



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas

South Dublin  
County Council

# Playspace Consultation Belgard Heights, Springfield/ Cookstown

**Created & Presented by  
Public Realm Planning & Projects**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> 2026 Tallaght Area  
Committee Meeting**

APRIL 2026

# Background of the Consultation

Play is a fundamental human right. It is also a huge part of growing up and is essential for children's health, happiness and development. Compared to previous generations children growing up in urban areas are spending less time playing outdoors and have less freedom to roam. This has led to lower activity levels, rising childhood obesity rates, poorer fitness, increased anxiety and mental health issues and fewer chances for children to meet, mix and develop social skills.

Following the adoption of our new Play Policy, the Council is committed to making sure that all children growing up in South Dublin have access to good quality play spaces close to where they live.

For this consultation, we were focusing on areas that our mapping shows have lower access to play facilities. We wanted to hear from people living in these communities so we can better understand what is needed and where improvements should be made. If there is clear demand in an area, the Council can then move forward with proposals through the Part 8 planning process.

**The online consultation ran from 2<sup>nd</sup> March – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026. We also surveyed school children in these areas at the same time.**

**In total we had around 5,000 responses from around the County.**





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# Survey Results; Belgard Heights

270 online  
Submissions

APRIL 2026



1. Do you think there is good play provision in your area?

Yes	155
No	115

2. Should play areas be provided in residential estates/parks/ or both?

Residential Estates	7
Parks	168
Both	95

3. The SDCC play policy recommends play provision within a 400m (5 minutes walk) of all residential areas. Do you agree with this?

Yes	88
No	160
Partially	8
Strongly Disagree	3

# This is a map of Belgard Heights with the largest green areas numbered.

Residents voted on where they would like playspaces to be provided.

1	The Meadows (Belgard Heights)	79
2	Open space along Belgard Road	39
	Play opportunities spread out	35
	No suitable locations	163



## Other Suggested Locations

Alpine Rise 20  
 Belgard Reservoir 2  
 The Rise 1  
 Community Centre 2

# Analysis

Over half of respondents believed there was good play provision for Belgard Heights. Many of those saying there was good play provision were against the provision of play facilities. Only one third of respondents agree with the Council Play policy recommending provision of play facilities within 400m or a 5 minute walk of children's homes. 62% of respondents believe play facilities should only be located in parks and 60% of people did not want any play facilities in the area.

There were strong feelings expressed both for and against suggested locations. Many people believe that children need safe spaces to play close to where they live and others believe that playspaces only attract anti-social activity and exacerbate existing problems.

Some people think that it is acceptable to have to drive to playgrounds while others believe they shouldn't need to drive in order for their children to access facilities.

"The Meadows" had the highest number of votes from those who wanted play facilities.

The school surveys reveal that less than 50% of children in our overall survey areas play outside every day with 90% saying they would play outside every day if there were play facilities where they lived. Most children also reported that their areas were not good for play .

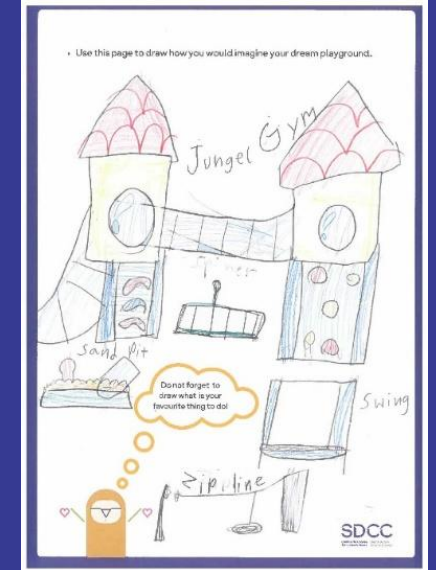
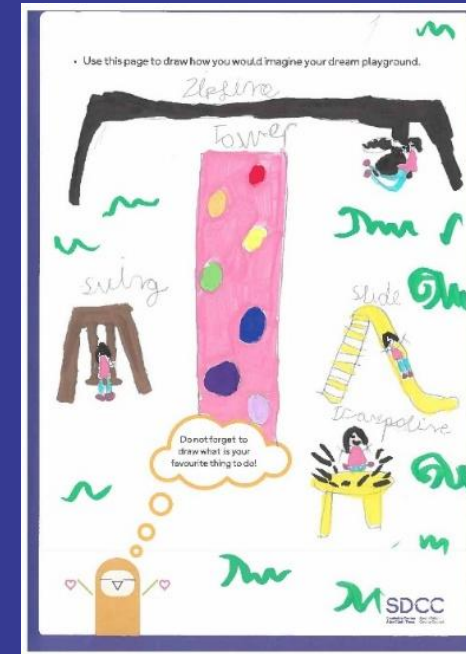


# Recommendation

Although 60% of online responses were against play facilities over 90% of children were in favour of them and said they would play more outside if play facilities were provided close to where they lived.

The comments revealed that most people were against play provision not because children's needs were already being met but because they feared a playspace would generate additional anti-social activity. This is a very reasonable fear yet and one that has emerged in virtually every playspace the Council installed. However evidence does not back up the assumption that playspaces bring problems to communities. From almost 80 playgrounds around the county there are none which residents want removed.

SDCC's experience is that playspaces are overwhelmingly positive for communities. We believe that these issues could be better understood as part of local engagement and consultations and therefore Public Realm therefore recommend bringing a proposal for a play facility at the Meadows to Part 8 Belgard Heights.





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# Survey Results:

## Springfield Cookstown

148 online Submissions  
325 school surveys

APRIL 2026



1. Do you think there is good play provision in your area?

Yes	28
No	120

2. Should play areas be provided in residential estates/parks/ or both?

Residential Estates	14
Parks	34
Both parks and residential areas	100

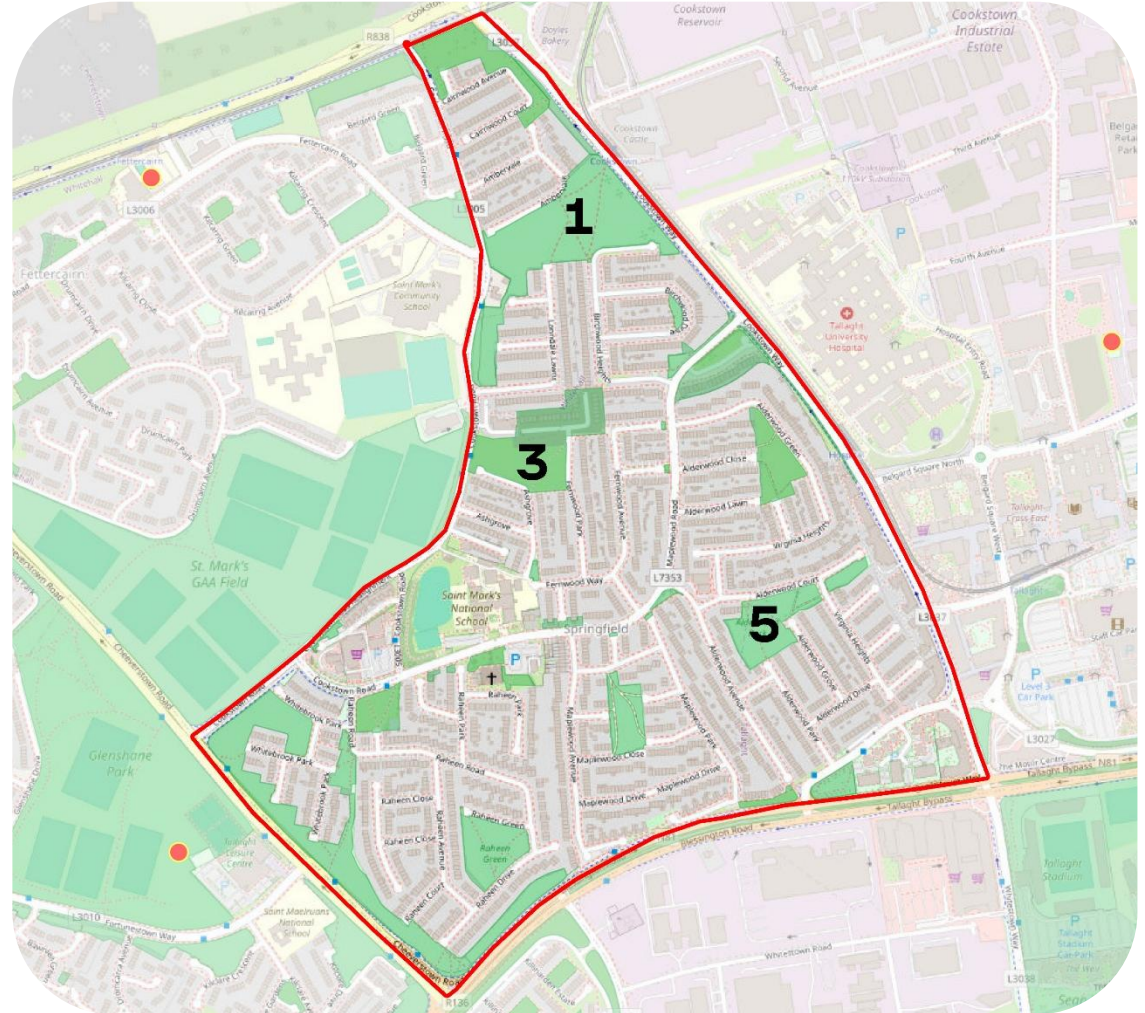
3. The SDCC play policy recommends play provision within a 400m (5 minutes walk) of all residential areas. Do you agree with this?

Yes	119
No	16
Partially	6
Strongly Disagree	6



# Proposed Areas From the Survey Results

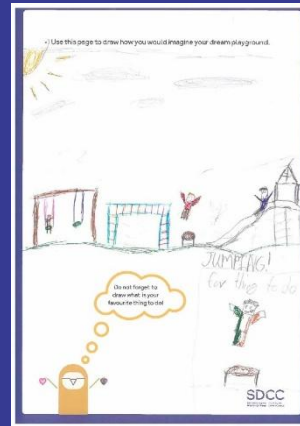
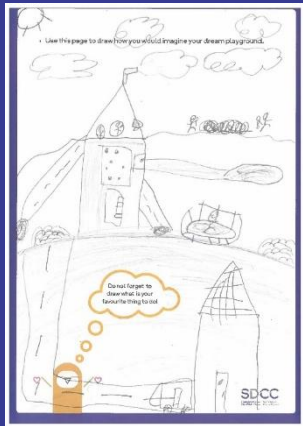
1	Ambervale/Landale open space	67
3	Fernhood Park open space	48
5	Alderwood Court	50



# Local Primary School Participation:

St. Mark's Senior National School & St. Anne's Primary School

- Only 33% of children play outside everyday.
- Only 47% say their area is good for play
- 87% say they would play outside everyday if there were play facilities close to their homes.
- 89% said they'd like play equipment where they live.



# Recommendation

With less than 20% of respondents from the online survey believing there was good play provision in the Springfield/Cookstown area, and 80% of respondents agreeing with the Play policy recommended provision of play facilities within a 5 minute walk of homes, we believe there is strong demand for improved play provision across the surveyed area

The 3 most popular sites suggested were:  
Ambervale/Landsale open space,  
Alderwood Court and  
Fernhood Park Open Space.

Public Realm recommend proceeding to Part 8 for playspaces in each of those areas.  
Detailed consultation would be required to determine the scale and nature of play provision in each area.





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# Thank you