

Second Stage Information Boards



Kingston Park and Millers Lane

Public Urban Realm Project

What has happened so far?

- The 1st public consultation for the Kingston Park and Millers Lane Public Urban Realm Project took place in September – October 2024. We asked the Community to identify what kind of spaces and facilities they would like included in the design of the park.
- We received valuable and useful feedback from the Community and key stakeholders at the public consultation event and through the online survey.
- The Design Team analysed this feedback and have developed **6 draft designs for the park:**
 - **3 initial designs for Kingston Park; and**
 - **3 initial designs for Millers Lane.**

What is happening now?

- The following information boards will summarise the results of the 1st public consultation and will present the 6 initial design proposals for your review.
- There is an online survey where you can provide feedback on the 6 draft design proposals for the park. The survey can be accessed at: www.kingstonparkmillerslane.com
- We encourage you to **read the following information boards before completing the survey.**
- There will also be a second public consultation event on the **29th of April 2025**. Further details about the event are available on the website listed above.
- **We want to hear from everyone in the Community. Your input will help shape the future of the area, ensuring it serves the needs of the local community both now and for generations to come.**

What is happening next?

- Based on the Community's feedback as well as the policy and design constraints identified by the Design Team, a preferred option for the park will be developed.
- A final, third round of public consultation on the preferred option will occur later this year.

Thank you for your time!



Highlights from the 1st Public Consultation

At Present

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,
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 in the park?



Multi-functional
Community
Hall



Performance,
Art and Cultural
Spaces



Youth and
Teen
Spaces

Design Constraints

Site Constraints

Kingston Park Site Constraints & Opportunities

- The site is currently divided by Altan Road. This makes it more difficult to connect all the different parts of the park. Changing the road layout is an opportunity to improve facilities for school runs as well as making the park more connected.
- Topography varies across the site making it a challenge to provide universally accessible routes and features.
- There are many old field boundary walls and hedgerows that should be retained for their heritage value but might present a challenge to incorporate into design proposals.
- There are some overhead cables on the site. Moving or undergrounding these cables will have cost implications but will improve the skyline of the area for all.
- There are plenty of locations for potential access to the site through existing and proposed residential developments.
- The park can provide additional footpaths and cycleways that will improve connectivity in the neighbourhood and connect to existing and proposed active travel routes and public transport nodes.



Millers Lane Site Constraints and Opportunities

- The site is well connected to the local pedestrian and cycle network already with an active travel route to the eastern boundary and a greenway along its southern boundary.
- The site is constrained at its boundaries with little room to extend and it is a challenge to fit all the features required by the brief.
- Topography is also a significant challenge as there is almost 6m in level difference from east to west. This makes it difficult to provide universally accessible routes and features. It also makes fitting playing fields and other features a challenge as more space is needed to accommodate the level changes.



Kingston Park No. 1

Aspects Common to all Kingston Park Options

- Each option provides a single building to accommodate the sports and community uses to the north of the site. To accommodate this multifunctional building, the existing Altan Road is realigned to consolidate the site.
- Each option provides a looped coach set-down access to enable visiting teams to arrive safely. The coach loop can also be used by school buses serving St John the Apostle NS.
- Incorporated into the coach loop are bays that enable kerb-side school drop-off and collection. Parents with younger children who need to park can do so in the sports facility car park.
- All options continue to provide a footpath and dedicated cycle route from the school entrance to the Western Distributor Road.
- An outdoor classroom with recommended configuration is given the same location south of the school in all options.
- A small parks maintenance staff kiosk is located near the entrance to the park in all options.
- All options provide pedestrian access to the serving the same connections to the existing and future pedestrian network. Some of these access points are also serving the active travel network.

Option A – Intensity Gradient

- Amenities in high demand are located close to the northern (primary) entry point and are distributed along the circulation route in decreasing intensity north to south.
- Habitat extent and diversity is greater at the southern end of the site and reduces towards the north where human activity is higher.

PROS

- This option maximises area dedicated to wildlife habitat at the south
- Human activities are concentrated to the north, near entrance

CONS

- Risk that passive surveillance will be limited towards southern end of site, making it feel less safe for all users.
- Intensely developed (built up) in the northern area where human activities concentrated
- Intensity of activities in the northern area has potential for congestion on busy days
- Play not as well served across ages as more space dedicated to wildlife



OPTION A NOTES

- A Clubhouse/ Multi-use sports & community building
- B Rugby pitch
- B1 GAA Rounders pitch
- B2 Cricket mat
- C Informal short-flowering lawns
- D Basketball court
- E Badminton / Pickleball court
- F Handball wall
- G Tennis courts
- H Flexible square to accommodate market stalls & cafe seating
- I Boules pitch
- J Outdoor classroom with dedicated entrance
- K Play area fenced and equipped for children up to 6 years old
- L Play area equipped for children 6 to 12 years old
- M Learn-to-ride track that can also be used for free play
- N Universally accessible seating / picnic tables
- O Exercise area with Calisthenics equipment
- P Walled sensory garden
- Q Waterbody with potential wetland habitat and flood protection
- R Visitor parking areas and realigned road
- S Vehicular entrance & exit
- T Pedestrian entrance
- U Pedestrian footpaths
- V Informal area with shelter, seating and game facilities e.g. table tennis
- W Water feature
- X Circulation to accommodate coach and school kerbside drop-off
- Y Parks department staff welfare kiosk & equipment storage
- ▲ Building entrance

Kingston Park No. 2

Option B – North / South Axis

- A generous North / South access route becomes the organising entity along which activities and secondary routes are located.
- Building edge is used to emphasise north-south axis

PROS

- Generous primary route becomes a place in itself as it is wide enough to accommodate groups walking together
- Very legible layout, easy to navigate
- Passive surveillance is high
- Play is a focus and serves all ages

CONS

- Produces constraints elsewhere along site boundaries (east side of rugby pitch)
- Not as easy to create a looped walk / route for daily walk or run etc
- Less room for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) attenuation pond
- Less room for larger areas of habitat



OPTION B NOTES

- A Clubhouse/ Multi-use sports & community building
- B Rugby pitch
- B1 GAA Rounders pitch
- B2 Cricket mat
- C Informal short-flowering lawns
- D Basketball court
- E park department staff welfare kiosk & equipment storage
- F Tennis courts
- G Flexible square to accommodate market stalls & cafe seating
- H Boules pitch
- I Outdoor classroom with dedicated entrance
- J Play area fenced and equipped for children up to 6 years old
- K Play area equipped for children 6 to 12 years old
- L Learn-to-ride track that can also be used for free play
- M Universally accessible seating / picnic tables
- N Exercise area with Calisthenics equipment
- O Walled sensory garden
- P Waterbody with potential wetland habitat and flood protection
- Q Visitor parking areas and realigned road
- R Vehicular entrance & exit
- S Pedestrian entrance
- T Cycleway
- U Informal area with shelter, seating and game facilities e.g. table tennis
- V Water feature
- W Circulation to accommodate coach and school kerbside drop-off
- ▲ Building entrance

Kingston Park No. 3

Option C – A Playful Meander

- All footpaths are constrained to minimal dimensions in favour of more distributed access.
- Building edge is used to create formal square

PROS

- Play is primary focus and serves all ages
- Easy to vary walking / running routes and create loops
- Passive surveillance is high
- More space for greenery distributed through play area

CONS

- More pathways to maintain
- Risk of pathway congestion on busy days
- Less legible layout as no route has primacy
- Creating habitats of scale is more difficult as more pathways subdividing green areas.



OPTION C NOTES

- A Clubhouse/ Multi-use sports & community building
- B Rugby pitch
- B1 GAA Rounders pitch
- B2 Cricket mat
- C Informal short-flowering lawns
- D Basketball court
- E Badminton court
- F Flexible square to accommodate market stalls & cafe seating
- G Boules pitch
- H Outdoor classroom with dedicated entrance
- I Play area fenced and equipped for children up to 6 years old
- I Play area equipped for children 6 to 12 years old
- K Learn-to-ride track that can also be used for free play
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- O Waterbody with potential wetland habitat and flood protection
- P Visitor parking areas and realigned road
- Q Vehicular entrance & exit
- R Pedestrian entrance
- S Cycleway
- T Informal area with shelter, seating and game facilities e.g. table tennis
- U Water feature
- V Circulation to accommodate coach and school kerbside drop-off
- W Parks department staff welfare kiosk & equipment storage
- ▲ Building entrance

Millers Lane No. 1

Aspects Common to all Millers Lane Options

- Each option retains the existing pedestrian route to the south of the site as an important route serving local pedestrian permeability. This route connects the existing Millers Lane Greenway to the pedestrian link from Bothar Stiofain to the Gateway Retail Park.
- Each options shows only the smallest viable pitch sizes acceptable for playing of national games.
- Each option aims to locate the building to avoid overshadowing and overlooking of residential units
- Each option places the hockey pitch to the east aiming to use the topography to reduce the visual impacts of high fencing required
- Each option accommodates avenue planting to the roadside



Option A- Optimise Site for Wider Uses

- The soccer pitch is rotated 90 degrees creating a square-like space facing the road that can accommodate a broader range of uses
- This option places the pavilion centrally and organises the parking to serve the pavilion

PROS

- Square space created lends itself to a well-laid out playground with good passive surveillance
- Pavilion located centrally can integrate covered viewing terraces
- Affords good access to pitches from changing rooms

CONS

- Soccer pitch location is tight and subject to topographic survey findings
- Challenge to design vehicular access to serve pavilion coach and car drop-off as well as parking. Could dominate the square and limit its effectiveness



OPTION A NOTES

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

Option B – Pavillion to South Side

- This option places the pavilion to southern boundary addressing the existing greenway
- The soccer pitch is retained on the western side of the site and the hockey pitch and fence on the east.

PROS

- Building location addresses the cycle and pedestrian greenway
- Affords good access for changing rooms to the pitches
- Linear roadside play space provided with good visual connection to Gaelscoil

CONS

- Parking visually dominates portion of roadside frontage
- Pavilion viewing terrace would serve soccer pitch only (Hockey pitch is fenced in so this might not be relevant)
- Linear road-side space is less than ideal for a well-laid out play space



OPTION B NOTES

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

Option C - Pavillion to the Centre

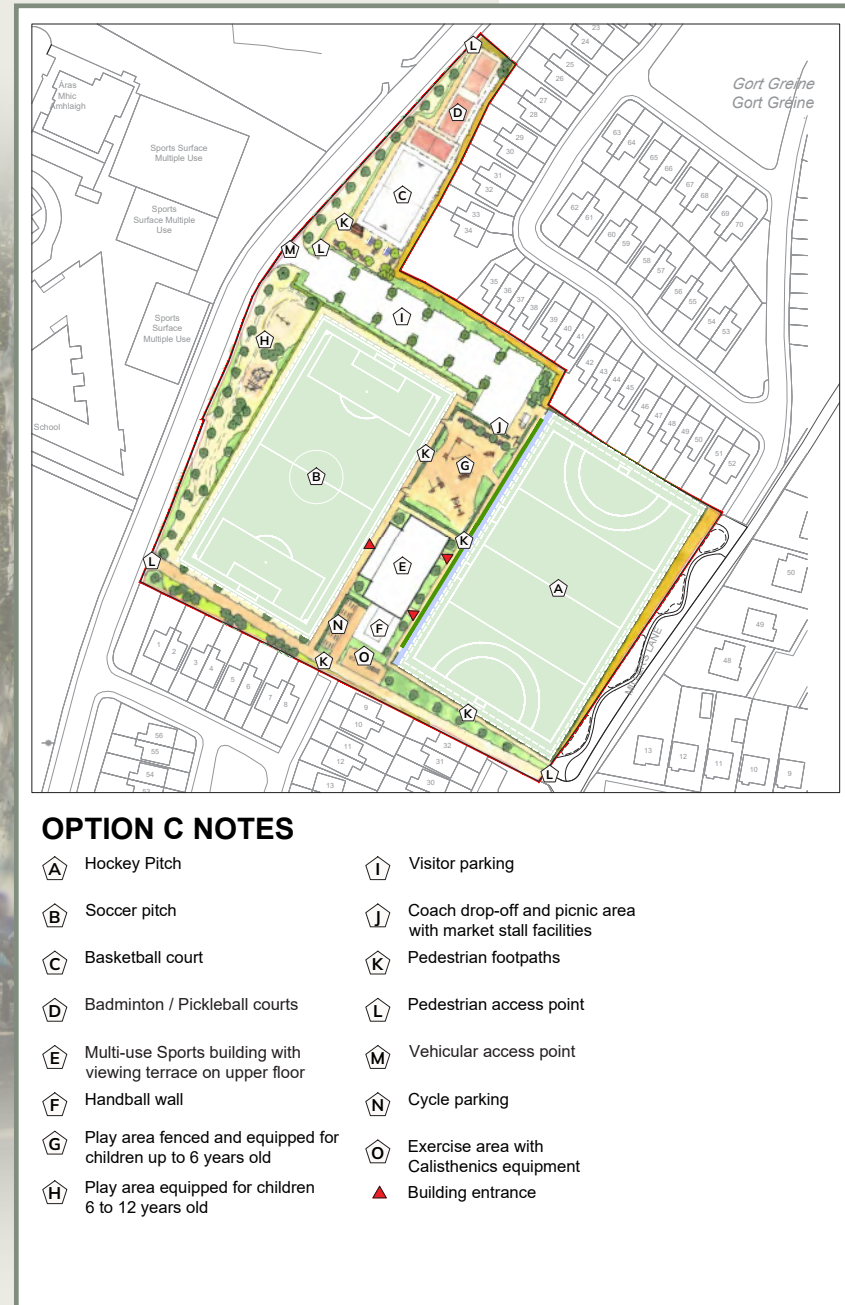
- This option places the pavilion to the centre, between the playing pitches.

PROS

- Pavilion viewing terrace would serve both soccer pitch and hockey pitch (Hockey pitch is fenced in so this might not be relevant)

CONS

- Available space for play area is linear and less than ideal for a well-laid out play space



Buildings/ Schedule of Accommodation – Community Response to the first Public Consultation

We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to the first public consultation and have listened carefully to the views expressed by the community and other stakeholders. The consistent feedback was for a building need to provide a range of community facilities that can accommodate the following activities:

- Community including performance spaces, multi-purpose activity rooms, display areas, after-school club, men's/women's shed, autism sensory room, Age Friendly meeting & activity spaces and a safe space for health outreach services
- Sports including changing areas with showers and toilets, a physio space, referee room, first-aid and teams rooms
- Support including stores for activities and maintenance, yard and building plant areas, toilets both within the buildings and accessible externally for park users and passersby



There was a general recognition that spaces should be multi-functional to make best use of available resources and that spaces should be shared so that buildings are more associated with the community rather than individual clubs.

There was a recognition too that the buildings should be as sustainable as possible, using high performance materials and energy efficient systems.

At this early project stage, we have begun to set out a high-level assessment of the spaces that the buildings at Kingston Park & Millers Lane.

Buildings at Kingston Park

The emerging design for Kingston Park includes a recreational parkland and sports facilities. The setting for the Park is spacious which means that the building here can accommodate a wider range of facilities. Here are our initial thoughts:

- **General Purpose Hall.** The General Purpose Hall can be sized to accommodate a wide range of indoor sports as well as performances and large social events. The Hall could have a sports floor and retractable 'bleacher' seating. The acoustics of the Hall need to be carefully considered so that the space can cater for a range of uses.
- **Indoor Changing Rooms.** These can be used to facilitate sports, drama and other performance activities and would include lockers, toilets and showers. We would propose two generous Indoor Changing Rooms and one additional fully accessible changing room.
- **Dedicated Activity Spaces.** While the concept of shared use is important, it is recognised that there may be some community groups that require a Dedicated Activity Space. This is typically required where a community group will use the space on a daily basis or where the activity has special requirements in terms of the size and height of the space or specialist equipment that is not easily moved or requires special services to allow it to function.

- **Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms.** The building should include a range of Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms catering for groups of different sizes. These rooms can facilitate meetings and classes. With the use of folding partition systems it is possible that two smaller rooms can be connected to provide a larger room as needed. The key to the success of shared spaces is to provide ample secure storage spaces within the building and adjacent to the Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms so that different user groups can store materials and equipment within the building.



- **Outdoor Changing Rooms & Associated Spaces.** These can be used to facilitate external pitch based or court-based sports. These would be hardwearing and include lockers, toilets and showers. We would propose two generous Outdoor Changing Rooms and one additional fully accessible changing room. Facilities for Referees and First Aid should also be provided.
- **Ancillary Facilities.** In addition to the spaces outlined above, the building will include a lot of ancillary facilities and these would typically include Entrance Foyer & Reception Area, Offices, Toilets, Comms Room, Electrical & Mechanical Plant Rooms, as well as internal and external Stores.
- **Park Maintenance Facilities.** The Park will require regular maintenance to ensure its proper upkeep and the development should include a separate small building and storage facility for Galway City Council Parks Department.



Buildings at Millers Lane

The design proposals for Millers Lane have a different emphasis with a greater focus on the provision of sports facilities. The building for Millers Lane will need to cater for intensive sports use and here are our ideas.

- **Gym & High Performance Training Room.** The focus at Millers Lane is on sports facilities and the proposed external sports amenities can be complemented with a Gym & High Performance Training Room with a range of equipment. These facilities can also be designed to cater for groups with particular needs that may not be adequately met by commercially operated gyms.
- **Base Rooms.** The facilities can include Base Studio (for high impact activities like spinning and Zumba), Base Wellness (for low impact activities like yoga and Pilates) as well as Base Recovery (where participants can relax and may include facilities like sauna, jacuzzi and ice baths).



- **Indoor Changing Rooms.** These can be used to support indoor activities and would include lockers, toilets and showers. We would propose two generous Indoor Changing Rooms and one additional fully accessible changing room.
- **Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms.** The building should include some Multi-Purpose Activity Rooms that can cater for groups of different sizes and be used by sports groups for team briefings as well as other meetings and classes. The use of folding partition systems can add flexibility and storage is very important.
- **Outdoor Changing Rooms & Associated Spaces.** These can be used to facilitate external pitch based or court based sports. These would be hardwearing and include lockers, toilets and showers. We would propose two generous Outdoor Changing Rooms and one additional fully accessible changing room. Facilities for Referees and First Aid should also be provided.



- **Ancillary Facilities.** In addition to the spaces outlined above, the building will include a lot of ancillary facilities and these would typically include Entrance Foyer & Reception Area, Offices, Toilets, Comms Room, Electrical & Mechanical Plant Rooms, as well as internal and external Stores.
- **Park Maintenance Facilities.** Again, Millers Lane will require regular maintenance to ensure its proper upkeep and the development should include a separate small building and storage facility for Galway City Council Parks Department.

We want to hear from you!

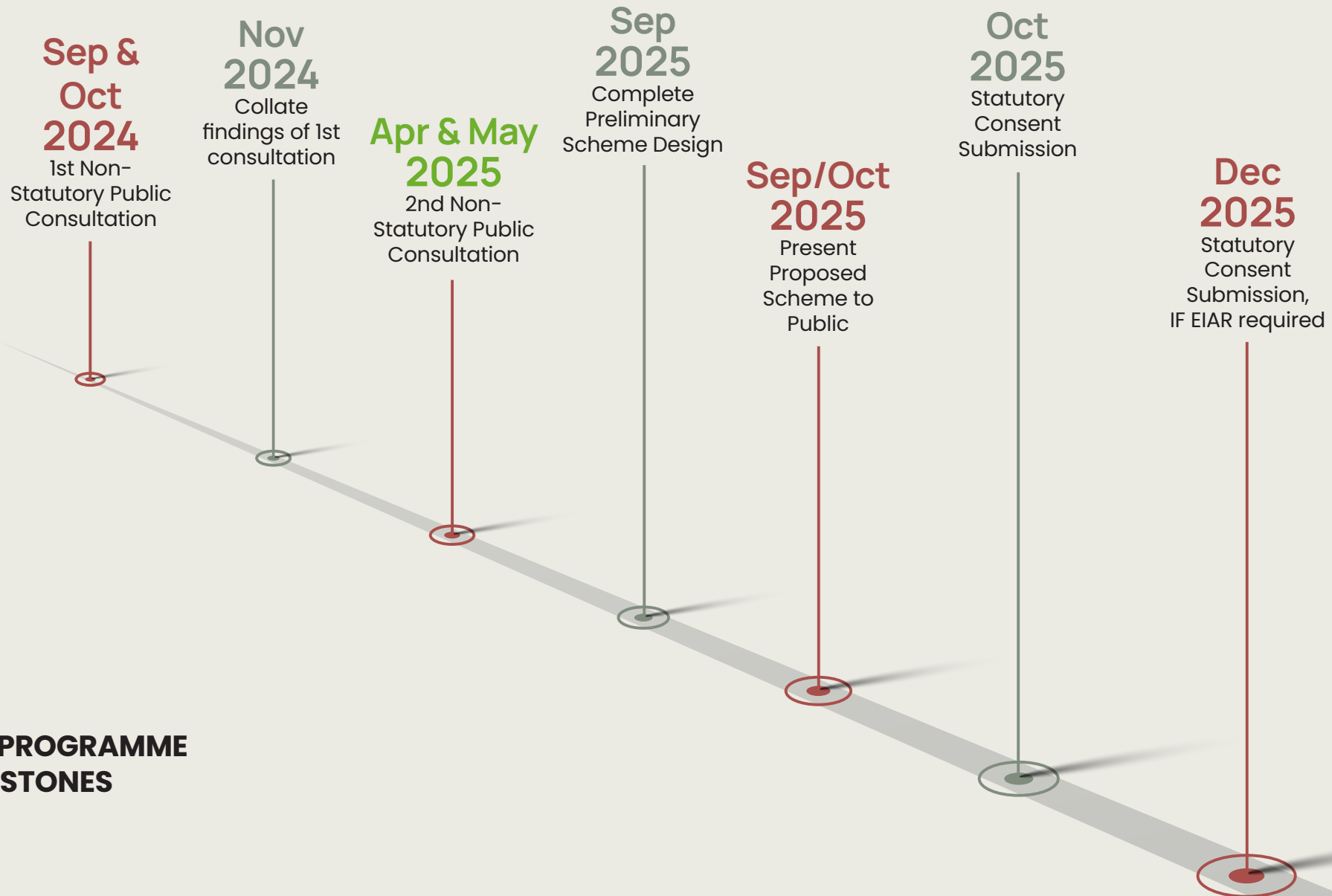
The proposals outlined above are just some ideas to build on the feedback received at the first public consultation and they require further thought and development. Some are more easily delivered while others may be more aspirational.

- Are we on the right track?
- Have we left anything out?
- Are the right facilities being proposed for each park?
- Or perhaps functions are being duplicated across the two locations and we could think about this differently.
- What do you think? We are excited to get your thoughts and feedback!



What happens next?

Indicative Project Timeline



KEY PROGRAMME MILESTONES