Kingston Park and Millers Lane

Public Park and Urban Realm Project

Public Engagement Report

Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe Galway City Council

MKO

DRLA Landscape Architects

PUNCH consulting engineers

QUINN Architects

www.KingstonParkMillersLane.com

Please scan the QR code to visit the website

Gaeilge

English

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Introduction

Background and Introduction

This **Public Engagement Report** details the process undertaken to engage with the local community and key stakeholders as part of the development and planning for the Kingston Park and Millers Lane Public Urban Realm Project in Galway City.

In 2024, Galway City Council appointed a multidisciplinary team, comprising MKO, Dave Ryan Landscape Architects (DLRA), Quinn Architects, PUNCH Consulting Engineers, and TC Estimating, to **develop a comprehensive masterplan** for the Kingston Park and Millers Lane Public Urban Realm Project, **guided and informed by extensive consultation with the local community and key stakeholders**.

While the overall masterplan covers both Kingston Park and Millers Lane, a Part X planning application will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in November 2025 for Millers Lane and the northern section of Kingston Park. The southern section of Kingston Park is subject to landowner negotiations, and it is anticipated that it will be progressed as a separate planning application at a later date.

Engagement Strategy

Our strategy for public engagement was rooted in the principles of the **Aarhus Convention**, which emphasises public access to information and public participation in decision making. The strategy also reflects the values of the **New European Bauhaus** initiative by fostering meaningful engagement through participation, multi-level collaboration and a transdisciplinary approach.

Our approach to public engagement was to **empower the local community** to enable them to interact and engage with Galway City Council and the Design Team in a **two-way participatory process**.

Our core aim, through **extensive consultation** with the community, was to **resolve any issues at the non-statutory process stage** and to secure community support for the proposed parks prior to lodgement of the Part X planning application in November 2025 to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

We sought to achieve this by:

- **Facilitating open and transparent communication** between Galway City Council, stakeholders and the local community.
- **Promoting collaboration** between the Design Team and the local community through a participatory design approach.
- **Providing accessible information** on the proposed park designs at each consultation stage, including translating engagement materials into Gaeilge.
- **Gathering local insights** to inform and refine design proposals in response to community needs and preferences.
- **Encouraging meaningful participation** through workshops, surveys and public consultation events.
- **Identifying and addressing concerns** early in the design process.
- **Building a shared vision** for Kingston Park and Millers Lane that reflects community values, sustainability goals, and long-term usability.

Engagement Process

In advance of the submission of a planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála, we undertook **three stages of non-statutory public engagement from September 2024 to September 2025**. These stages were designed to ensure that the community could actively engage with the project as it evolves—from initial concepts to preferred designs for both parks.

At each stage, the community was given the opportunity to review proposals and provide feedback that directly informed the design of the parks. The Information Boards displayed during each stage of engagement are provided in **Appendix 2**, while the corresponding surveys are included in **Appendix 3**.

Public Engagement No. 1

There was a concerted effort at this stage not to present pre-designed options but to allow the community to guide the Design Team on what they want in their area.

Public Engagement No. 2

Feedback received from the first consultation informed the development of **six concept designs**:

Millers Lane:

- Option A: Optimise for Wider Uses
- Option B: Pavillion to South Side
- Option C: Pavillion to the Centre

Kingston Park:

- Option A: Intensity Gradient
- Option B: North / South Axis
- Option C: A Playful Meander

Public Engagement No. 3

Feedback received during the second consultation was used to develop a **preferred design option for each park**. Feedback from the third consultation was used to refine the designs prior to lodgement of the Part X planning application.

Public Engagement Timeline

Sept 2024
Assessment of Existing Site, Policy & Constraints

Sept - Nov 2024
Public Engagement No 1

Dec - Mar 2024
Concept Design Development

April-May 2024
Public Engagement No 2

Jun - Aug 2025
Preferred Design Development

Sept 2025
Public Engagement No 3

Oct 2025
Design Finalisation

Nov 2025
Planning Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Dedicated Stakeholder Engagement Sept 2024 - Sept 2025

Engagement Methods

Our Engagement Strategy utilises a '**Hybrid Engagement Approach**' which implements a combined strategy of digital and traditional methods. The multi-channel approach was designed to maximise reach, promote transparency, ensure inclusivity and facilitate meaningful engagement throughout the consultation process.

We sought to engage with everyone in the community. In particular, the in-person consultation events ensured **accessibility for all demographics, including older people and those with limited digital access**. At each consultation event, members of the Design Team were available to assist participants in completing surveys, ensuring that everyone could provide feedback easily.

To engage younger people, we conducted **four workshops with two nearby schools** to capture their ideas and perspectives on the proposed parks.

All consultation material was **bilingual** including website content, the information presented at the public consultation events, surveys and letters issued to local residents, ensuring the process was inclusive and accessible to all members of the community.

Communication Tools

A **range of communication tools** were employed to ensure clear, accessible, and consistent information sharing throughout the engagement process.

Digital Tools

- **Dedicated Project Website:** A user-friendly hub providing comprehensive information about the project, consultation events, surveys, and updates.
- **Project Email Address:** Offered a direct line for the community to ask questions, provide feedback, and request further information from the Design Team.
- **Social Media:** Posts on multiple platforms promoted events, shared updates, and encouraged participation, increasing visibility and reach.
- **Local Radio:** Interviews with local sports clubs on Galway Bay FM promoted the project and raised awareness within the wider community.

Traditional Tools

- **Newspaper Adverts:** Newspaper adverts were placed in local newspapers to publicise the engagement events and encourage survey participation. This also ensured information reached residents who may not access digital channels (see **Appendix 1**).
- **Extensive Letter Drops:** Letters delivered to nearby residents provided updates and invitations to the public engagement events.
- **Posters:** Custom-made posters were placed in key community locations to raise awareness of the engagement events and the project
- **Word of Mouth**: Members of the community were encouraged to share information about the project, engagement events, and opportunities to provide feedback within their networks.

Communication Tools

Event Posters

Dedicated Project Website

Extensive Letter Drops

Newspaper Advertisements

All feedback from the community — collected through conversations, surveys, post-it notes, emails, and mapped annotations during stakeholder meetings and public engagement events — **was recorded and analysed.**

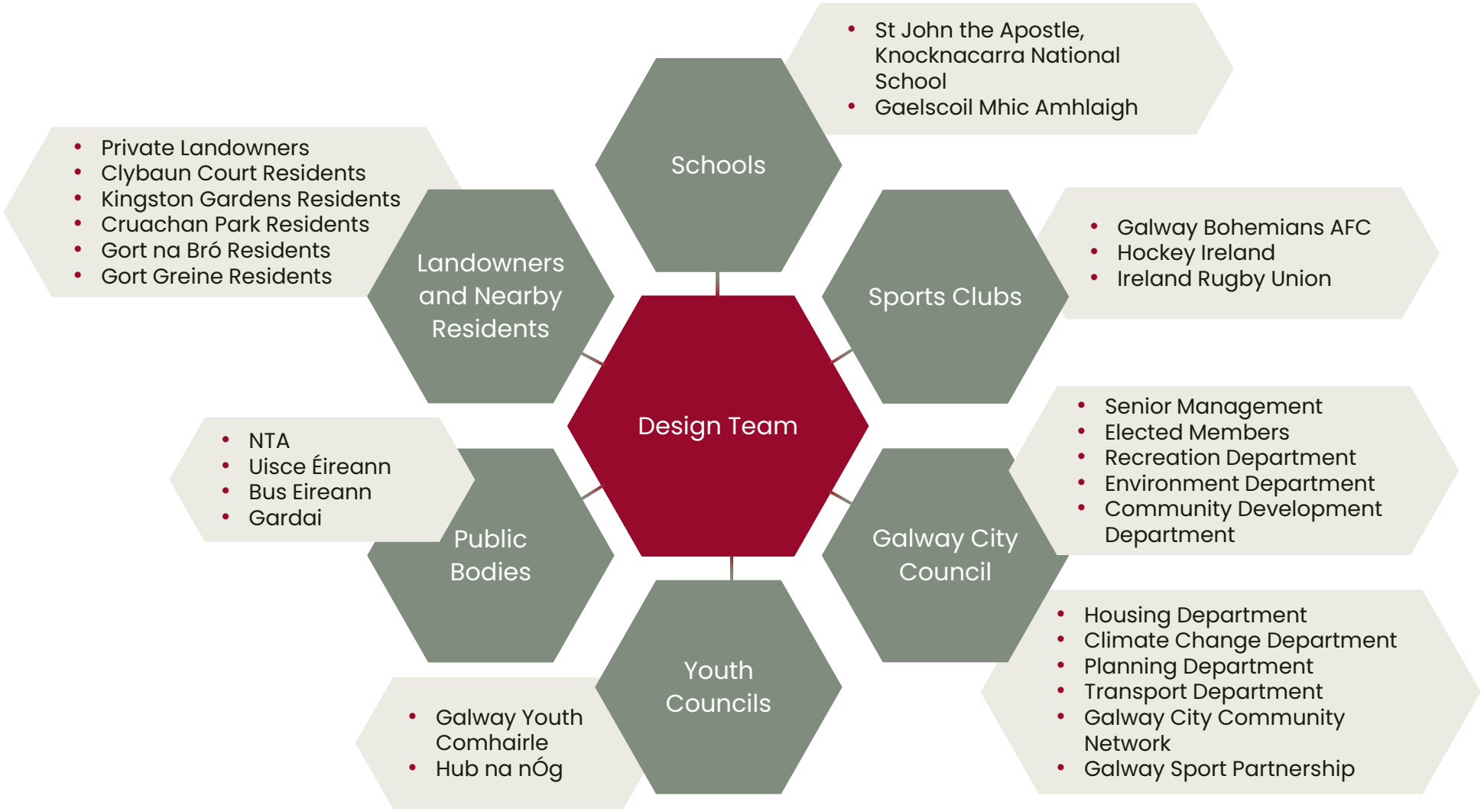
Features on Local Radio

Word of Mouth

Social Media Campaigns

Dedicated Project Email Address

Stakeholder Mapping



Headlines in Local Newspapers

Promotion on Social Media

Galway City Council and MKO promoted each public consultation event through **multiple social media platforms** to ensure broad public engagement.

10,789 people either visited our dedicated website or engaged in our social media posts during the public engagement process, reflecting strong public interest and participation.

Public Engagement Process Highlights

2,607
Letters Delivered

600
Surveys Completed

10.7k
Project Website Visits

93%
think the design of Kingston Park will have a positive impact on the community

3
Consult Events

345
Total Attendees

30+
Stakeholders Individually Met

90%
think the design of Millers Lane will have a positive impact on the community

First Public Engagement

Overview of First Public Engagement

The initial phase of public engagement commenced on 24th September 2024, with the launch of an online survey on the project's dedicated website.

An in-person engagement event followed on 17th October 2024 at the Clybaun Hotel, Knocknacarra, Galway, located within close proximity to the subject lands. The in-person event was held from 12pm to 7pm and was open to all members of the public. A total of approximately **116 people attended the first engagement event**.

Information Boards illustrating the project background, site constraints, and the aims and objectives of the project were displayed at the event (see **Appendix 2**). There was a concerted effort at this stage not to present pre-designed options but to allow the community to guide the Design Team on what they want in their area.

Hard copies of the initial community survey were made available at the event to facilitate immediate feedback and to ensure participation by individuals without access to digital platforms. The online survey was actively promoted throughout the event, as well as via social media channels and local newspapers, and remained open until 7th November 2024, concluding a **six-week consultation period.**

More than 300 individuals completed the initial community survey, reflecting a high level of interest and active engagement from the community in the consultation process.

Feedback from this initial consultation was wide-ranging. Many participants expressed strong support for creating inclusive, sustainable and accessible spaces, while others proposed specific adjustments to better reflect community needs. All feedback was analysed, and recurring priorities, suggestions, and concerns were identified.

The following section presents the key findings from the first public engagement stage.

Highlights from the First Public Engagement

Current Experiences

How often do you currently visit a park?
91% of people visit a park **at least once a week.**

How accessible are existing parks for people with disabilities or mobility issues?
73% said existing parks are **inaccessible.**

How safe do you feel when visiting existing parks?
67% of people **feel unsafe** when visiting existing parks, particularly on the weekends / evenings.

What activities do you engage in most often when visiting a park?

- Walking, Jogging & Running
- Team Sports
- Playgrounds and Kids Activities
- Dog Walking
- Skateboard and Skating

What are your initial concerns about the project?

- Residential Amenity
- Transport, Access and Parking
- Safety and Anti-social Behaviour
- Lighting, Visibility and Overlooking
- Maintenance

The Future of Kingston Park and Millers Lane

What types of spaces and facilities would you like included in the park?

- Sports, Exercise and Fitness Areas
- Walking, Cycling and Running Paths
- Playgrounds and Teen / Kids Facilities
- Seating and Rest Areas
- Public Amenities
- Nature and Green Spaces
- On Leash Dog Friendly Areas

How can accessibility and inclusivity be improved at the park?

- Universal Access and Design
- Better Transport Connections
- More Children and Youth Friendly Spaces
- More Seating and Rest Areas
- Better Park Safety and Maintenance

How can the park better support the environment?

- Biodiverse Planting and Habitats
- Renewable Energy for Park Facilities
- Active Travel Infrastructure
- Waste Management

What will make the park feel safer?

- Space for Teens
- Lighting and Visibility
- CCTV and Other Security Measures

What types of community spaces should be included?

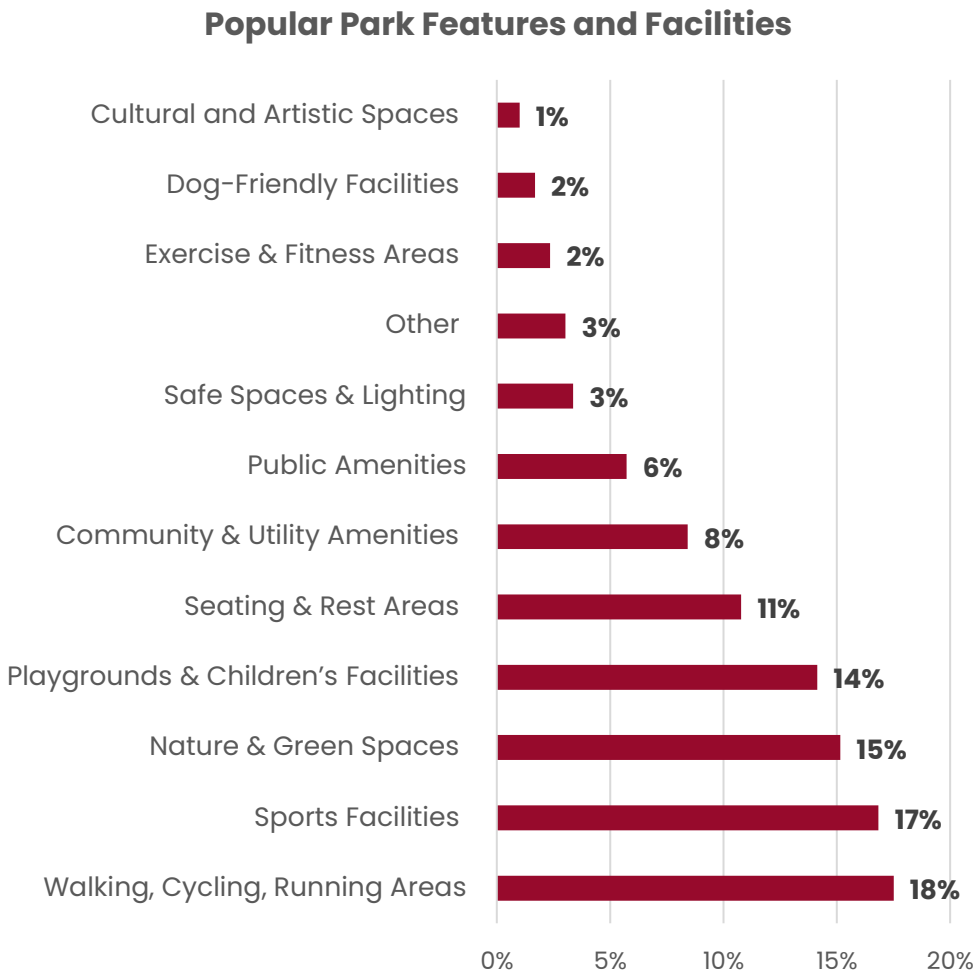
- Multi-functional Community Hall
- Performance, Art and Cultural Spaces
- Youth and Teen Spaces

Popular Park Features and Facilities

The most popular activities the community engages in when visiting a park are walking / cycling / running, team sports, and relaxation.

The most popular features and facilities requested by the community to include in the design of a new park include:

- **Walking, Cycling and Running Areas:** High quality and safe routes / trails that are well-lit.
- **Sports Facilities:** Soccer, rugby and hockey pitches, both for participation in team sports and for spectating.
- **Nature and Green Spaces:** Biodiverse-rich green spaces.
- **Playgrounds and Children's Facilities:** Playgrounds near cafés, walking routes, and seating areas were requested.
- **Seating and Rest Areas:** Picnic areas and benches located throughout the park.
- **Public amenities:** Clean public toilets, bins, dog waste bins, water fountains.

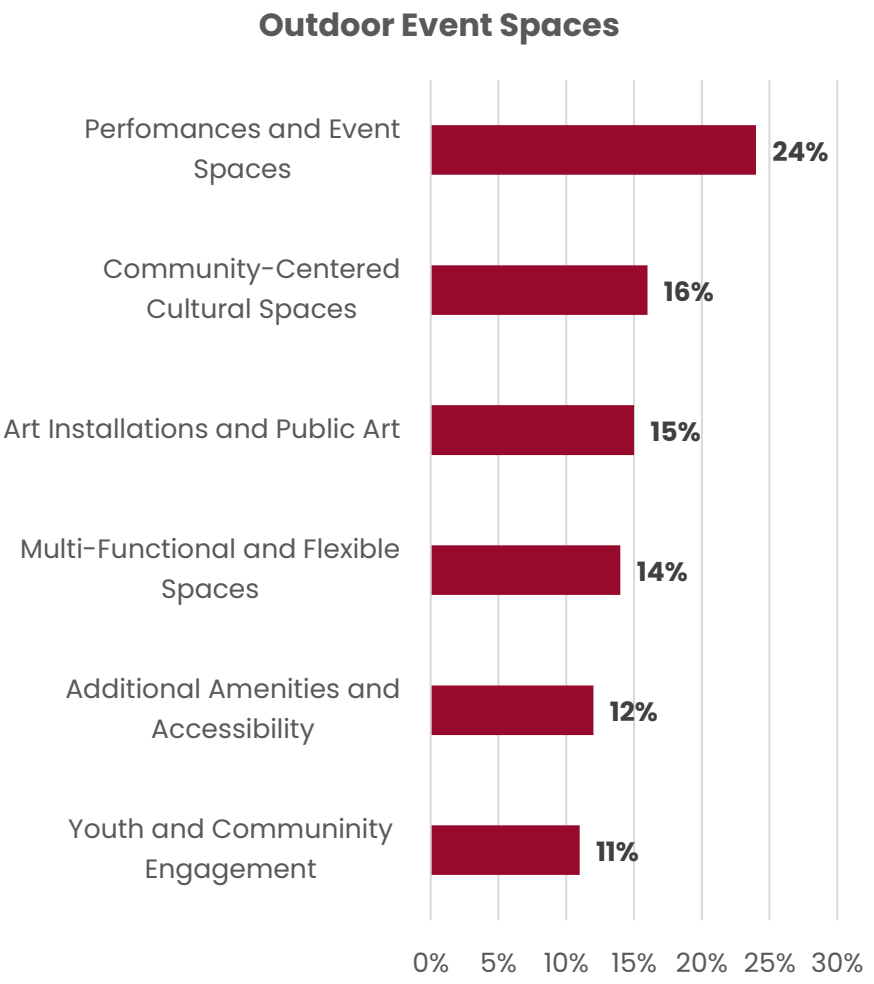


Community Buildings and Event Spaces

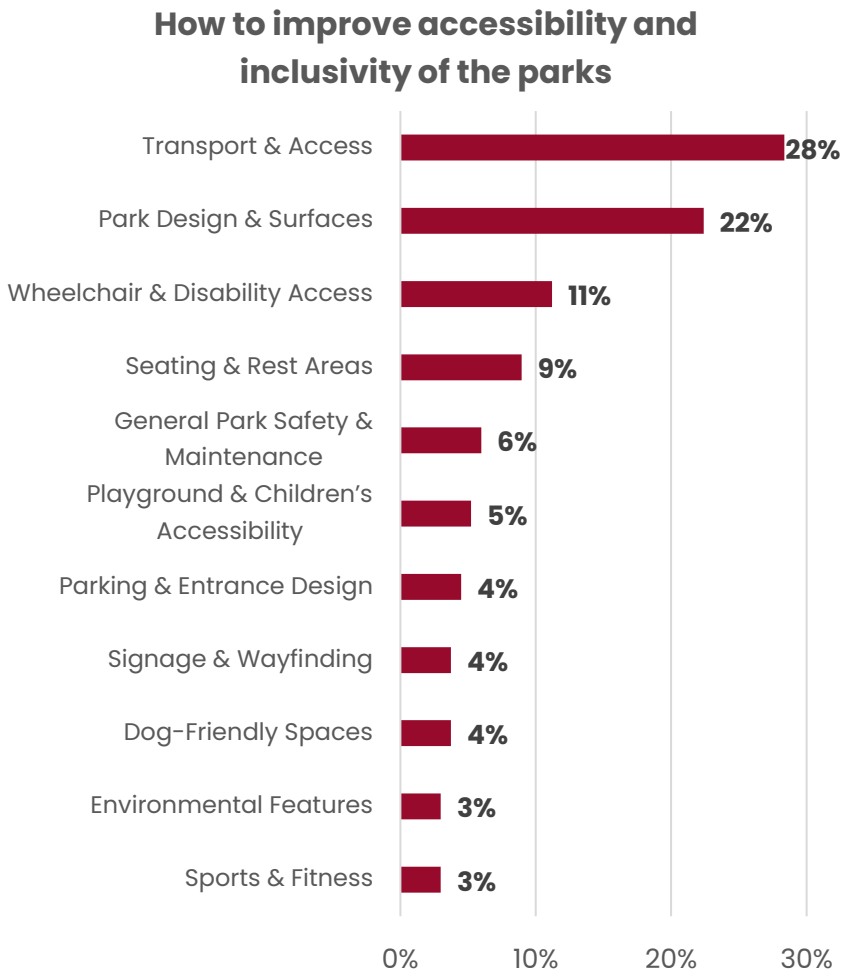
The community expressed **strong support for a community building at both Millers Lane and Kingston Park** designed to accommodate a variety of multi-functional spaces for sporting, community and cultural activities. Key facilities requested by the community included a 'multi-purpose sports hall', 'multi-purpose activity rooms', 'changing rooms', 'toilets', 'showers', 'kitchenette', 'equipment storage room', 'referee changing room', 'first-aid room', 'sensory room', 'commentary booth', 'café and servery'. The community strongly expressed that the buildings must be *'A hall for every occasion – sport, culture and community events all under one roof'* and to be *'designed for everyone in the community'.*

The community also expressed a preference for the following types of outdoor communal spaces:

- **Performance and event Spaces:** Spaces for public performances that allow for social gatherings, entertainment and community engagement.
- **Community cultural spaces:** Performance areas for local groups (e.g. the local drama club).



Accessibility and Inclusivity



Almost three-quarters of respondents **found that existing parks are inaccessible for people with disabilities or mobility issues,** with only 27% of people finding that existing parks are accessible.

Respondents highlighted the following features currently impeding access for people with disabilities or mobility issues: kissing gates, rough pavements, narrow paths, potholes, uneven paths, lack of disabled parking, poor public transport, and lack of equipment for disabled children.

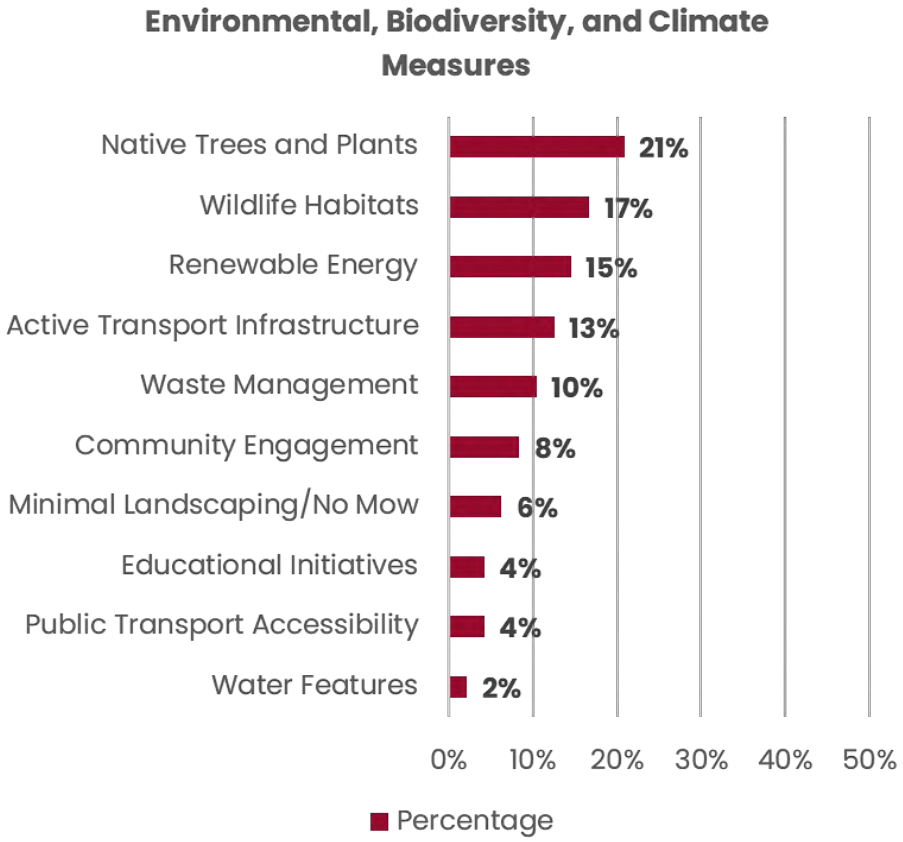
The following features were recommended to improve accessibility:

- **Transport, Parking and Access:** Responses included 'disabled parking', 'accessible entrances', 'discourage car use', 'on/off ramps to roads/cycleways'.
- **Park Design and Surfaces:** Responses included 'smooth pathways', 'pathways that are wide enough for wheelchairs and buggies/prams', 'paved surfaces', 'ramps', 'wayfinding signs'.
- **Wheelchair and Disability Access:** Responses included 'wheelchair access', 'accessible toilets', 'wheelchair friendly benches'.

Environmental, Biodiversity and Sustainability Measures

The first consultation highlighted strong community support for integrating biodiversity, renewable energy and sustainability into the project design:

- **Native Trees and Plants:** Respondents strongly advocated for the preservation of existing native trees on site, as well as the planting of additional native species to help the parks serve as a refuge for wildlife.
- **Wildlife Habitat Preservation and Enhancement:** Respondents supported measures to introduce and maintain wildlife habitats. They noted the rich wildlife in the area such as fox's, badgers and hedgehogs and desired to create safe habitats in the parks for these to thrive. Additional measures mentioned included bug hotels, bird boxes, and bird feeders.
- **Renewable Energy and Sustainability:** Suggestions for renewable energy include solar panels for lighting and power generation; rainwater harvesting; and using sustainable / recycled materials for buildings and playgrounds.



Concerns Expressed by the Community

The following concerns were expressed by several members of the community:

- **Transport management, parking and access:** Transport management, parking and access were identified as concerns, particularly by residents whose properties adjoin the parks i.e. Kingston Gardens, Kingston Road, Clybaun Court and Gort Siar.
- **Lighting:** Concerns were raised about inadequate lighting in the parks, and the installation of floodlighting affecting residential amenity.
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Concerns about vandalism, loitering, graffiti, and large groups gathering (e.g., teens, gangs) were raised during the consultation events and survey.
- **Boundary treatment:** Concerns were expressed by some nearby residents that people might potentially enter onto their private property.

The concerns raised by the community were thoroughly analysed by the Design Team to understand their underlying causes. The **Design Team endeavoured to resolve and mitigate as many concerns raised as possible** when developing the proposed designs for Kingston Park and Millers Lane.

The community suggested the following measures to improve safety, reduce anti-social behaviour and maintain residential amenity:

- **Enhanced lighting and visibility**
- **Install CCTV / security cameras**
- **Visibility / open design / avoid creating secluded areas**
- **Provide dedicated space for teenagers**
- **Presence of a park warden**
- **Creation of safe and well-maintained active travel routes**

Conclusion of the First Engagement Stage

The first stage of engagement achieved a high level of community involvement:

- Over **116 people attended the first engagement event**.
- **More than 300 individuals completed the initial community survey.**
- **Four consultation workshops** were undertaken with pupils in Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh and Knocknacarra National School (St John the Apostle) (outlined in detail in the next chapter).

The Design Team collated and analysed all feedback received during the first consultation stage. Quantitative analysis was applied to closed-ended survey questions, while open-ended responses were examined through thematic analysis to identify recurring issues, key priorities and areas of consensus or concern. **The insights gathered during the first consultation stage directly informed the preparation of multiple design options for Kingston Park and Millers Lane**.

School Workshop

Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh & St. John the Apostle National School

Engagement with Young People

On Thursday and Friday, June 6th and 7th 2024, representatives from MKO, DRLA Landscape Architects and Galway City Council conducted consultation workshops with pupils in Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh and Knocknacarra National School (St John the Apostle) which are adjacent to the sites of the proposed development. The project team conducted **four workshops over the course of the two days**:

•Two in **Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh** with pupils from their 5th and 6th classes, and;

• Two in **Knocknacarra National School** with pupils from their 4th and 5th classes.

In total**, the project team consulted with approximately 150 pupils** aged between 10-13 over the two days.

The objectives of the consultation workshops were to:

- Gain an overall picture **of what children in the area like and don't like about the current city parks,** and what they envision for the proposed development.
- To gauge what the children's feelings are on topics such as **accessibility, inclusivity, health and wellbeing, and active living,** and how they feel these concepts could be applied to the proposed development
- To gather from the children their views and opinions on what **facilities, amenities, activities and installations** should form part of the redeveloped parks
- To employ the children as **'project ambassadors'** with the job of spreading the word about the wider consultation process with their networks of families, friends, neighbours, etc.

Key Findings from Schools' Workshops

Variety of Activities & Equipment

Sports Facilities

Market & Food Spaces

Clean & Well Maintained

Accessibility & Movement

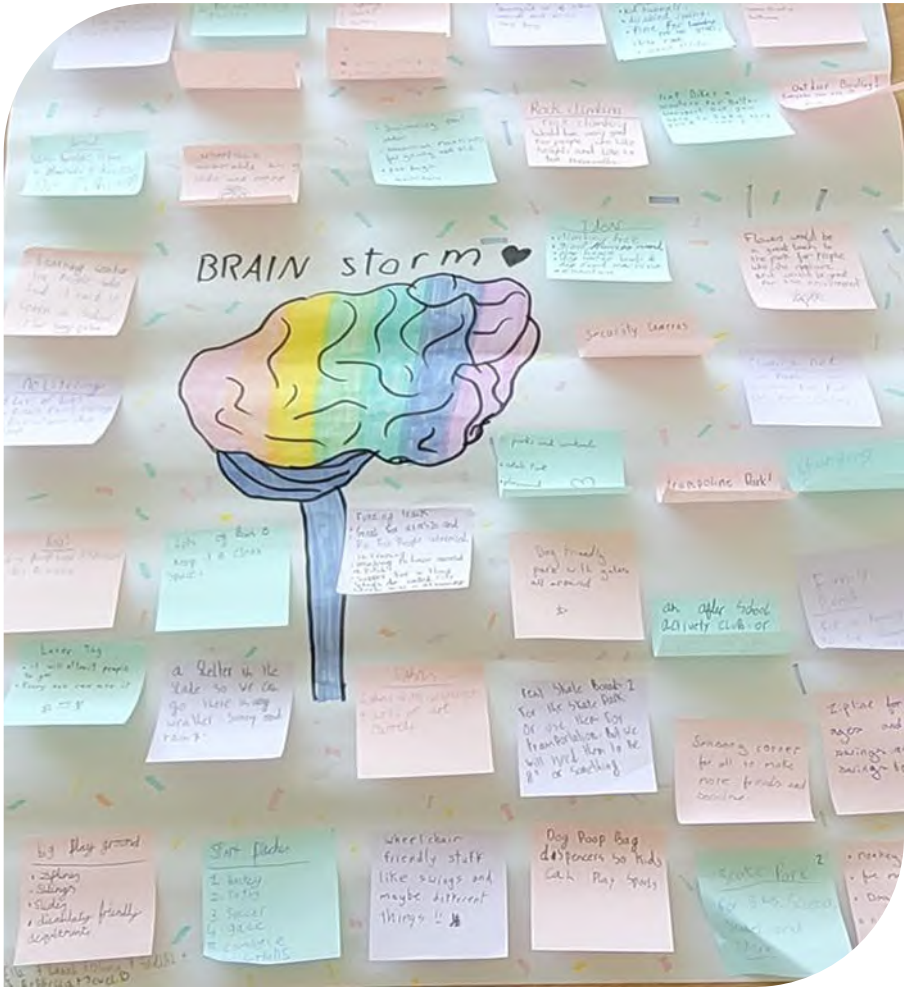
Quiet & Inclusive Spaces

Nature & Biodiversity

Art & Music

Key Findings from Schools' Workshops

Overall, the consultation revealed that the students envision parks as **dynamic, inclusive and multifunctional spaces that balance activity, nature and relaxation**. Their feedback highlights a desire for parks that cater to a wide range of interests from sports and exercise to art, nature and relaxation. The students' suggestions reflect an awareness of community needs and emphasise that well designed public spaces should support a blend of physical and social activities, as well as providing calm, sensory-friendly spaces for all users.



Second Public Engagement

Overview of Second Public Engagement

Building on the valuable feedback gathered during the first stage, a second informal round of engagement took place in spring / summer 2025 to validate the initial findings and to present emerging design options for community review.

The second phase of public engagement commenced on 22nd April 2025, with the launch of the second online survey on the project's dedicated website. The online survey was actively promoted throughout the consultation period on social media channels and local newspapers, and remained open until 22nd May 2025, concluding a **four-week consultation period.**

More than 230 individuals completed the second community survey, demonstrating continued strong engagement from the community.

An in-person engagement event followed on 29th April 2025 in the Clybaun Hotel, Knocknacarra, Galway. The in-person event was held from 1pm to 8pm and was open to all members of the public. A total of approximately **150 people attended the second public engagement event.**

Tionscadal Pháirc Bhaile an Rí agus Lána an Mhuilleora - An Dara Comhairliúchán Poiblí Neamhreachtúil

Tá áthas ar Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe próiseas comhairliúcháin phoiblí agus rannpháirtíochta neamhreachtúil ceithre seachtaine a sheoladh maidir le Tionscadal Pháirc Bhaile an Rí agus Lána an Mhuilleora.

Is deis iontach atá i dTionscadal Pháirc Bhaile an Rí agus Lána an Mhuilleora an dá spás glas sin a athshamhlú chun freastal níos fearr ar phobail Chnoc na Cathrach agus Rathúin. Samhlaítear go gcruthófar spásanna glasa inrochtana, poiblí, idirnasctha leis an tionscadal sin, ina mbeidh áiteanna tiomnaithe spóirt, spraoi, scithe agus don nádúr.

Is é seo an dara comhairliúchán poiblí ar an tionscadal agus leanann sé ónár gcomhairliúcháin poiblí deiridh i bhfómhar 2024. Rinne an Fhoireann Deartha anailís ar an aiseolas a fuarthas le linn an chéad chomhairliúcháin agus forbraíodh 6 dhréacht-dhearadh agus srianta na láithreán á gcur san áireamh:

- 3 dhearadh tosaigh do Pháirc Bhaile an Rí; agus
- 3 dhearadh tosaigh do Lána an Mhuilleora.

Ba mhaith le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus leis an bhFoireann Deartha cuireadh a thabhairt duit freastal ar chomhairliúcháin poiblí 'buail isteach':

Dáta: Dé Máirt an 29 Aibreán 2025
Am: 1pm - 8pm
Áit: Óstán an Chlaí Bháin, Bóthar an Chlaí Bháin, Gaillimh, H91 F62V

Tugtar cuireadh don phobal, lena n-áirítear daoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu sa gceantar agus úinéirí gnó áitiúla, freastal ar an ócáid. Beidh seans ag an lucht freastail na pleananna a phlé, ceisteanna a chur, agus aiseolas a roinnt leis an bhFoireann Deartha.

Cabhróidh tuairimí an phobail linn todhchaí an cheantair a mhúnlú lena chinntiú go bhfreastalófar ar riachtanais an phobail áitiúil anois agus sna blianta amach romhainn.

Is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoin tionscadal agus faoi na 6 dhréacht-dhearadh do Pháirc Bhaile an Rí agus do Lána an Mhuilleora ar shuíomh gréasáin an tionscadail:

Kingston Park and Millers Lane Project - Second Non-Statutory Public Consultation

Galway City Council is pleased to launch a four-week non-statutory public consultation and engagement process on the Kingston Park and Millers Lane Project.

The Kington Park and Millers Lane Project is an exciting opportunity to reimagine these two green spaces to better serve the communities of Knocknacarra and Rahoon. It is envisioned that the project will create accessible, public, connected green spaces, with dedicated areas for sports, play, relaxation and nature.

This is the second public consultation on the project and follows on from our extensive public consultation in autumn 2024. The Design Team analysed the feedback received during the first consultation and, taking into consideration the sites' constraints, developed 6 draft designs:

- 3 initial designs for Kingston Park; and
- 3 initial designs for Millers Lane.

Galway City Council and the Design Team would like to invite you to a 'drop-in' public consultation event:

Date: Tuesday 29th April 2025
Time: 1pm – 8pm
Location: Clybaun Hotel, Clybaun Road, Galway, H91 F62V

Members of the public, including local residents and business owners are invited to attend the event. This is your chance to discuss the plans, ask questions and share feedback with the Design Team.

Your input will help to shape the future of the area ensuring it serves the needs of the local community both now and for generations to come.

You can read more about the project and the 6 draft designs for Kingston Park and Millers Lane on our dedicated website:

www.KingstonParkMillersLane.com

Overview of Second Public Engagement

Information Boards illustrated six concept designs, **three concept designs for Kingston Park** and **three concept designs for Millers Lane**, along with a summary of the results from the first public engagement event, were presented at the event (see **Appendix 2**).

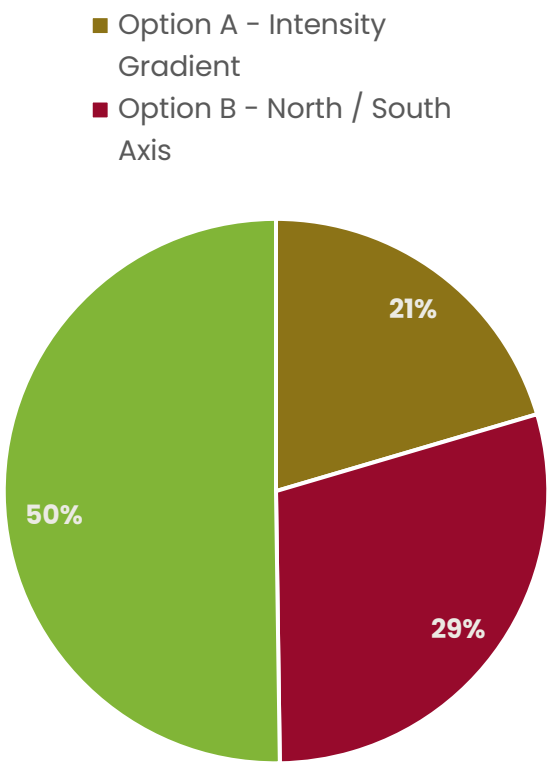
In-depth stakeholder meetings were held with over 30 key stakeholders at the consultation event and throughout the second consultation stage (see 'Stakeholder Mapping' on p. 13).

Feedback gathered during the second engagement stage helped to identify the overall preferred design options for both Kingston Park and Millers Lane, and clarified which elements of each option were most valued by the community. These insights were instrumental in informing the final preferred designs.

The following section presents the key findings from the second public engagement stage.

Design Options for Kingston Park

Overall, which design option for Kingston Park do you think best suits the expectations of your local community?

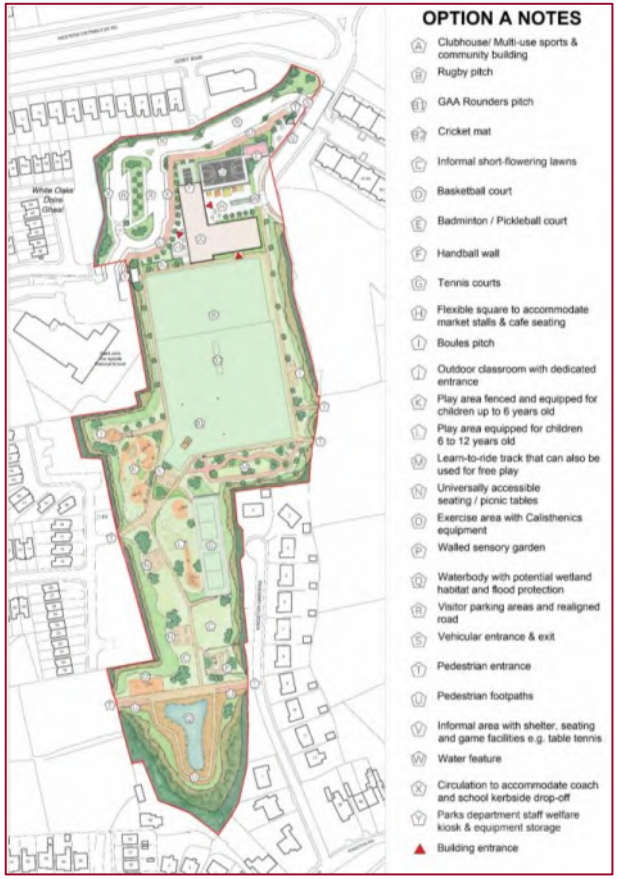


Summary of Findings:

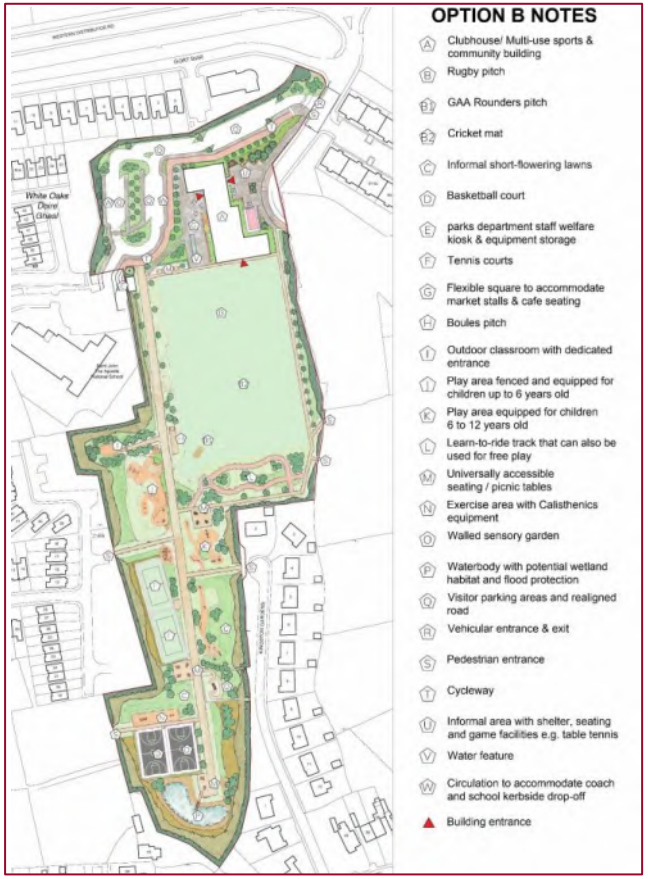
- **Option A 'Intensity Gradient'** – Strongest support for the location of the parking and vehicular access points and for the location of the sports courts adjacent to the car park / school.
- **Option B ' North / South Axis'** – Strongest support for the layout of the walking/cycling routes. Least preferred option for biodiverse and nature spaces, relaxation spaces, children's play area and community spaces.
- **Option C 'Playful Meander'** – Strongest support for the location of biodiverse, nature and relaxation spaces.

Design Options for Millers Lane

Option A
'Intensity Gradient'



Option B
'North / South Axis'



Option C
'Playful Meander'

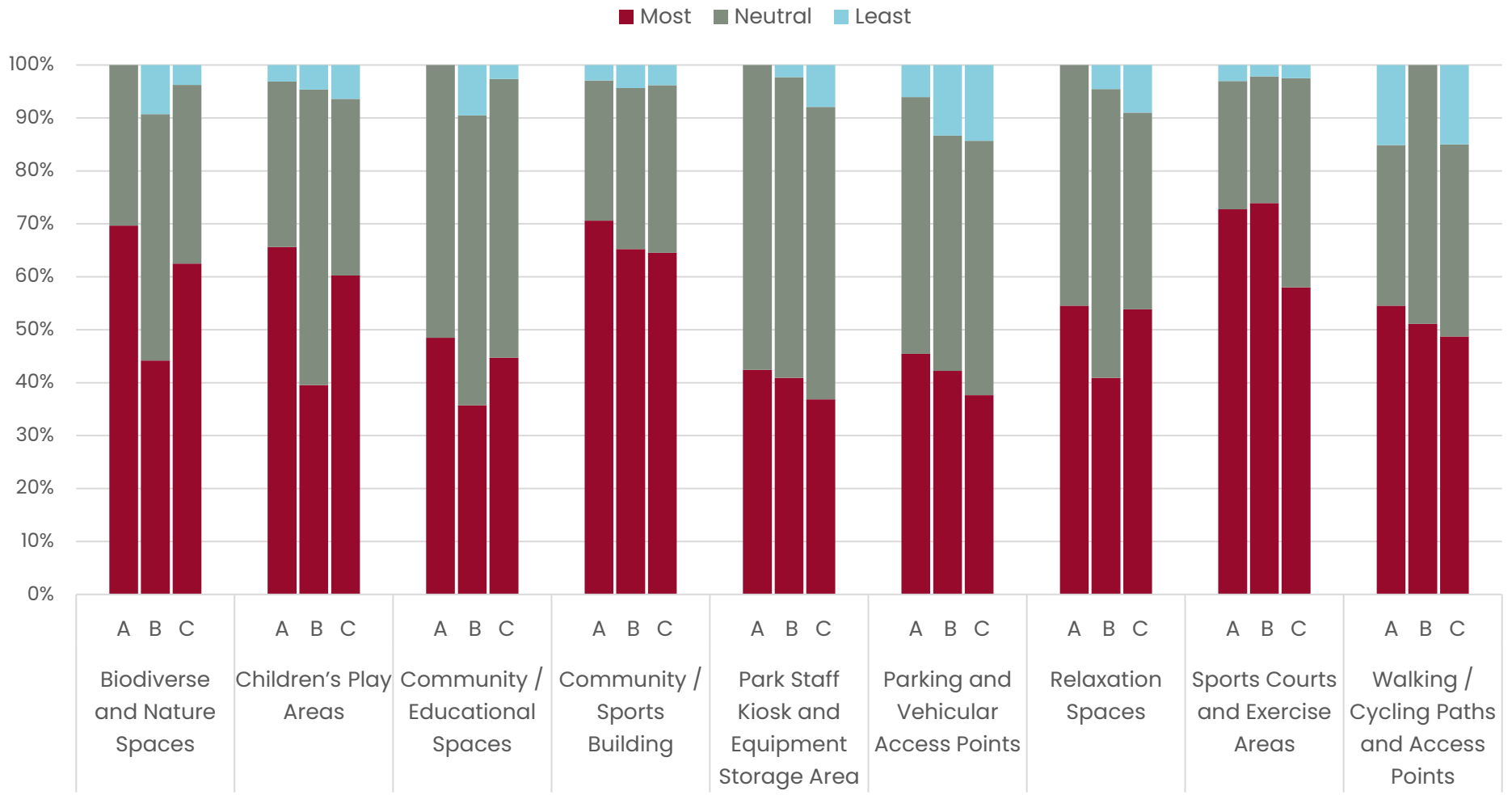
Overall Preferred Design Option for Kingston Park

Overall **Option C – 'Playful Meander'** was the **most favoured option** due to several key design strengths:

- **Clear division of active and passive uses:** The layout effectively separates active recreational areas from more natural, passive spaces, catering to a wide range of users.
- **Cluster of sports facilities to the north:** Concentrating sport-related infrastructure in the northern section will enable ease of access and minimise impacts on neighbouring estates.
- **Integration of biodiversity features:** The inclusion of biodiversity features adds both aesthetic and ecological value, creating an area of tranquility in Galway City.
- **Open, legible design:** The open layout improves visibility and passive surveillance throughout the site, contributing to a greater sense of safety.

FREE RESPONSE THEMES FOR WHY RESPONDENTS CHOSE OPTION C

Comparison of the Design Features in Each Option For Kingston Park



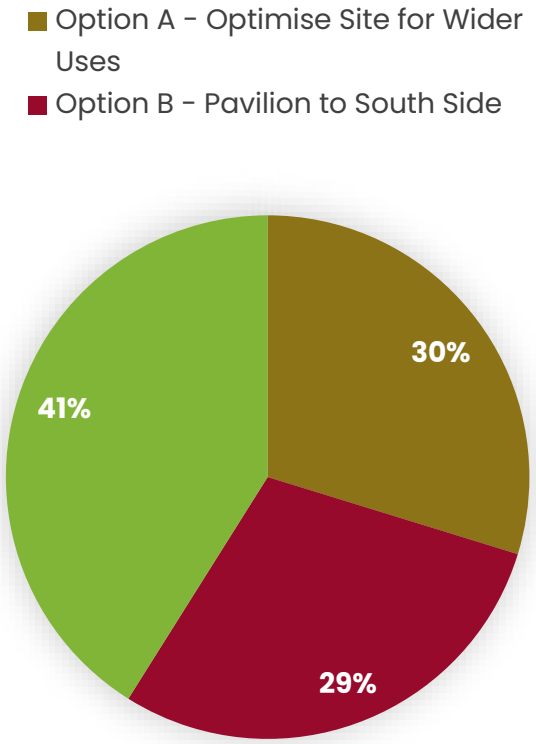
Comparison of the Design Features in Each Option For Kingston Park

The Design Team undertook detailed analysis of the design features across all options to determine the most valued elements from all options:

- **Biodiverse and Nature Spaces:** The location of biodiverse and nature spaces in Options A and C are most preferred by respondents, with Option B the least preferred option. Both Options A and C seek to maximise the area dedicated to wildlife in the south of the site, whereas Option B has less space for a larger area of habitat.
- **Children's Play Areas and Community / Educational Spaces:** The location of the children's play areas and community / education spaces in Options A and C are most preferred, with Option B the least preferred.
- **Community / Sports Building:** Similar positive responses are reported for all three options for the location and orientation of the community / sports building. Supporters of Option C cite that the orientation of the courtyard will allow sunlight from the south-west, whereas in the other options, the clubhouse will partially block sunlight.
- **Parking and Vehicular Access Points:** The location of parking and access points proposed in Option A is more preferrable than Option B and C. Supporters of Option A cite that the sports facilities would be adjacent to the primary school and close to the car park, enabling ease of access to the facilities.
- **Sports Courts and Exercise Areas**: The location of the sports courts and exercise areas in Options B and A are most preferred, with Option C the least preferred.
- **Walking / Cycling Paths and Access Points:** Respondents who chose Option B as their preferred option cited the north/south axis route as one of the main reasons for selecting the option. Whereas respondents who chose Options A and C as their preferred options, generally cited the location and extent of wildlife habitat and relaxation spaces as their main reason for selecting those options. Therefore, it could be concluded that, although the options perform similarly, the layout of the walking/cycling routes proposed in Option B would be preferrable.

Design Options for Millers Lane

Overall, which design option for Millers Lane do you think best suits the expectations of your local community?

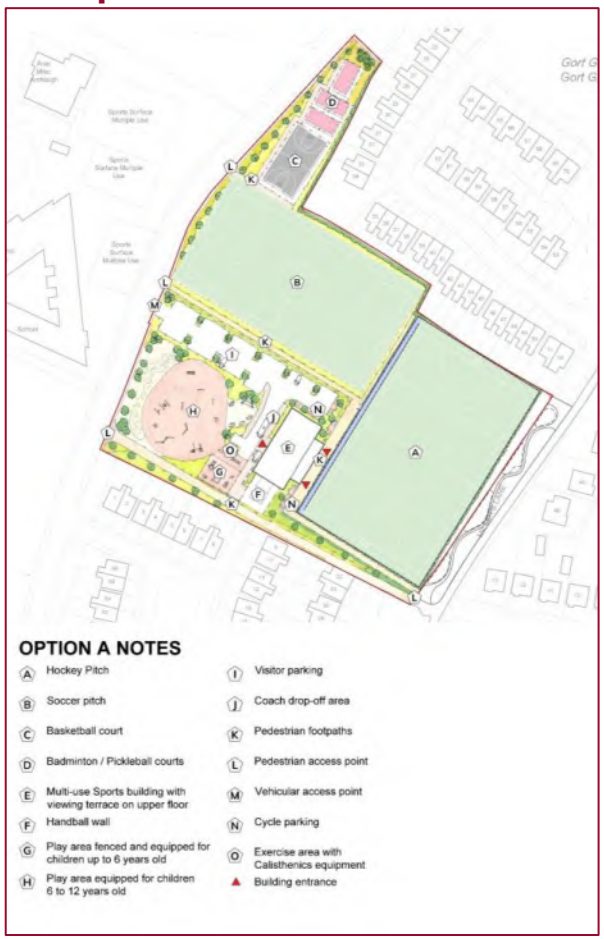


Summary of Findings:

- **Option A 'Optimise Site for Wider Uses'** – Location of the sports pitches and community / sports building are least preferred, however, respondents expressed a clear preference for the location of the children's play area.
- **Option B 'Pavillion to South Side'** - Strong support for the location of the sports pitches and the community / sports building. Least preferred location for the children's play area and walking / cycling paths.
- **Option C 'Pavillion to the Centre'** – Overall, this option generates the most consistently positive responses, with the exception of the children's play area.

Design Options for Kingston Park

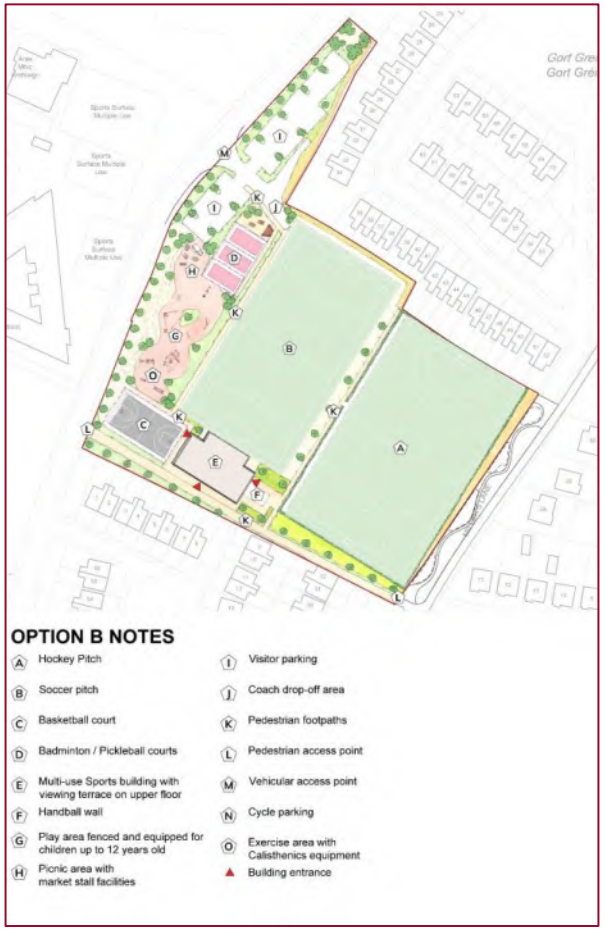
Option A
'Optimise Site for Wider Uses'



OPTION A NOTES

- A Hockey Pitch
- B Soccer pitch
- C Basketball court
- D Badminton / Pickleball courts
- E Multi-use Sports building with viewing terrace on upper floor
- F Handball wall
- G Play area fenced and equipped for children up to 6 years old
- H Play area equipped for children 6 to 12 years old
- I Visitor parking
- J Coach drop-off area
- K Pedestrian footpaths
- L Pedestrian access point
- M Vehicular access point
- N Cycle parking
- O Exercise area with Calisthenics equipment
- ▲ Building entrance

Option B
'Pavillion to South Side'



OPTION B NOTES

- A Hockey Pitch
- B Soccer pitch
- C Basketball court
- D Badminton / Pickleball courts
- E Multi-use Sports building with viewing terrace on upper floor
- F Handball wall
- G Play area fenced and equipped for children up to 12 years old
- H Picnic area with market stall facilities
- I Visitor parking
- J Coach drop-off area
- K Pedestrian footpaths
- L Pedestrian access point
- M Vehicular access point
- N Cycle parking
- O Exercise area with Calisthenics equipment
- ▲ Building entrance

Option C
'Pavillion to Centre'

OPTION C NOTES

- A Hockey Pitch
- B Soccer pitch
- C Basketball court
- D Badminton / Pickleball courts
- E Multi-use Sports building with viewing terrace on upper floor
- F Handball wall
- G Play area fenced and equipped for children up to 6 years old
- H Play area equipped for children 6 to 12 years old
- I Visitor parking
- J Coach drop-off and picnic area with market stall facilities
- K Pedestrian footpaths
- L Pedestrian access point
- M Vehicular access point
- N Cycle parking
- O Exercise area with Calisthenics equipment
- ▲ Building entrance

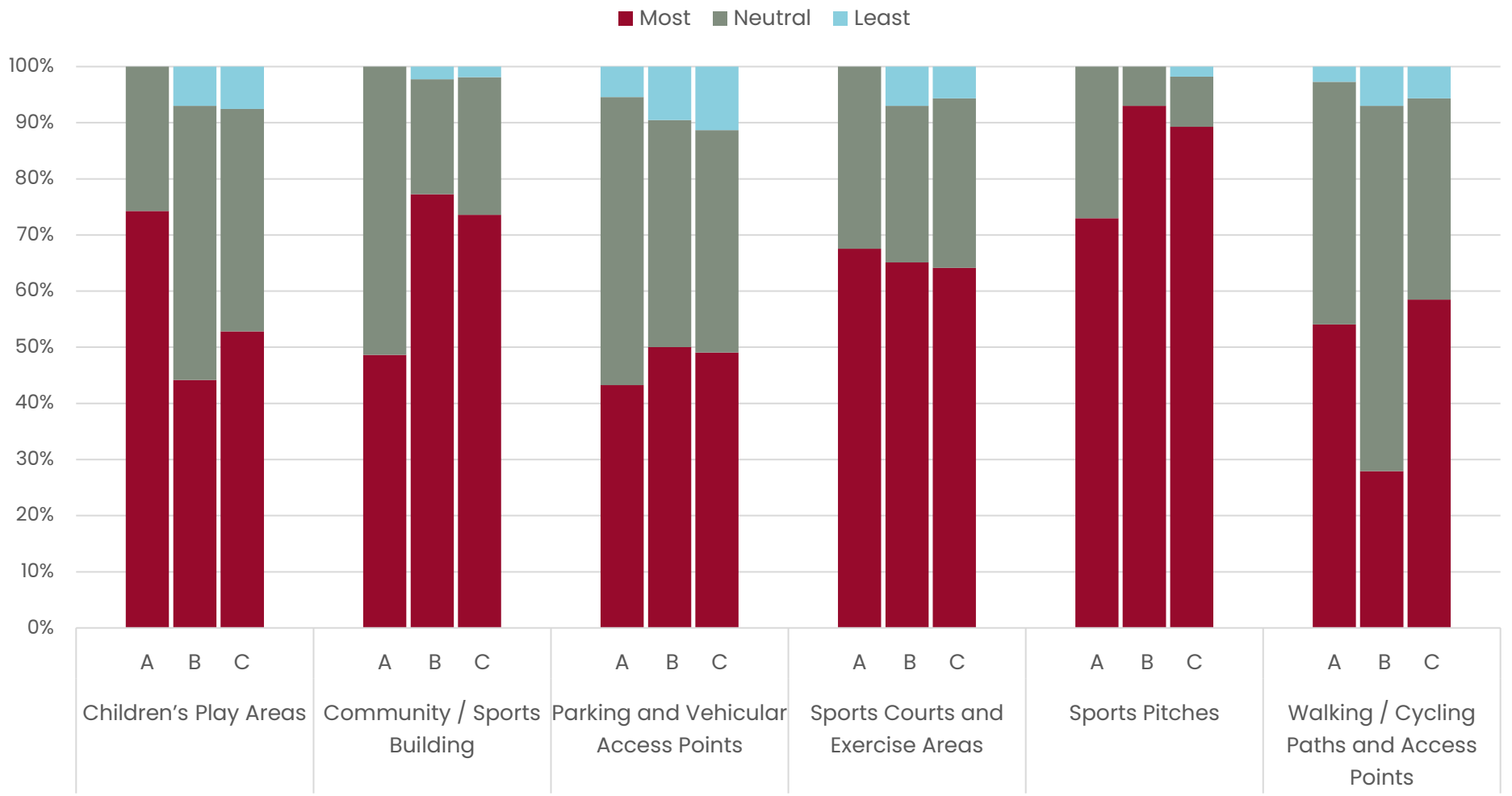
Overall Preferred Design Option for Millers Lane

Overall **Option C – 'Pavillion to the Centre'** was the **most favoured option** due to several key design strengths:

- **Central location of the community building:** Positioned between the two pitches, the community building offers equal access for users of both sports pitches. Its location also creates the opportunity for a central viewing platform, creating an opportunity for unique spectating of both pitches.
- **Separate pitches:** The separation of the pitches allows matches to be played simultaneously.
- **Adequate parking provision:** The parking layout maximises the number of available spaces while improving safety by ensuring children do not need to cross the parking area to reach the pitches.

FREE RESPONSE THEME FOR WHY RESPONDENTS' CHOOSE OPTION C

Comparison of the Design Features in Each Option for Millers Lane



Comparison of the Design Features in Each Option for Millers Lane

The Design Team undertook detailed analysis of the design features across all options to determine the most valued elements from all options:

- **Children's Play Areas:** Respondents indicated that Option A provides the most preferable location for the children's play area. This design proposes a large playground and play area to the south-west of the site, in comparison to Option B which proposes a linear roadside play space, and Option C which proposes a play space in the centre of the site and a narrow linear play area to the west of the site.
- **Community / Sports Building**: The location of the community / sports building in Options B and C are most preferred, with Option A the least preferred. Option B proposes the building to the south of one pitch, however, at this location it is likely that the pavilion viewing terrace would serve one pitch only. Option C locates the community building in the centre of the two pitches and therefore, the viewing terrace would serve both pitches.
- **Parking and Vehicular Access Points**: Although respondents ranked the location of parking / vehicular access in Options B and C as most favourable, Option A generates more neutral responses and less negative responses.
- **Sports Courts and Exercise Areas**: Similar positive responses are reported for all three options for the location of the sports courts and exercise areas. However, Option A is the only option where respondents ranked the location as either most favourable or neutral.
- **Sports Pitches**: The location of the sports pitches in Option A is the least preferred which rotates one pitch to a 90-degree angle. Options B and C, both of which position the pitches side-by-side, are most preferred by respondents.
- **Walking / Cycling Paths and Access Points:** Option A is marginally more favourable or neutral than Option C for the location of walking and cycling paths. Option B is the least preferred option.

Conclusion of the Second Engagement Stage

The second stage of engagement achieved a high level of community participation, as demonstrated by the following:

- **150 people attended the second public engagement event.**
- **More than 230 individuals completed the second community survey.**
- **30 stakeholder meetings were held with key groups and organisations.**

The findings from the second engagement stage identified Option C as the overall favoured option for both Kingston Park and Millers Lane. However, there was also strong support for certain elements in Options A and B. Therefore, where there is strong support for certain elements in Options A and B, these have also been incorporated into the preferred options, where possible, to combine the most valued elements from all options. This ensures the **final designs best reflect the overall community preference** and will **meet the expectations of a wide range of users and stakeholders.**

Third Public Engagement

Overview of Third Public Engagement

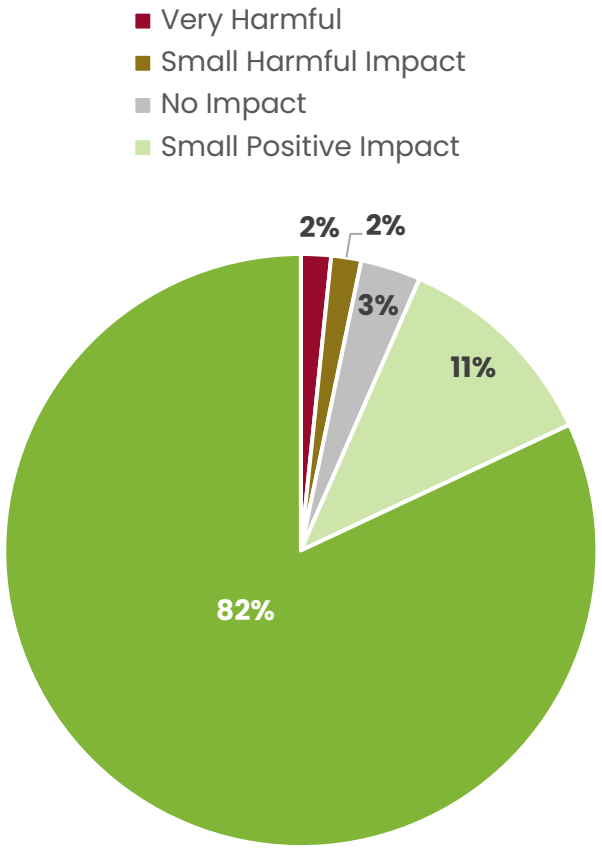
The final phase of non-statutory public engagement began on **3rd September 2025**, with the launch of the third online survey on the project's dedicated website. The online survey was actively promoted throughout the consultation period on social media channels and local newspapers, and remained open until 29th September 2025, concluding a **four-week consultation period. More than 70 individuals completed the third and final non-statutory community survey.**

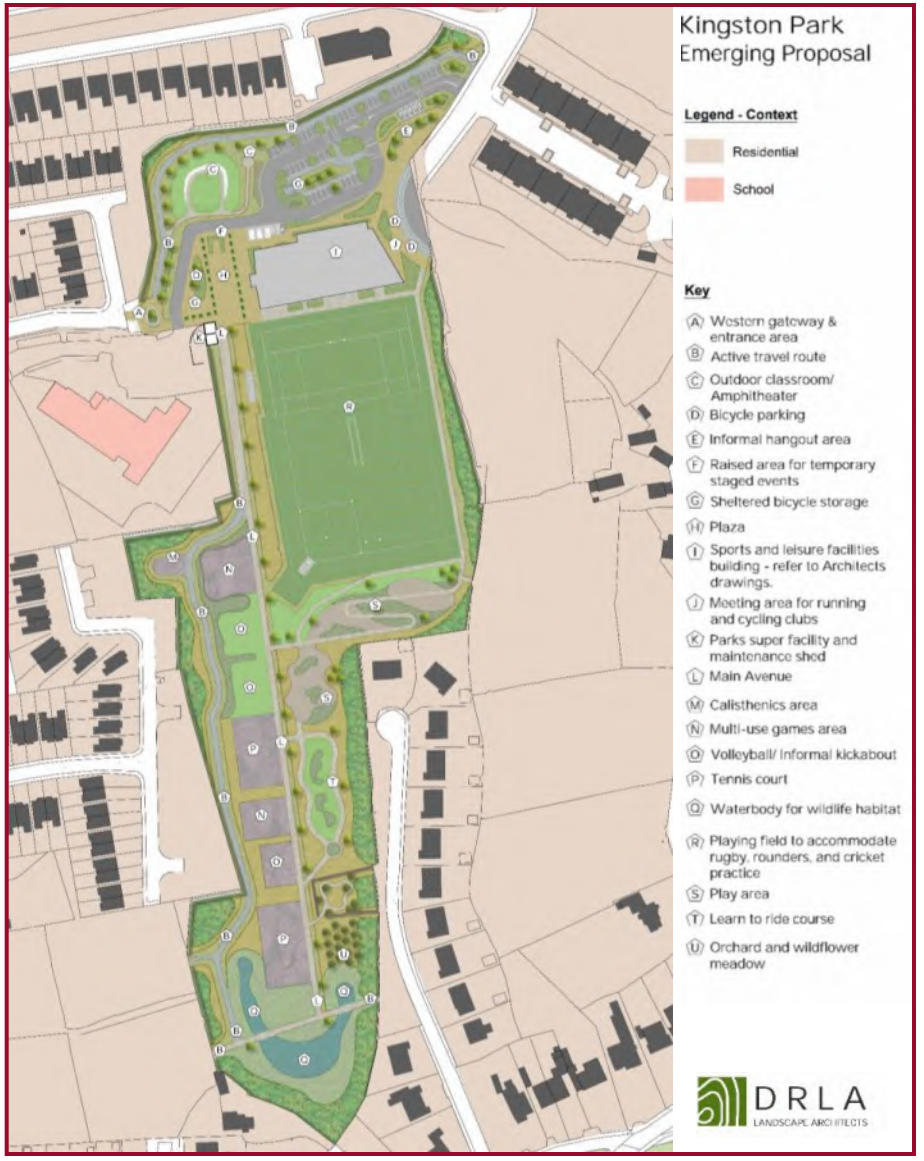
An in-person engagement event was held on **10th September 2025** in the Clybaun Hotel, Knocknacarra, Galway. The in-person event was held from 1pm to 8pm and was open to all members of the public**. A total of approximately 100 people attended the final non-statutory public engagement event.**

Information Boards illustrating the final preferred designs for Kingston Park and Millers Lane were displayed at the event and made available on the dedicated website. These boards outlined the evolution of the preferred designs and provided a detailed overview of the key elements within each design (see **Appendix 2**).

Preferred Design for Kingston Park

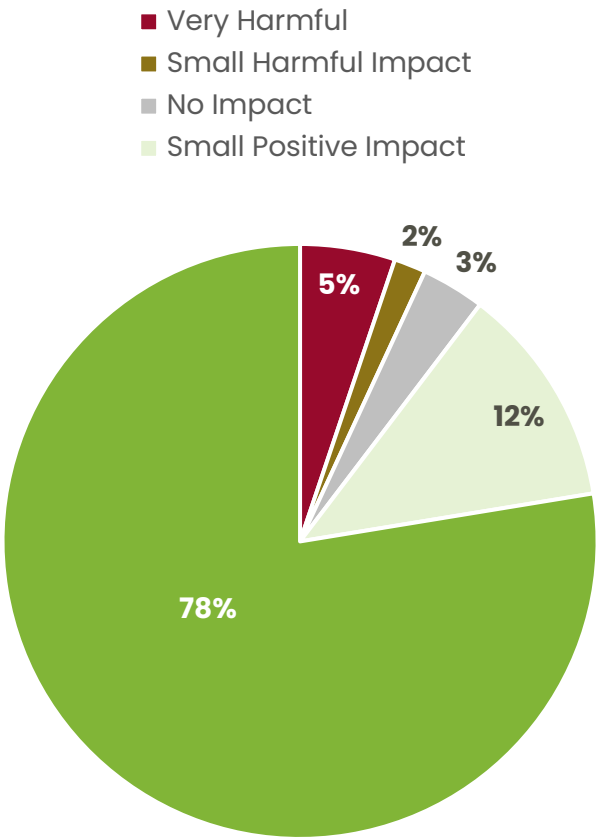
What impact will the proposed design of Kingston Park have on your community?





Preferred Design for Millers Lane

What impact will the proposed design of Millers Lane have on your community?



Residual Concerns Expressed by the Community for Millers Lane

Minor design elements flagged during the final non-statutory consultation stage were reviewed by the Design Team, and adjustments were made to the designs where feasible to reflect community preferences.

Where changes could not be accommodated or justified, a clear rationale is provided below for Millers Lane and overleaf for Kingston Park.

Millers Lane

- Building Height - The building will be centrally located between the two pitches, as favoured during concept design, and set at a lower level than surrounding gardens to reduce visual impact.
- Loss of Green Space - Kingston Park and Millers Lane are being progressed in tandem with the aim of balancing the provision of green and sporting spaces across both sites and within the wider neighbourhood. Overall, the proposal will result in an increase in green play space.

Residual Concerns Expressed by the Community for Kingston Park

Kingston Park

- Small number of pitches provided - Kingston Park is too narrow to accommodate more than 1 no. pitch.
- No outdoor basketball courts – An outdoor multi-use games area suitable for basketball is provided in Millers Lane. Similarly, the community building at Kingston Park is suitable for indoor basketball.
- Anti-social behaviour at the amphitheatre - The amphitheatre will be dimly lit to illuminate anti-social behaviour while not encouraging nighttime behaviour.
- Illegal Parking at Gort Siar - The impact from illegal parking due to school pick up will be no worse than before, there will also be expanded options for active travel and an improved loop for car traffic flow.
- Lack of dog park - Overall there was a low demand for a dog park. Dogs will be welcome on a leash.
- Removal of trees - The design aims to retain existing trees; however, non-native or low ecological value trees will be removed. A robust planting scheme with 14 native species of trees and hedgerows will create new habitats.
- Community Gardens and Allotments - The site cannot accommodate allotments at a meaningful scale. The southern section of Kingston Park (subject to future planning) includes an orchard, offering potential for community growing.
- Skateboard Park - A skateboarding area was not included, as an alternative facility is proposed nearby on the Western Distributor Road, avoiding oversupply in the area..

Feedback from the Community at the Third Public Consultation

During the third stage of the non-statutory public consultation process, we asked the local community to **comment on the anticipated impact of the proposed parks on their area**. The purpose of this question in the survey was to validate the preferred design options and to assess community sentiment prior to finalising the planning submission.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with **over 90% of respondents indicating that they believed the proposed parks would have a positive impact on their community**.

We believe that this strong level of support reflects the **effectiveness of the engagement process**.

"Really appreciate the efforts, and the parks will be a great addition to the west side of the city once delivered! Keep up the good work"

"These developments are incredibly important for the growing population of the area"

"Great to see investment in these superb community resources"

"This is the best run public engagement I have seen on a project in my time in Galway City Council"
Mike Cubbard – City Councillor and Former Mayor of Galway City

"Looks impressive and well planned out"

"I'm excited for the new spaces to come to our neighbourhood"

"The area will be greatly improved by the additions of these facilities. It will be a focal point for healthy activity for all the community".

"Positive recreational, educational, social & environmental impact"

"Fantastic! Please press ahead. Very badly needed"

"Superb addition to Galway, so needed"

Conclusion

Conclusion and Next Steps

This Public Engagement Report documents the **extensive engagement** undertaken with the local community for the Kingston Park and Millers Lane – Public Park and Urban Realm Project.

Our Engagement Strategy was centred on empowering the local community to actively interact and engage with Galway City Council and the Design Team through a two-way participatory process. The feedback received at the final non-statutory engagement stage demonstrates that there is a **strong level of support for the proposed designs at Kingston Park and Millers Lane**.

This outcome confirms that the **Engagement Strategy was successful** in fostering collaboration, encouraging meaningful participation, resolving issues at the non-statutory stage, securing community support, and **ensuring that local voices shaped the creation of the preferred designs for Kingston Park and Millers Lane**.

The public will have **another opportunity to share feedback** during the six-week statutory consultation period, which will begin once the planning application for Millers Lane and the northern section of Kingston Park is submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in November 2025.