

**To the Chairperson and Members
Of the Central Area Committee**

9th March 2021

Report on Development Proposals for Martin Savage Park.

In late 2020, Oliver Plunketts GAA Club and Phoenix FC presented a draft plan to Dublin City Council for an all-weather synthetic senior GAA pitch, an all-weather synthetic senior soccer pitch, a synthetic sprint athletics track and handball alleys with surround walls. All were proposed to be floodlit. In initial discussions, while acknowledging the merit of improving recreational facilities for local clubs, DCC raised concerns with regard to the potential impacts on residential amenity, traffic congestion, the brent geese which feed in the park and the integrity of the park as a public open space for the needs of the whole community.

Concerns have been raised by residents, the Community Council and local councillors about the plans for developing the park and they have expressed their wish that any proposals by the clubs or DCC would be subject to an open and transparent consultation process with the community.

Martin Savage Park is unusual for such a large green space in that there are only 3 entrance points one of which is through Oliver Plunketts car park and the others at Glendhu and Ashtown Road. Ideally a park of this size would be more open, available and accessible to the local community however, (without going back on the planning for this neighbourhood) much of the adjoining streets are backing onto the park which does not allow the natural supervision of the public space and creates a perception of insecurity. Kempton estate which does have frontage to the park is completely sealed with no access point. There is no doubt that the park requires improvement and the community should be consulted as a first step in informing the longer term plans for the park. This can include the consideration of all weather facilities.

The potential for developing new playing pitches and all weather facilities is also something that is under consideration in the current Dublin City Development Plan review. This part of the city will be assessed in this context taking into the increased needs of the local clubs.

It is proposed therefore that DCC Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services will undertake a community consultation process when level 5 restrictions cease with a view to gaining the thoughts, considerations and needs of the whole community to inform a plan for the park.

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