were contacted, including:

- All Local Councillors – Palmerstown-Fonthill, Clondalkin, Lucan
- Local primary and secondary school
- Community bodies
- Other local activists (e.g. disability and suicide prevention groups)
- Sports Clubs
- Liffey Valley Shopping Centre Management
- South Dublin County Council personnel

In addition, a Community Survey was circulated to all local stakeholders, in order to gain views on:

- Current use of the park (and reasons for use/non-use).
- Facilities required in an upgraded park.
- Discussion of particular needs – disability, elderly or infirm, parents with small children.
- Role of SDCC in sustaining an enhanced park.
- Role of community in sustaining an enhanced park.

The survey, which ran for over two weeks, yielded 299 responses.

From these consultations, it is clear that there is considerable support and enthusiasm in the local community for the upgrade of the park.

4.2 Key Findings

Dominant themes emerging from the consultation process include:

- Over years, Quarryvale Park has been underused or used for the wrong purposes. Currently the park is mainly used by dog walkers or for general recreational exercise (walking, cycling, running). The park is also used as a shortcut between the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre and neighbouring communities. The park has been subject to dumping

and antisocial behaviour (ASB), particularly in the form of young people driving quads and scramblers in the park.

- Quarryvale Park has a history of facilitating football and the participation of local football teams. The consultation highlighted considerable local interest in the location and use of a pitch or pitches in the park in a manner that would i) encourage the re-emergence of local teams and ii) increase footfall in the park.
- The recommendations of consultation participants largely reflect the draft concept plan prepared in advance of the consultation process. Consultation suggests that four key pillars should underpin the development of Quarryvale Park, namely that the park should be:
 - a venue for sports, recreation and physical activity;
 - a social space for the community;
 - a natural space; and
 - a safe space.
- There was overwhelming interest in Quarryvale Park facilitating a range of opportunities for children’s play and recreation, and for individual/group exercise and team sport. A children’s playground, enhanced football pitch(es), outdoor exercise equipment and a path/trail for running/walking were identified as the top priorities related to sports, recreation and physical activity.
- A number of consultation participants noted the importance of considering a park playground in close relationship with the adjoining playground located in Quarryvale Community and Youth Centre. Management in the Community Centre, for example, requested that the current playground in the Centre could be integrated into the upgraded park. It was noted that the playground in the Centre was a County Council owned playground, even though it was located within the boundary of the Community Centre. However, as the Centre is closed at the weekends, children don’t get to access the facility at this time. The need for a playground, wherever it would be located to be accessible from the main park entrance was considered essential to the park re-development.
- Participants expressed interest in the upgraded Quarryvale Park facilitating social opportunities for the community. Particular emphasis was placed in discussion, written and survey inputs on the provision of adequate seating around the park, the provision of a dog run and the installation of a space specifically for teenagers.
- Facilitating the community’s access to the natural environment was raised across a number of consultation inputs, though much less frequently than in respect of sports, recreation and physical activity, for example. Interest was particularly high in trees, flowers and planting within the park. But concern was also expressed about trees and plants being vandalised and damaged. A couple of consultation inputs spoke of the importance of attributing a commemorative function to the installation of trees and that this element of commemoration would result in trees being protected from vandalism.

- Several recommendations were made about how the park could be made a safer space for park-users. This included recommendations regarding the heightening of the boundary wall and fence surrounding the park, and ensuring visibility throughout the park, lighting and CCTV cameras.
- The need for Quarryvale Park to be a space for all was emphasised both during consultation discussions and in a specific section of the community survey. Suggestions included the importance of a playground space being accessible to all, including those with any form of disability. The potential to include a sensory garden for children with additional educational needs was also mooted on a number of occasions in oral and written inputs. Other specific recommendations from the community survey placed particular emphasis on accessible entry points to Quarryvale Park, enhanced paths and availability of seating throughout the park.
- While the planned development of the park was greeted positively by all those that participated in this consultation, concerns were expressed about the maintenance, management and sustainability of the park following its upgrade, particularly mindful of ongoing levels of ASB and dumping. Consultation participants noted that SDCC's primary responsibility was to oversee the maintenance and security of the park. This included references to the installation of appropriate lighting and CCTV cameras, as well as ensuring regular warden presence on-site in the park. Strengthening boundary protection of the park from quads and scramblers was also raised as an important issue.
- Consultation participants emphasised the importance of community commitment to:
 - using the park, respecting equipment provided and respecting others using the park;
 - keeping the park clean;
 - monitoring behaviour in the park and reporting any ASB taking place; and
 - children being involved in planting activities in the park, considered essential in developing a sense of ownership of the facility among children and young people.
- Interest in the establishment of a local voluntary committee to work with SDCC in managing and maintaining the park was expressed on a number of occasions during the consultation.
- Other considerations raised included the importance of installing bins in the park, the need to consider toilet facilities, and the possibility of including a bike lock facility to support young people's use of the park.
- During the consultation process, representatives of the local Family Resource Centre (FRC) made representation to have the centre⁴ located in the park. Representatives indicated that negotiations had been ongoing between Quarryvale FRC and SDCC to construct a new building on the grounds of Quarryvale Park, and that the FRC had been making efforts to secure the necessary funding for construction. This information came to light in the latter stages of the consultation process and may require further investigation/ consideration.

⁴ Which provides a range of community development and family support services.

4.3 Overall Engagement Conclusions

There was overwhelming support among those consulted for the proposed upgrade of Quarryvale Park and people of all ages welcomed the opportunity for an improved, more community-oriented space. Many expressed their interest in supporting the development project in whatever way possible and committed to “anything that would build pride in the community.”