

## Belarmine Playground Consultation results:

Consultations for Belarmine Ave Playground took place in different forms. A survey online, an in school consultation with school children and a residents association submission on behalf of teenagers.

### Online survey:

There were 111 responses in total in relation to Belarmine Playground upgrade, broken down as follows:

- 104 parents
- 3 carer/parent
- 2 older brothers / sisters
- 3 playground users

Not all answers on the form were completed; consequently, total responses in this report are often less than number of forms. Some questions had opportunities for more than one answer, so some totals are higher than the actual responses to that question.

The majority of responses were from adult females in a parent role.

If you are a parent or carer, how old are you? - Adult age	Number	Female	Male
19 - 24 years old	0	0	0
25 - 34 years old	12	9	2
35 - 44 years old	69	45	16
45 - 54 years old	22	9	10
55 - 65+ years old	3	1	2
Not answered	5	2	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>		

When asked the age of the playground users, the age range of the children mostly fell into the primary school age range. However it is worth noting a high proportion of responses did not answer this question or answered from the adult perspective.

If you play on the playground equipment, how old are you? - Age of user	Numbers
17	1
13	1
11	1
10	2
8	3
7	4
6	2
5	1
4	1
3	4
2	3
1	1

I'm an adult	49
Unanswered	38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>

The majority of users were accompanied by an adult to the playground.

<b>Do you visit the playground with an adult or are you able to go alone? - accompanied</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Only taken by an adult	63
Can visit playground alone	23
Not Answered	21
Taken by an older brother or sister	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>Count of How often do you visit the park in general? - Regular users</b>	<b>Number</b>
1-2 times a week	56
3-4 times a week	59
5-7 times a week	70
Not every week	20
Rarely	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>207</b>

When asked how often users visit the playground the majority of users visit the playground between 1-2 times a week.

<b>Count of How often do you or your family members visit the playground? - Regular users</b>	<b>Number</b>
1-2 times a week	39
3-4 times a week	32
5-7 times a week	23
Not every week	14
Rarely	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>

Not everyone visits the playground every park visit, however the vast majority do still use the playground regularly and visit at least a 1-2 times a week and spend between 15mins to an hour at the playground.

<b>How long do you usually spend at the playground?</b>	
Up to 1 hour	47
15 – 30 Minutes	47
15 minutes or less	7
Over an hour	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>

Most users walk to the playground, which indicates users live close by.

Mode of transport	nu.
Walk	201
Cycle	28
Car	5
Scoot	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>238</b>

A Creche is located next to the playground, and there are two national schools close by.

## The Playground environment:

People were asked whether there were aspects that would encourage people to stay longer at the playground, especially those accompanying children. Suggested improvements included a larger playground area, seating, picnic tables and trees, which hoped to encourage people to think about the whole environment, there was space here for open answers.

The majority of people wanted to see a larger playground and climbing equipment. Picnic tables and a connection to nature featured relatively high. Climbing and swings were also high priority.

What would keep you at the playground longer?	Nu.
Larger playground	153
Seating	135
Climbing	123
Swings	117
Picnic Tables	89
Spinners	72
Trees - connection to nature, shade, etc	49
Equipment for Older children	16
Zipline	16
Climbing frame	14
Soft play for small children (approx. 6mths -3yrs)	10
Balance activities / Monkey bars	10
Slides - Big, tall, more.	10
Lighting	7
Ball wall/hurling wall/ball return/Muga	7
Sand pit	6
Obstacle course	5
See saw	5
Bike/Pump track	4
Facilities for children with disabilities	4
Teen gym	3
Trampoline	2
Role play	2
Swing for child with cerebral palsy/disabilities	2
Toilets	1
Boules / boccia	1
Table tennis	1
Chess boards	1
Play den	1

Nature play	1
Coffee kiosk	1
Parkour	1

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/INCLUSION

People were asked if they were aware of any people within the local community that don't use the playground.

Are you aware of anyone or group of people who do not use the playground – accessible to all.	
Don't know	37
No	29
Yes	38
Not Answered	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>

Of those who replied yes, the following reasons were given:

12 responses specifically mentioned vandalism, or that they found it intimidating or antisocial and found it unsafe for these reasons. Following this, a further 10 suggested an area/more equipment for older kids and teens.

11 responses mentioned that the playground was in poor condition and needed improvements to equipment and to be better maintained.

## Developing the Playground.

The survey asked what 3 pieces of play equipment would they like to see in the playground.

What 3 pieces of play equipment would you or your child like to see in the playground?	nu.
Swings	54
Climbing Wall	46
Multi-play unit (older)	44
Monkey Bars	41
Slides	40
Multi-play unit (3-6yrs)	40
Adventure Trim Trail	40
Tunnels	27
Musical Instruments	24
Ball Games	22
Imaginative Play - stage, make believe are	19
Basket Swing	19
Roundabout	18
Sand	17

Quiet Zone - seating	16
Hills	12
Spinners	10
Communications Board	8
Bike/skateboard Trail	3
Sensory Equipment	2
Water	1
Trampoline	1
Teen area	1
Lighting	1
Heighten Fence around sports areas	1

What 3 pieces of play equipment would you or your child like to see in the playground?	nu.
Multi-play unit (older)	94
Swings	93
Climbing Wall	83
Monkey Bars	81
Adventure Trim Trail	74
Slides	71
Multi-play unit (3-6yrs)	63
Basket Swing	61
Tunnels	56
Roundabout	41
Musical Instruments	40
Sand	38
Imaginative Play - stage, make believe area	37
Spinners	31
Ball Games	30
Quiet Zone - seating	30
Hills	27
Communications Board	10
Zipline	9
Pump track	1
Ball wall/ball return	1
Bike Trail	1
Accessibility equipment	1
Seesaw	1
Sensory Equipment	1
Football	1
Chess	1
Wooden Train / tree house	1

## Stepaside Educate Together NS In-School consultation

- 16 kids, 2 from each class participated in a morning work group on playgrounds on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023. They provided lots of ideas through discussion and drawing of what they would like to see in the playground.
- When asked what types of activities they like to take part in Swinging was the favorite, followed by Ball games and climbing.
- When shown pictures of items that might be included in a playground Swings Table Tennis, Tunnels and Basket Swing received the most stars, with Climbing frame and Nets following close second.
- Conclusions: Zipline was the most talked about and requested piece of equipment.
- Ball games and swings were hugely important to all, followed by climbing. What wasn't shown in pictures but was requested by at least half of the participants in chats were places to sit and have coffee and socialize for themselves and an area for their parents.

Movement Wheel: What activities do you like to do? 3 stars each.	
Balancing	2
Ball Games	9
Excercising	3
Climbing	9
Digging	1
Sitting	2
Running	4
Swinging	11

When shown pictures of different equipment, and asked to Choose 3	
	<b>Stars</b>
Boulders	3
Table Tennis	7
Tunnel	7
Basket Swing	7
Climbing Frame	6
Swings	7
Willow House	1
Slide	3
Nets	6
Games	0
Stage	0
Monkey Bars	3

Name	Age	Wishlist from drawings provided by participants						
Ethan	10	Monkey bars	Football net.					
Hannah	11	Swings	Zipline	Mud Kitchen	Trampoline	Colour		
Adam	8	Parkour	Skateboarding	Ball games				
Freya	10	Swings	Slides					
Alice	8	Swings	Monkey Bars	Net	Trampoline	Roundabout	Flower Drums	
Eviet	11	Zipline						
Alisha	11	Zipline	Basketball	Football net.	Water Fountain			
Sophie	7	Sandpit	Swings	slide, rockers	climbing frame	Sandpit		
Maya	6	Tube slides	Basket swing	climbing net	adventure walk way (logs balance beams )			
Hanna	9	Climbing Trees	Trampoline	Benches	Ropes	Chalk drawing area	Play coffee shop	
Jacob	8	Sandpit	Football net.	Water Fountain	Chill area (TV)			
Hugo	9	Golf	Coffee shop	climbing/monkey bars	Climbing tower			
Max	7	Nets / Slides (multiplay)	Ice cream shop	Swings	Ground games(hopscotch)			
Vivienne	9	Merry go round	Climbing tower	Zipline	Obstacle course	loop slide	See saw that swings and bounces	Wider gates/water refill /wheelchair swing
Scott	12	More empty Spaces to do stuff !						
Mathew	10	Zipline	Monkey Bars	Ping Pong	Climbing frame	Basket swing	Nets	Football net

### Local Residents Submission:

A very detailed and well thought through submission was prepared by a resident on behalf of residents of the local area, including Belarmine, Belmont, Woodside and Rectory residents. They wished to highlight the lack of infrastructure / facilities for teenagers within the area.

This report was submitted prior to the consultations as an independent report and again as part of the consultation process.

Fernhill Park is a new regional park located opposite Belarmine along the Enniskerry Road. A new playground is proposed for this regional park and it is to be built during 2025. The site identified for this regional playground is approx. 750m walking distance from the current Belarmine playground. Fernhill as a regional playground will cater for all age ranges and be able to provide a greater range of equipment and facilities.

Teenagers generally enjoy a greater freedom than younger children and can travel further to make use of facilities. Smaller playgrounds and open spaces lack the area and ability to extensively provide for one

specific group and they generally try to provide for as wide a group as possible with less equipment and area, and are considered local parks / playgrounds providing for the population who may need accompaniment to a playground or may not be able to walk / cycle as far as an older youth.

Adjacent the current playground is a MUGA which is very popular with teens and pre-teens. It is Dlr Co. Co.s aim to provide for as many young people as possible within Belarmine and local communities, without concentrating specifically on one age range, especially given the plans for the regional playground in Fernhill in a years' time. However there will be some provision for Teen Play within Belarmine.

Proposal by residents to be included within Belarmine Ave play space included:

Calisthenics park	Climbing Boulder
Skate ramp	Pump track
Pump track	Table tennis /contemporary Football table

The equipment highlighted by the residents are not specific to Teen Play and are and would be for use of all age groups. It is also considered that some of these can be designed to be multifunctional e.g. climbing boulder on one side and rope wall /nets on the other.

### Recommendations:

A majority of comments from respondents were in relation to provision of equipment for older children.

A larger playground should be designed with provision for a wider age range of children.

Climbing equipment, Swings and multiplay unit for older children are the highest requested play items.

Children within the consultation directly looked for Zipline, Ball games, Swings and Climbing

Seating and social areas for play and for parents were also requested.