

Play Area and Associated Landscape, Southill.

Submission prepared by Feeney McMahon Architects on Behalf of Limerick City and County Council

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Feeney McMahon Architects and their Design team were appointed by Limerick City and County Council to design the District Play Area for Southill, Limerick in August 2022.

The design team has collaborated with Limerick City and County Council and with the local communities over the last 8 months on this project.

A very successful public consultation was carried out in January and February of 2023. The consultation processes included pre consultation work to establish what type of consultation process might be best suited for the local community and how it might be designed to ensure maximum engagement from all members of the community.

The consultation took place and included a town hall meeting, an online survey and a physical post box for submissions.

FMcM Architects and PHM Engineers developed a design based on this consultation document.

Feeney McMahon Architects and Maria O'Dwyer designed and posted publicly some drawings and 3D images of the proposed scheme for the public information.

This Part Eight Application has been prepared in order to seek approval for the works.

The findings of the Public Consultation highlight a huge need within the community for safe, accessible and appropriate play-spaces for the children. The consultation also identified the need for a space for teenagers and older members of the community to meet. A strong desire was also expressed by the community for their space to include an area of traditional playground equipment and also a more naturally landscaped areas.



The design proposes a number of types of spaces. At the center of the site is a new meeting space with benches and seating areas.

This space is located along a path which crosses the site connecting the existing paths to the Hill and the Hub.

A new uncontrolled pedestrian road crossing is proposed to connect this path to the Hub site and to Churchfield beyond. Creating this route through the site will ensure that the space is well used and busy during the day with school children on the way to and from school. It will also be used by other members of the community accessing the Hub and the other services in this area.

To the East of this path is an area accommodating the more traditional play equipment - swings and slides. This space is designed for younger children and has a number of access points to allow easy access from this space to the center of the site.

To the West is a naturally landscaped park space - this space will contain trees, boulders, tree stumps and grass mounds. This space is adjacent to the public footpath and cycle lane.

The planting will be low to allow maximum visibility from the road to all parts of the site. The mounds will follow the natural slope of the site which falls away from the road towards the center of the site.

To the North - adjacent to the church gates is a hard landscaped area with benches.

The ambition of this project is to create a place to meet and play at this busy and key location in Southill which reflects the needs and desires of all members of the community.

