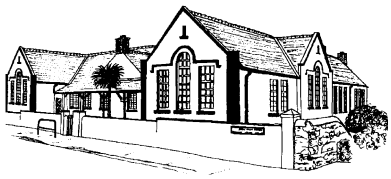
The Skerries Community Association Limited

CRO 100983; Muintir na Tire registered charity CHY 6865

Established 1934
Making a great town even better!
www.skerriesca.com



Registered Office:
Skerries Community Centre
Dublin Road
Skerries
Co. Dublin

Hon. Secretary: Zaneta Wright
01-8490888 info@skerriesca.com

Senior Executive Officer
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department
Fingal County Council,
Swords,
Co. Dublin

27th January 2015

re: Part 8 - Proposed Skerries Town Park Masterplan

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Skerries Community Association in relation to the above public consultation.

First of all let me say, on behalf of the Association that the proposed development of the Skerries town park as described in the plan is very welcome and will go a long way to making this park an amenity that the entire community can enjoy and be proud of. In this regard we support the submissions made by our member committees: Skerries Tidy Town, Skerries Cycling Initiative, Sustainable Skerries and the Skerries Skatepark Committee. In that context, the Association would like to make a number of observations and suggestions.

The increase in accessibility through the park afforded to pedestrians by improving the path network is particularly welcome. This could be enhanced by the provision of improved lighting around the Mill car park and the road leading to it. An illuminated loop path for wintertime running would also be desireable.

Directors: John Coleman; Mary Conway *(Hon Treasurer)*; Karen Guildea; Jane Landy; Dee Langton; Ciara Leonard (*Chair*); Nunce McAuley; George McCormack; Geoff McEvoy; Michael McKenna; Sabine McKenna; Martin Russell; Brendan Sherlock; Ernestine Woelger; Zaneta Wright.

Muintir na Tire

Town park accessibility and usage can be further enhanced through an increased provision of safe routes of travel for persons walking and cycling, using wheelchairs and other mobility vehicles including cycles adapted for persons with disabilities. This would enhance the park as a travel hub, improving accessibility in the town generally, as well as improving access to the many existing and proposed amenities.

In terms of providing an amenity for the benefit of as wide a section of the community as possible, it is the view of the Association that the possible provision of a skatepark in the town park should be explored as part of this development. 700m2 would be sufficient to provide a skatepark that is sensitive to its surrounding area. Ideally it would be situated beside the proposed playgrounds at a reasonable distance from the surrounding residential areas.

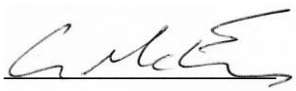
The Skerries Community Association also believes that an area (600 – 1000m2) of the Town Park redevelopment could be allocated for the provision of a community food garden, possibly by the bowling green for ease of access. The site would require good drainage and be easy to secure. Such a garden would have great benefits in terms of health, the environment and community spirit.

It is also noted that the plan includes provision for the future redevelopment and extension of the Community Centre, subject to planning permission. This is also very welcome and we suggest that the Council give consideration to the inclusion of a fully equipped theatre and performance space within this extension. A new performance space would greatly enhance the thriving cultural life of Skerries.

Should a performance space not be feasible as part of an expanded Community Centre, we request that potential provision for a free standing theatre and performance space, subject to planning permission, within the confines of the park be explored.

We would welcome the opportunity for further, detailed engagement with the Council on the above points.

Yours sincerely



Geoff McEvoy
Vice-Chairperson
Skerries Community Association