

Albert Basin 15 Acre City Park

A Public Consultation Exercise

August 2020



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne
and Down

District Council



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1. Introduction

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council has commissioned an independent facilitation of a community consultation process to identify the requirements of an initial concept design for the proposed 15 acre Albert Basin City Park in Newry.

The Council 'is committed to developing a 15 acre community park on the Albert Basin site in Newry. The Council recognises that the Albert Basin site was given to the people of Newry in 1986 and that a commitment was given at that time to develop it as a recreation and amenity area for the generations of the future. It also recognises the work of community organisations in presenting their plans for the park through a petition with over 10,000 signatures. The Albert Basin City Park Working Group has been established to assist the Council in the development and delivery of the park. This independent community and public consultation exercise is required as part of preliminary investigation works to create an initial concept design for the park and to inform a wider commissioning of an economic appraisal and appointment of design teams'.

Vision

The Council's vision for Albert Basin City Park is:-

'To regenerate Newry city centre, providing a world class city park attracting investment and promoting tourism, creating jobs and sustaining our environment'.

Aims & Objectives

- ❖ Reinforce Newry as a gateway between North & South
- ❖ Contribute to the sensitive regeneration of Newry city centre
- ❖ Attract further investment and job creation
- ❖ Increase visitors to Newry and animation of the City
- ❖ Provide a world class city park amenity for the City

Consultation Elements

The consultation exercise embraced five elements:-

1. A Stakeholder Forum Engagement Workshop held on Tuesday 30 January 2020.
2. An online survey which was live from Monday 22 June to Friday 17 July 2020.
3. A series of 10 online public workshops delivered between Monday 22 June and Thursday 2 July 2020.
4. A school's 'design' project.
5. A series of stakeholder organisation telephone interviews.

Whilst the consultation exercise was launched with the Stakeholder Forum Engagement Workshop, Covid-19 caused the remaining elements to be paused for a period of months. The public workshops, originally intended to be delivered as 'drop-in' sessions in venues in Newry and Downpatrick during March, were re-designed as online workshops whilst the stakeholder organisation interviews were conducted by telephone rather than face-to-face.

At the core of the consultation process is the online survey. The 546 submissions is deemed to be a robust response that compares very favourably with similar surveys that address public interest issues. The ten online workshops were fully booked with 74 people registering to attend. The online survey and the online workshops were promoted by the Council and by the local community organisation, Newry 2020.

The consultation process went smoothly. It is clear that many people took time to ‘have their say’ whether through the online survey, the online workshops, or both. Stakeholder organisations, both local and regional have been consulted. Local people have appreciated the Council’s commitment and approach to engaging with them at this stage of the City Park project as evidenced in email communication and in comments made in the online workshops.



The ‘Albert Basin’ combines land and water in the heart of Newry city. The Newry Canal links the ‘Basin’ to Carlingford Lough via Victoria Lock.

2. Summary of Findings

Headline Findings

These headline findings reflect people's views on what the city park should look and feel like and features that should be included in its development. Whilst the headline findings are drawn from survey work, discussions in the workshops support them. When weighting of ranking is applied the priority of land use is, in descending order:-



Green Space

- 66% of respondents rate *green space* as their first or second priority.



Play

- 72% of respondents refer to children's play areas or play parks as being a key play feature.



Woodland

- 40% of respondents rate *woodland* as their first or second priority.



Physical Recreation

- 68% of respondents identified either walking, running or cycling paths as their top 3 priorities. There is a high level of support for skateboarding and water sports.



Events Space

- The emphasis is largely on the creation of an open space rather than a building. The preference is for a *bandstand* or an *amphitheatre* rather than a stage.



Commercial Use

- The tone of responses favours small and local commercial enterprise with reference to social enterprises and not for profit activity; the provision of refreshments units is a priority for 74% of respondents.



Parking

- Opinions are mixed amongst the 12% of respondents who commented on parking with half explicitly against any parking and half in favour of including some parking.



The survey also reveals that water is an integral part of the city park development, not least in recognition of Newry's maritime heritage. Making the water area available for recreational use encompasses the responses which reference rowing, boating and water sports alongside the development of a means to access the water, either a pontoon or a jetty. A marina is mentioned by 7% of respondents.



Connectivity between the park and the city is raised by 27% of respondents with the need for new access points highlighted. New, or reinstated bridges are suggested to connect to the Warrenpoint Road and to the Fathom Line/Quays Shopping Centre.



The topic of dogs arises quite frequently in the survey responses. In the main, respondents referencing dogs are requesting that the park includes a fenced-off secure space where dogs can run loose, the implication being that dogs otherwise remain on a lead.

Key Components

In its 2006 report '*Start with the Park*', CABI Space⁽¹⁾ highlights the importance of providing different activity zones in public parks which enable both active and passive use. These "multi-functional" green spaces provide ecological, social, economic and cultural benefits. The 546 responses to the online survey identify a wide range of components, or features, which have the potential to meet a wide range of user needs and deliver these benefits. Of primary importance is the inclusion of *green space, planting and woodland*. The *paths and trails* which would enable park users to traverse these spaces are also rated highly.

⁽¹⁾ The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, established in 1999, merged into the Design Council in 2011.

The inclusion of a *children's play area* or *play features* is also a high priority. The importance of play equipment being accessible to all ages and all abilities is reiterated by a significant proportion of respondents. Other components which were identified by at least 10% of respondents include:-

- ❖ Skatepark (20%)
- ❖ Pond (26%)
- ❖ Fountain (19%)
- ❖ Outdoor exercise equipment (16%)
- ❖ Water sports facilities (17%)

Components identified by between 5% and 10% of respondents include:-

- ❖ Marina (7%)
- ❖ Basketball court (6%)
- ❖ Pilates and Yoga (7%)
- ❖ Pontoon (5%)

Key Opportunities

'Project for Public Spaces'⁽²⁾ draws attention to the importance of mixing uses of public spaces in order to engage people for different reasons at different times – an ideal destination is one which provides a range of things to do where no single use will dominate. There are many suggestions put forward by respondents as to the types of opportunities for social and physical activity which could be facilitated in the Albert Basin once the park is developed.

The highest rated suggestions fall under the broad banner of festivals (27%) and concerts (25%) with a further 10% supporting hosting shows in general. The specifics of these range from one day cultural and food festivals through to a week-long civic event; the suggestions for concerts are in the main focused on local talent and small events though some (very few) respondents suggest large concerts could be held in the park.

Other proposed events include:-

- ❖ Sports and water sports events (including Park Runs) 15%
- ❖ Community events such as family fun days (15%)
- ❖ Classes - from arts and crafts to exercise (12%)
- ❖ A cinema screen (11%)
- ❖ Markets (including Christmas Markets (10%)
- ❖ Seasonal events such as fireworks at Halloween or egg hunts at Easter (7%)

Key Challenges

Research has identified 5 main reasons why people do not use public spaces:-

⁽²⁾ *'Project for Public Spaces', a global place-making movement, is a 'non-profit planning, design, and educational organisation helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities'.*

- ❖ Lack of or poor condition of facilities
- ❖ Undesirable users
- ❖ Concerns about dogs / dog mess
- ❖ Safety and security
- ❖ Environmental problems such as litter and vandalism

Responses to the online survey identified these concerns with regard to the Albert Basin development as well as suggesting potential solutions. Respondents clearly identified the practical amenities which they expect in the park – access to toilets, plentiful seating and flexible spaces which can be used by a variety of people for a variety of purposes. Respondents also identified the importance of ongoing maintenance of the park environs and equipment in order to retain its attractiveness. It was suggested there is an operational role for Council staff, but also that there is a role for the community both in terms of the passive surveillance which usage of the park would provide and in terms of the potential for a ‘love my park’ group of volunteers. Here are the key challenges emerging from consultation:-

Safety and Security

The concept of the park being, and feeling, safe is one reiterated by many survey respondents. The theme is most notable in the questions relating to play where there is an emphasis on the play spaces and the play equipment being safe for children, however there is also a theme of feeling safe in the park which comes up in other themes.

Respondents reference the need for a staff or warden presence within the park out of hours to deter any antisocial behaviour; reference is also made to designing out the opportunity for ASB at an early stage. Opinions on locking the park are split – for the few who commented that it should be fenced, gated and locked at night, just as many were in favour of it being a 24/7 community space.

Cleanliness and Maintenance

Concerns about littering, cleanliness and general maintenance are raised by some respondents alongside requests for adequate litter bins. There is some concern that the location and layout of the site will increase the risk of vandalism or damage.

Antisocial Behaviour

ASB is mentioned by a very small number of respondents as an explicit issue. There is a tone of concern in some responses about drugs and alcohol being used in the park and there is acknowledgement by several respondents of the need to cater to the needs of teenagers and young people and provide opportunities for pro-social behaviour. Reference is made to engaging proactively with local youth clubs to involve young people in co-designing features and activities for their use.

Eco-Aware Credentials

Sustainability, environmentally aware, carbon neutral, recycling, natural materials are all issues which occur frequently in the survey responses. Taken as a whole they indicate a strong preference for a park which could be considered as having eco-friendly credentials.

Adequate Amenities (seating, lighting, waste management)

Concern is expressed by a reasonable proportion of respondents about the provision of adequate seating and lighting in the park. The former is considered vital both to facilitate use of the space by older residents and to enable the idea of the park being a quiet place where people can simply sit and relax. Appropriate lighting is identified as an important consideration in terms of enabling the park to be a space which can be accessible/open at all times as adequate lighting will enable people to use the paths and trails on darker winter evenings or early mornings.

Sharing the Space

The idea of sharing the space refers to the expressed preference from survey respondents for a park which is suitable for all ages and all abilities. This, taken alongside the expressed need for walking, cycling and running trails presents the challenge of how this range of users with multiple needs and interests can share this space.

Dogs

How the space can be shared between dog owners/walkers and the public is a further consideration and the topic of dogs arises quite frequently in the survey responses. In the main, respondents who reference dogs are requesting that the park should include a fenced secure space where dogs can be let off the lead.

Parking

Amongst the 64 respondents who commented specifically about parking, opinions are mixed. Almost as many respondents were in favour of inclusion of parking (25) as were explicitly against (29). The remaining respondents who explicitly mentioned parking did so in the context of identifying the need for specific bicycle or motor home parking. Respondents noted a preference for parking solutions which would not result in a significant area being “lost” to parking but with the acceptance that there is a need for disabled and parent and child spaces to be provided as a minimum.

Access

The issue of access to, and connectivity of, the park is raised by 146 respondents. These respondents highlight the need for pedestrian and cycle access to the Albert Basin and therefore a requirement for new access points. New, or reinstated, bridges are suggested to link to Warrenpoint Road and to the Fathom Line where the Quays shopping centre is located.

Balancing Ambitions

Whilst negativity about the proposal to develop the park is extremely limited, a small number of respondents express concerns about the overall scale and type of the park and whether it can be achieved. There are a handful of references made to the affordability of regenerating a space of this size without mechanisms to offset the cost, and a comparatively small number of respondents who are of the view that the acreage of space available, whilst large is not large enough to include multiple play and leisure features.



The Albert Basin is an important part of Newry's maritime and industrial heritage which is actively promoted by Newry Maritime Association.

3. Stakeholder Forum Engagement Workshop

This early evening workshop was attended by 18 people representing 15 organisations as follows:-

- Newry Maritime Association
- Loughs Agency
- Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade
- Newry 2020
- Drumalane Community Association
- Confederation of Community Groups
- Love Your Lough
- Volunteer Now
- Southern Health & Social Care Trust
- Newry Rowing Club
- Inland Waterways Ireland
- Silvery Light Sailing
- Sticky Fingers
- Newry News
- Rostrevor Action Respecting Our Environment

The well attended Stakeholder Forum Engagement Workshop was viewed with a good deal of positivity by those attending. There was a mix of statutory agencies and community organisations in the room, each bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to the project. Perhaps just as important as the information gathered is the perceived *outcome* of the workshop, that is, an appreciation of the Council's initiative to engage stakeholder organisations in the City Park project. Having started this engagement process it will greatly benefit the project to continue to speak with and involve these and other stakeholders in the coming months as the project progresses.

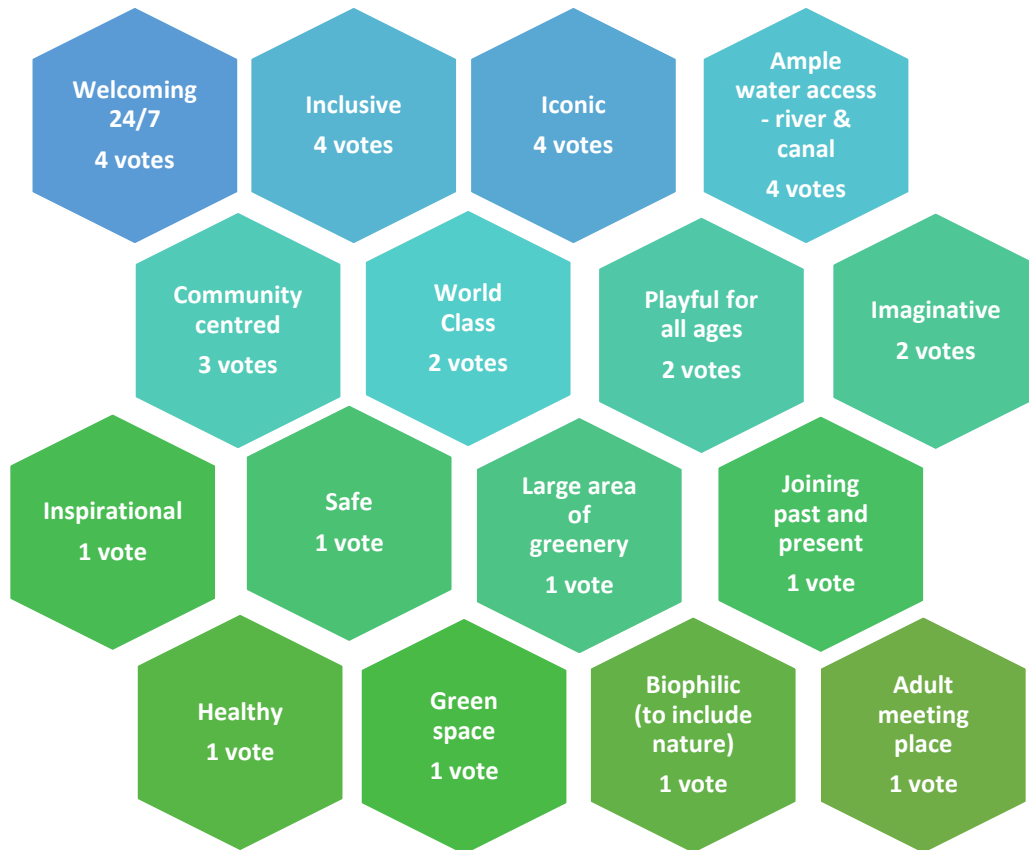
Facilitated by Otium Leisure Consultancy, the workshop was arranged in four sessions:-



Session 1 was an informative session; Sessions 2 and 4 engaged the attendees in work groups, recording ideas that everyone 'voted' on to reveal the most commonly mentioned ideas; Session 3 also engaged attendees in work groups, noting categories of users and thinking about their needs and interests.

Session 2: Developing a vision for the Albert Basin

Over 40 ideas relating to vision were noted. The votes were distributed as follows:-



Session 3: Who will use the area? What are their needs and interests?

This session asked the work groups to list users and note what their needs and interests would be. Here's a record of what they considered:-

Parents and children	• Safe play space, place to relax (& toilets!), activities in that space
Artists/artisans/crafts	• To work, demonstrate, teach, display
Shoppers (& shopper's husbands)	• Access, respite, conversation, relaxation
Local Workers	• Relaxation, lunch, physical activity, entertainment
Sports clubs	• Facilities and equipment
Water users (swimmers, anglers, rowers, boat users, sailors)	• Facilities, water access, clean water, marina
Fitness enthusiasts	• Outdoor gym, pathways, routes
Single people	• Safe environment, chairs, conversational environment
Visitors / tourists	• Interest points, meeting point, culture, entertainment, cafes (plastic free!), performance area
Older people	• Accessibility, interest, entertainment
Dog walkers	• Dog park
Bird watchers	• Birds/hides
Anglers	• Good bank, access, car parking, hygiene, fishing stands
Visitors	• Information displays, aquarium showing ecology of waterway
Swimmers/Triathlons	• Access to water, changing area, ramp
Night-time users	• Bar / restaurant
General public	• Coffee shop / bike hire
Skateboarders	• World class skate park
Newry people	• Healthy outdoors
Low income people	• A free facility with lots to do for free
Ships Crews/Passengers	• A good marina/somewhere unique to visit
Cyclists	• Paths suitable for family groups, bike hire
Walkers	• Walking paths, connections to the city
Children	• Play areas
Teenagers	• A focal point and educational elements
Adults	• Relaxation and tranquil spaces
Disabled users	• Accessibility, sensory features
Vendors	• Micro business opportunities, refreshments
Public transport users	• Cycle hire / café / boat hire / bus stop
Historians	• Heritage

The table represents a wide range of user categories, from parents with children to bird watchers to older people. The user's needs address a wide range of needs and interests such as relaxation for local workers, interest points for visitors, coffee shop/bike hire.

Session 4: Ideas for features, facilities and opportunities

This session recorded nearly 50 features, facilities and opportunities. Voting revealed the most commonly occurring ideas as follows:-



4. Online Survey

Introduction

The survey structure was open and non-directional in accordance with the Council's instructions, however, the text-based and narrative nature of responses presented a challenge for quantitative and empirical analysis. An initial review of responses found that some potential features or considerations are referenced under more than one theme; for example, skateboarding comes up as a theme both in play and in physical recreation. Whilst this makes it difficult to report on the exact number of respondents who support the inclusion of particular features, it has been possible to identify clear or relative trends on all features and considerations and in some instances to put meaningful, or comparative, numbers against them.

Number of Responses and Demographics

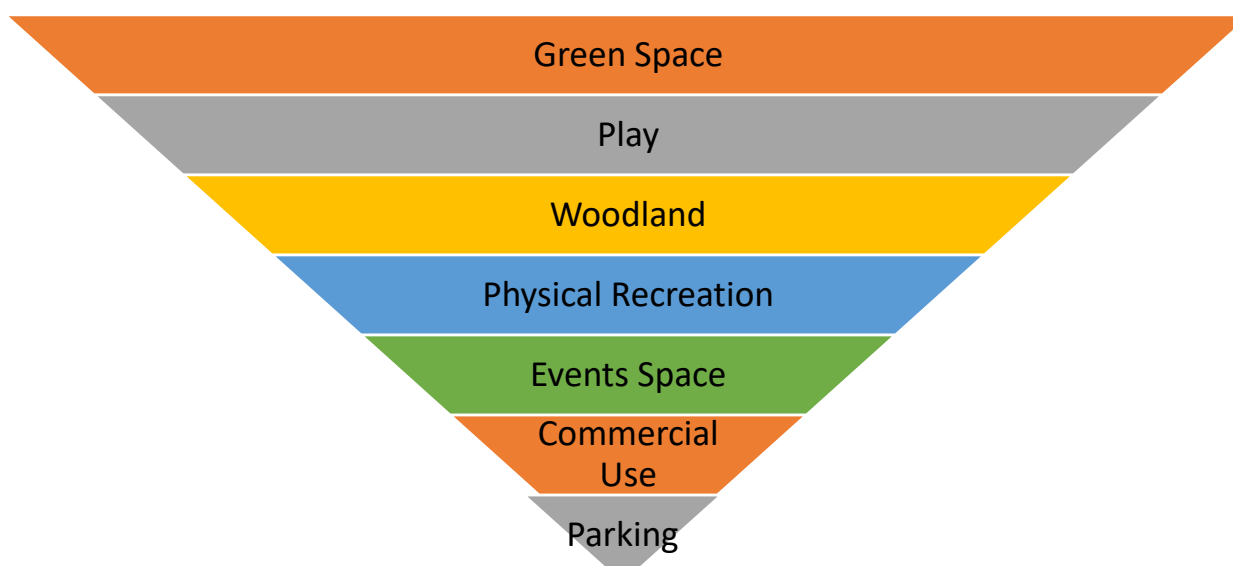
- ❖ 546 responses to the online survey
- ❖ 67% respondents were in the 21-50 age bracket (36% were 36-50 and 32% 21-35)
- ❖ 52% respondents were female and 55% had no children
- ❖ Of the respondents with children, the majority were primary school age (172 respondents) with a significant enough number of pre-school parents (87)
- ❖ Almost three quarters of respondents were employed and 13% were students.

Land Use Priority

Q13. Thinking about the use of land on the 15 acre site, please indicate how you would prioritise the allocation of land.

By far the most favoured land use category is **green space** with 362 respondents (66%) rating it their first or second priority. **Woodland**, at 218 respondents (40%) was numerically the second highest rated land use.

When weighting of ranking is applied the priority of land use is, in descending order:-



97 people (18% respondents) ruled parking out completely and 230 rated it as having the lowest priority. Only 13 people (2%) ruled out commercial activity and 63 rated it their lowest priority.

Phasing

Q14. A development on the scale of the Albert Basin may need to be delivered in phases – this would enable the Council to develop the partnership and access the finances which will enable it to invest in the site over time while still delivering on its commitment to a city park. If Council were to take a phased approach, please rank how you would prioritise each theme.

The **nature focused elements** of the park are widely considered the highest priority in terms of any phasing of the development with 402 respondents rating this as their first or second priority.

Play/sport features followed with 354 respondents rating this as their first or second priority for phased development.

How Newry People would describe their city park

Q1 Great places generally have four qualities: they are accessible, comfortable, have a good image and offer a range of activities. They are characterized by people remaining when they have no reason to stay. Picture a city park in Newry and tell us in one or two words how you would describe it:



The above diagram charts the frequency with which words and terms were used in response to the question “*picture a city park in Newry – tell us in one or two words how you would describe it*”. The larger and darker the word in the diagram, the more frequently the word or phrase was used.

23% (125) of respondents described their ideal city park as a variation on the word **green**; 25% (136 respondents) refer to **openness and space**, and 17% (95 respondents) refer to it being a **calm and tranquil space**. 8% described it as **accessible or inclusive**.

Play considerations

Q2 What Play and Sports Focused Features would you include in the park?

There is a high proportion of respondents who believe that children's play should be a key element in the park – 394 (72%) respondents refer to children's play areas or play parks as being a key play feature.

Safety and security is the prevailing theme in the responses to questions about play priorities, closely followed by the need for the park and any play facilities in it to be accessible by all ages and all abilities – *inclusive* is a word which is used often in responses.

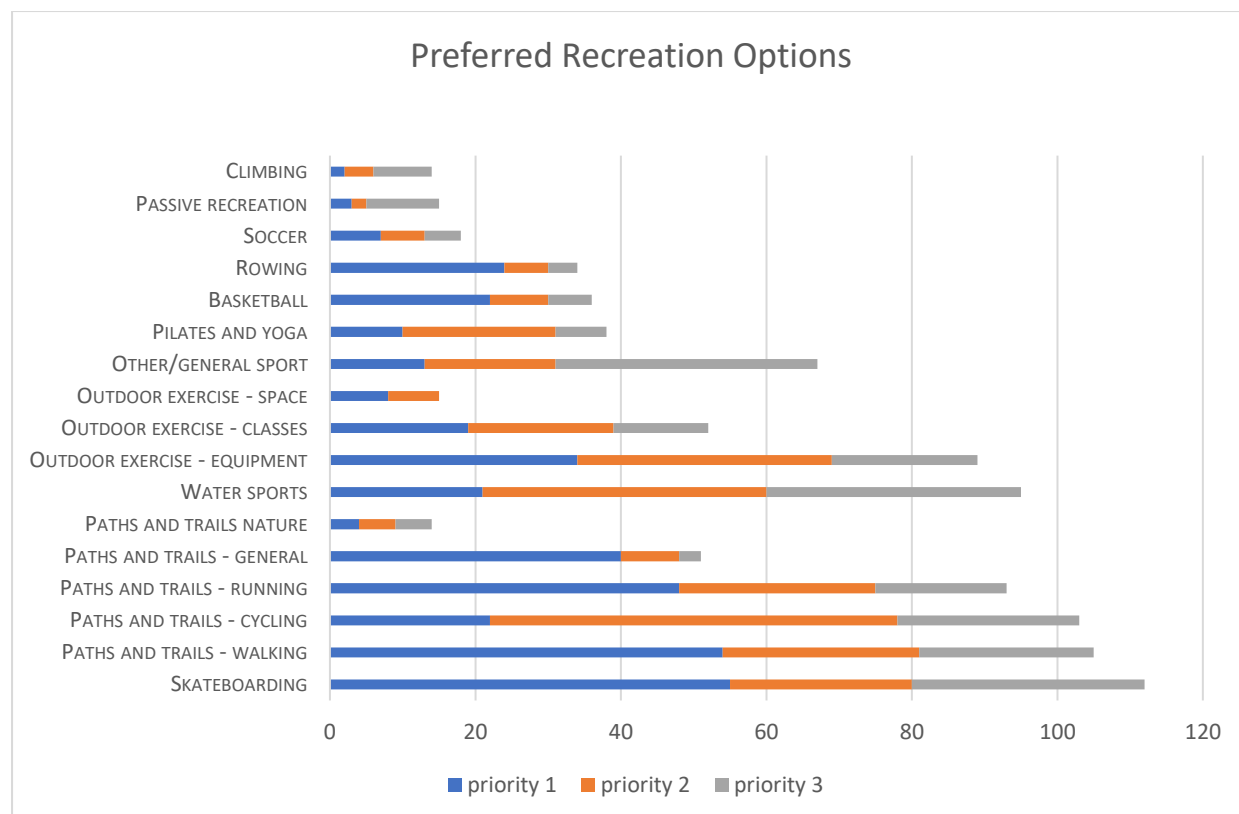
Not unexpectedly the play features identified include swings, slides, climbing frames and roundabouts. Play features identified in the survey which are slightly more unusual are trampolines, obstacle courses and ziplines.

Of note in terms of design are the recurring mentions of *challenge* and *adventure* as themes to underpin the play provision. There is also a clear sentiment in the responses that natural materials should be used as much as possible rather than steel and plastic, that the park should be sympathetic to its surroundings and that eco-aware principles (such as promotion of recycling and use of natural/local/recycled materials) underpin the design and maintenance of the park as far as possible. The level of interest in a skatepark being included in the play provision is sufficient to require consideration – 105 respondents (23%) referred to provision for skateboarding as a key play feature for inclusion in the park's development. There are also 143 references to skating/skateboarding provision in the play priorities suggested by respondents.

Preferred Physical Recreation Options

Paths and trails – for walking, running and cycling – and outdoor exercise opportunities (including both outdoor gym equipment and outdoor classes/exercise space came through strongly in terms of preferred recreational activity options for inclusion in the park.

68% of respondents identified either walking, running or cycling paths in their top 3 priorities and 16% identified outdoor gym equipment as a priority.



As evidenced in the graph above, there is a high level of support for skateboarding and water sports being included as a physical recreation activity within the park's development. In terms of inclusion of other sports, basketball and rowing were the most frequently cited with some references also made to tennis.

Opinion could be described as split on the three main ball sports – gaelic games, association football, rugby – with references low in number. Several respondents cite the availability of pitches elsewhere in the city as reason for not including such provision in the Albert Basin. Others refer to a more flexible and informal provision of space for ball games; at its most formal this could be in the form of a MUGA, however, a flat grassy space (with or without a set of goals) which could facilitate play would seem to be equally welcomed.

The natural environment

There is a clear sentiment in the survey responses which values the Albert Basin as a potential green space in the centre of Newry. The question exploring how that green space could be achieved through the inclusion of nature focused / natural features in the park reveals an emphasis on trees and planting. Sufficient reference is made to native and indigenous species that some consideration as to how this could be achieved should be factored into the planning process.

Q3 What features focusing on the natural environment would you include?

good river canal native trees plants flower garden shrubs walkways Large life
 Wooded area maze trees wild flower Access water Forest plenty grass
 green space possible grass areas shade etc Sensory garden Lots beds Use
 recycling Plenty nice walking materials native yew tree local wild life
 Trees flowers seating grass wildflower area Woodland Newry
 Lots trees Irish birds Trees wildflower park butterfly
 garden native species water well area habitats
 Trees Duck plants flower beds wildlife native Irish
 pond rowing natural Indigenous native trees flora fauna
 water features trees shrubs flowers play area nature benches
 trees plants Trees bushes wildflowers paths trails runs space
 access features section make growing Green areas allotment Wild flowers
 fishing species different canal Open space kids open green space Native woodland
 Ireland animals river greenery Nature walks Nature trails wild flower garden
 wild flower meadows view

Throughout the survey, respondents have taken the opportunity to highlight the natural assets of the development site and to emphasise the need for what could be termed an “eco-aware” approach to development of the park. From referencing the need for sustainable travel options to the park, to suggesting park furniture made from recycled materials, the environmentally friendly credentials of the park appear to matter to respondents, and this should be a consideration in the design brief.

Water as an integral part of the development

Clearly the location of the site and the fact that both freshwater and sea water run through the park area means that water should be in an integral feature in the development of the city park. When asked to consider potential water features or how the water element could be prioritised in the park’s development, there are a number of themes emerging:-

Making the water spaces available for recreational use encompasses the responses which reference rowing (46), boating (46) and water sports (26). A further 40 respondents prioritise the inclusion of a pontoon or jetty (or other means of accessing the water).

Q4 What water centred features would you include?

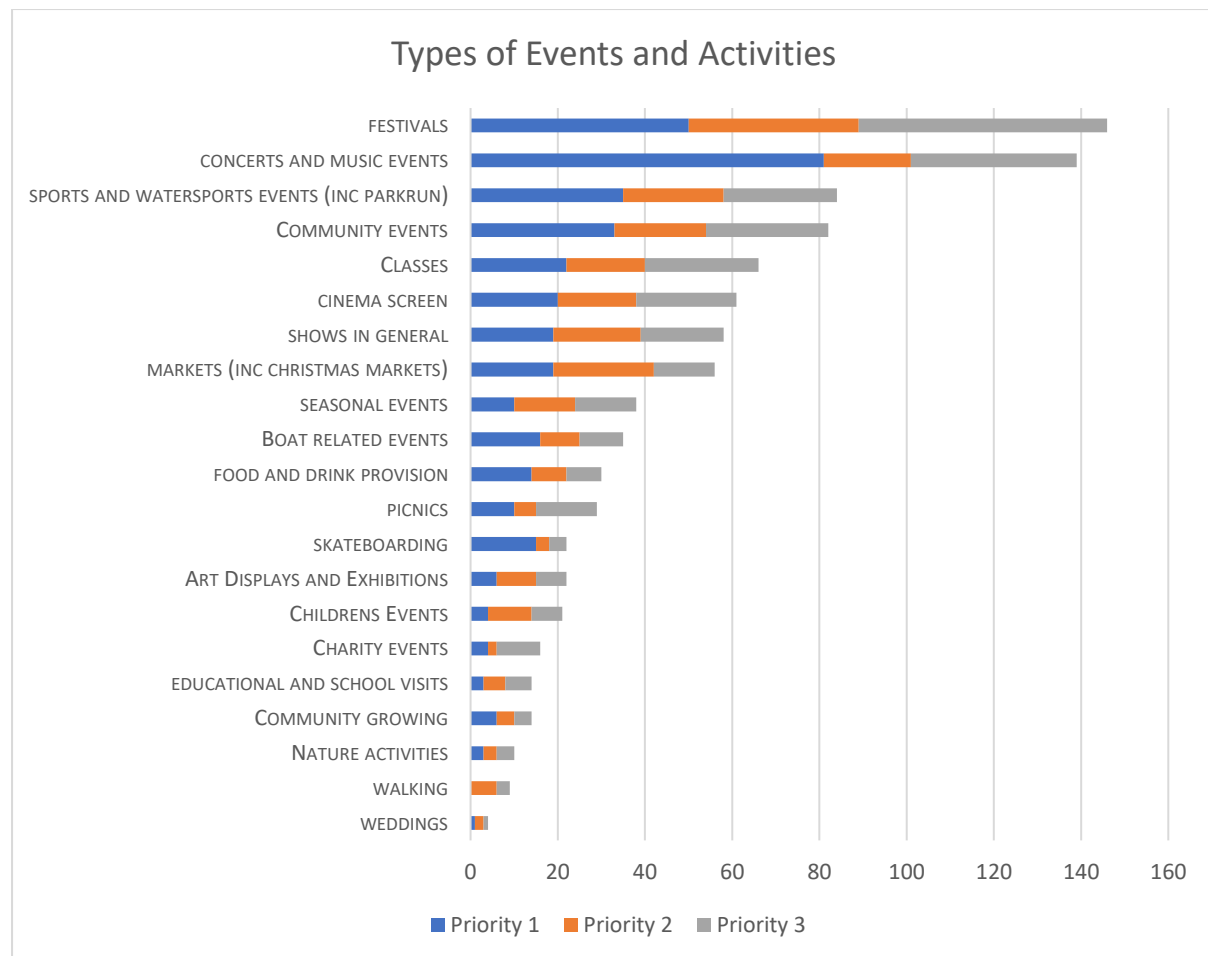
tall ships stone people existing yachts storage changing facilities possible Boathouse jetty
 kayak go wildlife Boat trips also kids play basin Possibly etc waterways ducks support
 maybe Sports Large water fall rowing boats pedalos Duck pond
 Something facilities allow play History park small boats bridge Sailing
 water sports surrounding water fishing Newry area pond fish
 marina nice boats hire pond Rowing club
 Fountain boat house water ground canal Small lake
 water fountain paddling canoeing Dock access
 centre water feature needed waterfall safe stream sprinklers
 lake Newry rowing club use Kayak row feature Clean river places fishing
 rowing Seats None Rowing facilities small river canal kids sailing canoeing Pontoon
 seated area Canoe kayak section central mini waterfall Paddling pool Steps children
 pools swimming Canoe hire central pond barges paddle boats Natural

There is also support among respondents for *bringing the water onto land* so to speak and making it an integral part of the park and not just its perimeter. 87 respondents suggest inclusion of a pond and 136 inclusion of a fountain(s). The latter is suggested by some as a potential central feature which could include lighting and music as a draw for visitors.

There are 36 explicit references in this section of the survey to inclusion of a marina as part of the development.

Entertainment, events and community activity

The survey asked respondents to suggest the types of community and other activities and events which would animate the park and encourage people to go there. The chart below shows the clear support amongst respondents for “festivals” which as a term includes cultural events, food festivals and maritime festivals as well as community festivals. It also shows clear support for the hosting of concerts and music events in the park, a trend which is reflected in the apparent preference for an amphitheatre type event space which could facilitate such events.



Q5 What entertainment features would you include?

centre trail arts Outdoor auditorium Outdoor gym ability gigs kids play park live music
concert venue features children s maybe picnics arena live open air events
auditorium Skate park bar etc air events space outdoor theatre activities None
children shows host covered Café park walks outdoor concerts
Amphitheatre plays screen performances groups Cafe restaurant
Band stand stalls outdoor cinema hold
concerts community space Banbridge events large
area coffee shop outdoor kids stage buskers
Bandstand outside music outdoor movies small benches
amphitheatre local Play park Picnic area theatre Children play
open weather seating movies bands Natural amphitheatre entertainment
place open air concerts nature Open air water amphitheater bike
Skatepark families sports musical used Outdoor cinema screen event space
Permanent small concert natural performance area city facility green area
open air cinema Public seated area space small

In response to the question on entertainment features, the emphasis is largely on the creation of an open space (rather than buildings). Whilst there is some reference to a **stage** these are outnumbered by the preference for a **bandstand** or an **amphitheatre**.

Flexible Spaces – events, outdoor space

Q8 Thinking about a civic/event space, please provide the main features/characteristics of such a space?

19 (4%) of the 538 responses to the question on a civic events space explicitly stated their opposition to inclusion of such a space within the park.

54 (10%) of responses to this question would include a stage area in an event space and 53 (10%) make reference to being able to hold concerts in the space.

There is a level of priority afforded by respondents to any event space in the park being flexible in use with 48 (9%) explicitly describing the proposed space as needing to be flexible, adaptable or multi-purpose.

It is worth considering the responses about an events space alongside those about physical recreation, as 52 respondents in that section express an interest in outdoor exercise classes and a further 15 in space for outdoor exercise.

The creation of a flexible space which could be used for performances, for exercise classes and to provide a comfortable location for passive recreation is a consideration. Seating and shelter will be important components of such a feature – the general opinion amongst survey respondents is that event space should be partially covered if possible.

Several references are made to using landscaping to create an amphitheatre type space rather than a building.

Micro commercial activity

Q12 Thinking about inclusion of micro hospitality and commercial elements which are compatible with the park, what would you like to see?

The survey results show clear support for specific types of micro commercial activity in the Albert Basin. In response to the question about the types of commercial activity people would like to see, provision of refreshments is a clear priority for 74% of respondents.

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Refers to café / coffee shop or coffee stall	327	54	21
Refers to food / drink vendors	74	78	46

There is also support among respondents for a range of hire/rental activities including bikes, segways and water sports equipment.

59 respondents (11%) identified markets and market stalls (artisan, craft or farmer) as a type of commercial activity they would support.

It should be noted that the tone of responses favours small and local commercial enterprise over larger chains with reference made by several respondents to social enterprises and not for profit activity.

It is also of note that whilst there is support for the availability of refreshments, respondents aren't wedded to the idea of permanent buildings to house commercial activity. Descriptors used include: *mobile, trucks, vendors, stalls, huts, docks* all of which imply small (and potentially temporary) structures.

Open Comments


There were two opportunities for respondents to record their thoughts by way of open comments in addition to their responses to specific questions:-

Q6:	Is there anything missing from this list (of features) which you think should be included in the development?
Q15:	What other thoughts, if any, do you have about the proposals for a city park in the Albert Basin and what should be included in the development?

With approximately 1,000 comments submitted it's clear that respondents have given a good deal of thought to the proposal for a city park. Appendix 4 presents the complete set (unaltered) of open comments; a sample of the comments is presented here as quotes to give a flavour of the thinking behind the responses to the specific questions.

- *'The park should work for the people of Newry as well as enhance tourism to the area. Carlingford successfully incorporates a motorhome Aire/ parking space in conjunction with the marina. Newry is well placed to mirror such existing activity at the Albert Basin'.*
- *'Integration of the park with both the Ship Canal, River, and Greenway in a way that reflects Newry's maritime history'.*
- *'Room for outdoor groups to practise yoga and circle sports, an environment which stimulates interest and learning and creative interaction with the environment'.*
- *'Lighting is incredibly important for people to feel safe in a park. Beautiful, not overbearing and not a feature-in-itself lighting is important (in the same vein as old gas street lamps)'.*
- *'Camouflaged kiosk spaces (chateau de Versailles style) maximised natural area with grass, trees, children's park, teen park, something to encourage ownership from the community and inspire pride not to deface and destroy it'.*
- *'The park needs to be interconnected within the existing urban context. Currently there is only one access point to the park from Bridges. This increases the park's walking distance substantially for citizens from South Newry (Drumalane) and Northern Newry. Pedestrian footbridges (one reusing the old railway bridge from the Warrenpoint Road and another openable canal bridge from the Quay's side) need to be invested in early as this will multiply the success of the project. Also the new southern relief bypass road for Newry City needs to include an openable section so that the tall ships can eventually dock in the Albert Basin. Everything is connected to everything else and the Albert Basin Park project requires the*

council to reassess other strategic decisions they are making to make sure they align to a shared vision’.

- *‘Make it a park that will deliver for the City of Newry but that has the potential to attract visitors from outside the district. Encourage entrepreneurship and enable clever businesses to offer activities and food services in the Park without making it super hard, expensive or bureaucratic as our council is well known for doing in the past’.*
- *‘Maximizing the potential for each space or have more than one function. Think about the Communities abilities and disabilities, the park could be a wonderful place to build good health. Ask a Chartered Physiotherapist to help with the planning’.* 
- *‘I think that the previous question 14 on the phased approach is not so black and white - in reality, the phases would not be so cleanly split by theme so it would be possible to incorporate elements of the different themes into each phase. I think temporary uses should be incorporated into the phased delivery in order to engage people right from the outset - for example, there is no reason why a pop-up café on the canal basin couldn't be launched right away, with perhaps a small 'beach' area where kids can play while their parents watch - examples of this can be seen in many cities throughout Europe every summer. Then while the nature-centred elements are being developed, running trails through the site could already be opened on a phased basis. There are many opportunities for temporary occupation during the development of the park that should be examined’.*
- *‘This is a fantastic opportunity to create a world class facility in the heart of our city. If pitched and themed correctly it would add significant value to the tourism offering in this locality as well as being an attraction for locals and catalyst for improving people’s lifestyle’.*
- *‘Encourage locals to sponsor trees in memory of loved ones. Encourage the families of those who worked on the Albert Basin to consider sponsoring a bench/seat in memory of a former worker’.*
- *‘Please make it fully accessible with nice big, even, wide paths and lots of benches and seats dotted all over the place. If you think you have enough seating please double it and double it again and it might be a just about acceptable level then. As a person with mobility issues; having a place to stop and sit regularly... Makes a HUGE difference to my life’.*
- *‘Aim high - look some of the worlds most successful parks and try and pull some inspiration. Gardens by the Bay Singapore, Central Park, Centennial Park, Stanley Park. Young and old should flock here to spend money, socialise, exercise and be proud to live here’.*
- *‘I think that a public park would benefit from community projects that encourage people to take pride and ownership in the space. Areas for growing bee friendly flowers or herbs or murals, for example, that community groups like the U3A, Gateway, Magnet or local schools can work on. Perhaps a community building for hosting events about gardening or the ecosystem. Have the people of Newry take a part in helping maintain the park we need’!*
- *‘Integration of the surrounding water with the park to make best use of the unique location. It should be a world class green space to encourage tourism and assist people’s health. The focus should be on nature, trees, woodland, walks and cycling. There should be little or no commercial or domestic buildings on the site, this is about green space. No car park spaces,*

there are plenty at the Quays and build a bridge across the canal that opens up to allow ships to pass through’.

- *‘Our town/city needs a green space with walks where we can stroll, benches where people can enjoy the healing power and beauty of nature, trees, plants, birds. Need also to make a feature of the waterfront. Have nice locally commission art works/statues that reflect the rich history and mythology of this area. Think of how Kilbroney has used Narnia and Slieve Gullion the Giant’s Lair and fairy doors. Children need more than a swing to play on, play should also stimulate the imagination’.*



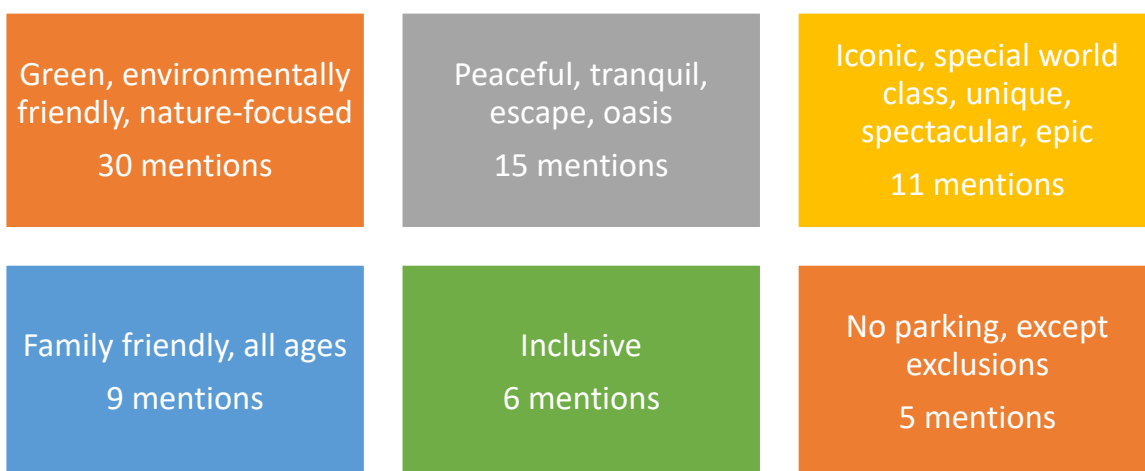
Albert Basin is located within short walking distance of the city’s retail and business centre.

5. Online Public Workshops

A series of 10 online workshops was delivered between Monday 22 June and Thursday 2 July. Of the 74 people who registered for a workshop 48 attended. Each workshop addressed three discussion topics:-

Topic 1: Describe your ideal city park

To prompt discussion, attendees were shown photographs of city parks in different countries, each identified by particular feature or theme; and asked to think of describing words. A number of key themes and describing words are uppermost in people's minds; here are the top six:-



Other less mentioned descriptors include *vibrant, different, accessible, welcoming, safe*. It's clear that people have given a great deal of thought to how they see a city park in Newry with 31 different descriptors, or themes, put forward.

Topic 2: What should the key features be?

The features can be grouped into 30 categories, some of which overlap; here are the top 7 categories:-

1. Water
(35 mentions)

- ‘Water’ includes access to the water, water-based sports, a marina, boats for hire, angling, on-land water fountains, fireworks displays from a barge in the Basin, maritime heritage, splash pond for children, a central pond, boat trips on the canal. The clear message is that the Basin itself, ie, the area of water, is seen as an important resource that needs to be part and parcel of the park development.

2. Arts
(24 mentions)

- ‘Arts’ refers to a range of ideas including arts/cultural performance area, ideas for pop-up theatres, art installations, events such as open-air concerts with flexible seating, covered areas (‘light’ infrastructure) for arts events, amphitheatre area. As with ‘water’ those attending the workshops see the city park as an opportunity to promote awareness of and interest in ‘art’ in all its forms to every park visitor.

3. Play
(12 mentions)

- Whilst all the workshop attendees were adults, they expect to see opportunities for children to play. The point is made that in the context of the city park, provision for play should be sympathetic to the overall ‘green’ feel to the area, so gaily coloured metal equipment should be avoided. Indeed, there is a view that play should not be limited to a single enclosed area, that play ‘stations’, using natural materials, should be dotted around the park, creating an exploring experience and encouraging children and their parents to move through the park.

4. Green Open Space
(8 mentions)

- The idea of green open space really complements ‘arts’ and ‘play’ in that it provides an area(s) where both art and play can happen. However, the idea behind it is to create an area in the city centre that is a relief from the built environment and provides a green ‘lung’ for the city. Undoubtedly the global ‘green’ movement is influencing people’s thinking as perhaps is the present pandemic which is likely to encourage people to think more ‘outdoor’ than ‘indoor’ when it comes to planning recreational activities. Linked to green open space are the two mentions for ‘picnics’.

5. Woodland
(9 mentions)

- The ‘woodland’ feature category embraces ideas such as tree walks, children’s trails, natural species. Whilst it only receives 9 mentions in the workshops it is really uppermost in people’s thoughts and alongside green open space, is the defining feature for the park, pulling together descriptors such as peaceful, tranquil, natural, haven and forming the backbone of the natural habitat.

6. Micro-Businesses
(7 mentions)

- Whilst the workshops emphasised that people do not want to see medium or large-scale commercial activity in the park, those in attendance expressed a desire to see micro-businesses, most especially relating to cafes, refreshment ‘huts’, pop-up market stalls, craft stalls, etc. These can provide a focal point in the park which, along with seating, open green space and toilet facilities also act as a meeting/social area during visitors’ time in the park.

7. Skatepark
(7 mentions)

- Skateboarders in Newry – Newry Urban Sports – bemoan having to travel to Banbridge to access their nearest skatepark. A permanent skatepark facility, concrete, outdoor – could act as a focal point for young people in general. Design considerations should consider how best to mitigate noise that comes with the use of skateparks.

These feature categories are complemented and enhanced by many of the other ideas put forward including, inter alia:- paths for running, cycling, walking (3 mentions); adult sensory and outdoor gym equipment (6 mentions); a dog park (4 mentions); the use of vernacular materials (2 mentions). The common denominators are *natural, something to do*.

Topic 3: What level of priority for each feature?

This topic gave those in attendance an opportunity to re-visit some of their earlier thoughts and consider the order in which things should be done. As happened with the previous topics, the discussion expanded beyond the topic, in this case even looking at how the project could be moved forward. Here's a summary of the discussion points:-

People see that *green space and landscaping* needs to happen first so that it 'begins' to feel and look like a park. For this to happen a vision and a Masterplan is needed, perhaps identifying a series of spaces/parcels of ground allocated to particular types of use, eg, play, natural habitat, events, open space. The need for phased development set to a timeline is acknowledged. The 'green' element is seen as the foundation for the park.

Connectivity is an important consideration, not only within the park with walkways and paths, but also connecting the park to the city.

Activities and events should happen as early as possible so that people are drawn to the site and begin to feel ownership of the city park as it evolves.

There is a view that a *children's play area* should be developed first, close to the present entrance to Albert Basin reflecting the play needs of children in Newry. Another view is that the entire site should initially be opened up with *paths and walkways* so that people can get behind the various phases of development.

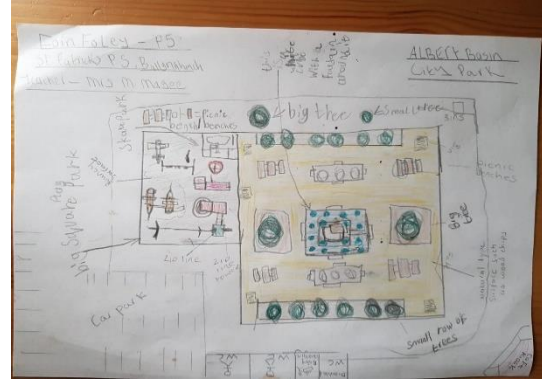
The common view in terms of priorities is to have a vision for the city park which in turn will inform a Masterplan. With that in place, the view is that the park's 'green' elements – green open space, woodland – and paths can be put in place with future delivery of the Masterplan phased.

Other considerations / Comments

This was a 'catch-all' opportunity for thoughts and ideas not already covered or to emphasise earlier ideas. Here's a summary of the comments, presented as quotes:-



In mid-June local primary school (Key Stage 2) and secondary school (Key Stage 3) pupils were invited to submit design proposals for the park. With schools closed due to Covid-19, school Principals were encouraged to forward the invitation on to their pupils. Whilst the closing date was through to Friday 17 July responses were low, with a total of 7 designs received, all from Key Stage 2 pupils.



Albert Basin 15 Acre City Park – A Public Consultation Exercise

In the pupil's designs that consider how the city park might look, the children's play area takes up a relatively small amount of the total space, approximately one third or less, whilst there is a significant emphasis on 'green' elements, trees and landscaping. Most of the designs include a café or coffee facility whilst three designs include a water feature in the form of a fountain or pond.



Albert Basin's 15 acres of land is embraced by the Clanrye River and the Newry Canal. School children emphasise the inclusion of 'green' elements in the City Park.

7. Stakeholder Interviews

These interviews, conducted by telephone, gave key organisations an opportunity to discuss the project in some detail; some of the organisations had already engaged in consultation by attending the Stakeholder Forum Engagement Workshop and/or an online workshop. The organisations interviewed were:-

- ❖ Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade
- ❖ Confederation of Community Groups
- ❖ Outdoor Recreation NI
- ❖ Loughs Agency
- ❖ Tourism NI
- ❖ East Border Region Tourism Partnership
- ❖ Woodland Trust
- ❖ Quays Shopping Centre
- ❖ Newry Coarse Fishing Angling Club
- ❖ Newry 2020
- ❖ Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division

The impact of development on the environment, both natural and historical, needs careful consideration in any design proposals. Stakeholders interviewed as part of this consultation process with a particular interest in the environment are the Loughs Agency, DfCs Historical Environment Division, Newry Coarse Fishing Angling Club and the Woodlands Trust.

According to Tourism NI there may be some potential to link Albert Basin City Park into the UNESCO Global Geopark initiative which seeks to link three AONBs, namely (i) Mourne; (ii) Ring of Gullion; (iii) Strangford & Lecale. This idea points to the park's strategic potential which may help attract the interest of funders. With that in mind, the East Border Region Tourism Partnership highlighted the 2021-2027 PEACE PLUS funding programme (SEUPB) which will fund activities that *'promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the region'*.

Perhaps a key learning point from reviewing all the stakeholder interviews is that as the design is progressed, these and other organisations, both local and regional, should continue to be involved. Each organisation brings a different perspective to the project and, especially in the case of local organisations, a great deal of knowledge about aspects of the Albert Basin. Engaging with these organisations for this consultation exercise has demonstrated the worth of accessing this knowledge in order to engender community ownership and acceptance of the park as it takes shape.

Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade

Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade is a voluntary organisation representing approximately 200 local businesses of varying sizes from all sectors of the business community. The Chamber works with its members, encouraging business growth, creating employment, promoting and developing the wider Newry area as a prominent place to do business, an advantageous location for industry and a rewarding tourist destination. Newry Chamber is an affiliate member of Chambers Ireland and the NI Chamber of Commerce. The general control and direction of the Chamber is vested in an elected

Executive Committee which develops policy, appoints and monitors sub groups and reports to members monthly. Currently the Chamber is a key agency in helping local businesses deal with Covid-19 and with leaving the single European market.

Comment

The Chamber circulated the recent online survey on Albert Basin City Park to members however the prospect of a city park in Albert Basin has not been high on the Chamber's agenda with local businesses in recent years. Some years ago the view of local businesses in relation to the possible development of Albert Basin was to consider mixed use development – commercial, housing, leisure – although it's recognised the emphasis has shifted towards leisure and recreation.

However, as Albert Basin is developed it needs to be linked with the city centre, complementing rather than competing with local businesses. So, for example, some form of commercial activity such as cafes and food outlets with evening opening in a well lit and safe environment within the park would help to establish a 'night-time economy' and mitigate the risk of anti-social behaviour. The example is given of the Mall in Armagh which, with new lighting and public realm improvements is now busy with walkers and people enjoying the green space in the evening. This example emphasises the importance of the park being seen as an 'extension' or part of the city centre.

The Chamber has been involved recently in talks with the Department for Infrastructure in relation to a Greenway route through Newry which would link the Carlingford Lough Greenway to the Newry-Portadown towpath. This would fully integrate the park with the Greenway, therefore, it's important that the park complements the Greenway.

Thinking of what the park will offer visitors, and especially thinking of play facilities that attract family groups, vehicle parking within the park will be necessary. There is a view that parking space in Newry is under pressure and relying on existing car park spaces for park visitors risks displacing parking for city centre businesses. In terms of the park's offering, it should recognise the potential of the water resource.

Confederation of Community Groups

The Confederation of Community Groups in Newry is a sub-regional community development network, linked to the NI Council for Voluntary Action. It offers information and advice to 62 affiliated member groups and a further 200 (approximately) non-affiliated groups. It has been part of civic society for over 40 years, originally operating in Newry but now covering the new Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area and further afield. Its office is in Ballybot House in Newry which it owns; part of Ballybot House is rented out. In addition to offering information and advice the Confederation delivers programmes through approximately 100 volunteers to older people, including programmes such as 'Good Morning Good Neighbour', 'Home Secured', 'Good Day Good Carer'.

Comment

Speaking on behalf of its members, especially older people, the Confederation highlights a range of elements and issues for consideration:-

- ❖ Plenty of walkways and green space with quiet and restful areas for older people to simply sit and relax and enjoy the surroundings.
- ❖ Limited buildings/structures.
- ❖ Artwork to recognise the value of civic society and the community sector.
- ❖ No cars.
- ❖ Improved pedestrian access at the Dublin Road entrance, such as a bigger pedestrian island in the middle of the junction.
- ❖ Make sure that any noisy areas, such as a skatepark, are separated from the quiet and restful areas.
- ❖ It should be accessible both day and night, so lighting would be important.
- ❖ Walkways should be connected to the city centre to encourage workers to use the park during lunch breaks.
- ❖ Local groups such as Action Mental Health are keen to use the park so it should appeal to adults with learning difficulties.

Outdoor Recreation NI

ORNI, a not-for-profit organisation, was set up by government (facilitated by Sport NI) in 1999. Its vision is to get more people enjoying the outdoors through (i) promotion; (ii) participation projects; (iii) Master Planning; (iv) industry training. About 70% of ORNIs work is external/fee-paying consultancy work, the remaining 30% being funded by government. In ORNIs early days, participation in outdoor recreation was minimal and provision was poor so ORNI initially focused on improving provision for people already involved in walking, canoeing, etc. In the last 8/10 years the focus has shifted to getting inactive people to become active, so for example, promoting a 1.5km walking route is just as important as longer routes. The majority of people are 'short adventurers' and as only about 20% of outdoor recreationists are tourists it's vital that the local community and tourists 'dove-tail' in any project to ensure sustainability. The challenge is to make access to outdoor recreation as easy as possible, so for example, Park Runs now include Walk It Park Runs to get people started.

Comments

The Albert Basin City Park should provide a 'doorstep' opportunity for outdoor activity; the site should not have any car parking. Care is needed not to try to please everyone (multi-user conflict); eg, a circular cycling route that is wanted by 5% of people could conflict with the 95% of people who want walking routes; 'don't' try to appease everyone and please no-one'. ORNI warns that the city park should not be an extension of urban space – in this regard less is more. It should be a green park that makes the most of being near water. Play park design should be treated with care, ideally designing stations for play activities with natural materials that encourage use of the entire park area.

Anything going into the park should be 'iconic'. A zip wire (suggested in the online workshop) wouldn't work in the Albert Basin context as it would be a commercial venture and therefore would not be freely accessible to everyone. Whilst the minority view can be loud, need should be defined by the majority.

The water element of Albert Basin has potential. Could a Blueway be identified, embracing canoeing and boating activity? A canoe trail along the south-east coast enters Newry at Albert Basin. A marina is a significant consideration – is there demand, is the Quays pontoon used to capacity, would a marina displace other local marinas? ORNI points out that getting a boat into and out of Albert Dock from

Carlingford Lough is ‘quite a trip’ taking account of tides and Victoria Lock. Would a marina require vehicle access/parking? Whilst it would be a simple matter to include a marina in design proposals, how viable and sustainable would it be? In this regard do design and economic appraisal processes need to talk to each other?

Loughs Agency

The Loughs Agency’s remit is to promote recreational angling and marine tourism. An agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, it was established as one of the cross-border bodies under the Good Friday Agreement. Under the agreement the Agency took over the fisheries protection functions of the Foyle Fisheries Commission and was given both an additional cross-border operational area in Carlingford and the additional functions of developing aquaculture and marine tourism.

The Loughs Agency aims to provide sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits through the effective conservation, management, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the Foyle and Carlingford areas through the following key themes:-

- ❖ The promotion of development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes in respect of marine, fishery and aquaculture matters;
- ❖ The management, conservation, protection, improvement and development of the inland fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford areas;
- ❖ The development and licensing of aquaculture and shellfisheries; and
- ❖ The development of marine tourism.

Comment

There is a large fish population in the Albert Basin/Newry Canal through to Victoria Lock and protections are in place for eels, roach, perch and pike; there is also a small population of sea trout. There are a lot of coarse fishing competitions – catch and release – with fishing positions on the ex-industrial site, reaching from ‘O’Rourkes’ towards the Greenway. The Newry Coarse Fishing Angling Club has a small container-type facility on site from which they supervise competitions. These competitions, including international events, draw anglers from a wide area.

The Canal is a protected ‘structure’ and any development on the canal banks or in the water will need particular permissions. The timing of construction work is important; coarse fish spawn on plant life in the water and any work that might need to lower the water level risks exposing fish eggs out of the water during the spawning season.

Water quality is important, so construction work cannot risk introducing suspended solids into the water. Bio-security is critical; zebra mussels (an invasive species) cannot be allowed into the water so anything being put in the water that has come from water elsewhere – boats, angling gear, canoes, etc – has to be sprayed. This is an issue particularly for boats entering through Victoria Lock.

The Agency is keen to see boats coming into Albert Basin so any pedestrian bridge from the Quays side must facilitate the passage of sailing boats. Construction methods that require installation on the canal bed will need permission. Developments must also be sensitive to sound and light pollution.

The Agency would support the idea of a marina but reasonable precautions would be needed to mitigate the risk of zebra mussels. The Agency would be keen to see some permanent infrastructure for triathlon, canoeing, rowing. The Agency envisages relocating the fishing positions from the Omeath Road by establishing fishing positions on the Albert Basin side. Access to the fishing positions is important – positions are about 3m apart and space is needed behind positions to allow fishing poles to be retracted from the water.

Tourism NI

Tourism NI is the national development agency for the development and marketing in Northern Ireland. On the marketing side it has recently packaged visitor experiences in ‘Embrace a Giant Spirit’ which presents experiential options for domestic and international tourists. Brand ambassadors help to deliver the experiences, such as ‘Whiskey on the Rocks’, a guided tour on the North Coast taking in Bushmills Distillery and local fare.

On the development side, Tourism NI supports the industry with funding programmes; its revenue funding programmes disburse approximately £1million annually, including events such as the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival and the Maid of the Mourne event. In past years its capital funding programme has assisted projects such as the Mourne Coastal Route, the Titanic project, St Patrick’s Trail.

Comment

Tourism NI feels the Albert Basin City Park project could be linked to the wider tourism offering in the Newry, Mourne & Down area. For example, it could link into the UNESCO Global Geopark initiative which seeks to link three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, namely (i) Mourne; (ii) Ring of Gullion; (iii) Strangford & Lecale. The City Park idea presents a softer, greener and semi-rural side to Newry.

Tourism NI’s bi-annual visitor attitude survey revealed that in Newry people are looking for things to do, especially on wet days, and cleaner areas. Could the City Park include an indoor space for performance, heritage, visitor information? Visitor numbers to the Newry/Mourne area have been declining in recent years – it’s suggested visitors don’t know how best to experience the Mourne, so could Albert Basin City Park become a hub for tours, walking and driving, offering information and bookings? A good example is Enniskillen Castle which now offers a visitor information centre, a boulevard walkway linking to the town and booking facilities for boat trips to Devenish Island, for walking tours and for local visitor/tourist attractions.

Tourism NI advise that the Albert Basin City Park presents an opportunity to coalesce a number of interests and agendas for the greater benefit of the park. In the next 4/5 years the market for visitors to projects such as the City Park will be more local – family groups, community groups – than anything else.

East Border Region Tourism Partnership

This partnership brings together local authorities on both sides of the border including Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and its southern neighbour, Louth County Council. Through tourism it seeks to advance the economic potential of the region. One of its strategic themes is countryside tourism which focuses on cross-border cycling and walking trails. This ties in with the strategic themes of Failte

Ireland and Tourism NI. The EBRTTP was a key agency in helping the two Councils obtain substantial funding – approximately €5million – from the Special European Union Programmes Body for the development of the Carlingford Lough Greenway which starts in Albert Basin.

Comment

The EBRTTP is supportive of the development of Albert Basin City Park, recognising that Newry city lacks a green space. The proximity of the park to retail areas is seen as an advantage. It is felt the park will benefit visitors to Newry especially within the domestic tourism market. The EBRTTP feels the water resource in the Albert Basin is not used to its full potential, not least in the area of activity tourism. The point is made that designs for the Southern Relief Road, should it go ahead, presently do not allow sailing craft to pass through into the Albert Basin. The EBRTTP advises that the new SEUPB funding programme following on from PEACE IV, PEACE PLUS is expected to go live at the end of 2021 with a pot of €650million.

Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is a UK-wide charity that started in the 1960s; the Northern Ireland wing has 10 staff. Its objective is to (i) promote conservation of nature tree species; (ii) create new nature species woodlands; (iii) encourage people to enjoy and be inspired by native woodlands. In Northern Ireland the Woodland Trust owns 50 sites. It works with landowners and public bodies, helping with grant applications. Government grants through the Forest Expansion Scheme require applications for a minimum of 3 hectares (about 8 acres) although the scheme is only open for a short window each year, about 6/8 weeks. A new rolling funding scheme is anticipated to be launched in September, offering 100% funding for small sites – 0.2 hectares – to include fencing.

The Woodland Trust recently planted out a 40 hectare site (about 100 acres) near Kilkeel with 100,000 trees, leasing the land from the landowner.

Comment

The Woodland Trust would be interested in engaging with the Council on the Albert Basin project. There are 20 Irish native trees, a further 8 native species that are ‘uncommon’ and 8 nature shrub species. A project at Albert Basin could include most of the native tree species, although ash cannot be planted presently due to a fungal disease. Typically, the Woodland Trust plants two year old ‘whips’ which are approximately 60cms in height and placed about 2 metres apart, although some species can be clumped together. After about 20-25 years a thinning out process helps promote the health and sustainability of the forest. The Trust is keen that the trees be sourced from local (ie, Irish) nurseries – the Mourne Heritage Trust has a local nursery which includes Rostrevor oaks. The Trust points out the benefits of woodland for wildlife and a woodland in Albert Basin could be a stop-off point for migrating birds.

Quays Shopping Centre

The Quays Shopping Centre is directly opposite Albert Basin. Its pedestrian entrance is on the road – the Fathom Line – that runs along the side of the Albert Basin eventually joining the Omeath Road. It is a major shopping complex with over 1,000 surface car parking spaces – the nearby Buttercrane Centre has similar parking capacity. Sainsbury’s is one of The Quays anchor tenant stores.

Comment

The Quays Shopping Centre is broadly supportive of the proposed city park. It should be developed for the benefit of the entire community and funding arrangements should not place an extra burden on Newry's ratepayers. The centre would like to see more water-based activity as the Manager feels it could be used to better effect. The city park should not have any significant commercial developments although the need for small/micro catering outlets is recognised; Newry currently has an over-supply of retail space. The centre is prepared to work with the Council in the development of the site; the Manager feels the park shouldn't be 'ultra green' – there has to be elements that attract people.

Regarding parking the development needs to be realistic about people's behaviour when it comes to parking. The centre worked over a number of years to improve parking behaviour on the Fathom Line, introducing a 1 hour parking time limit. The Manager would be concerned that if there is a pedestrian footbridge between Fathom Line and Albert Basin the on-street parking on Fathom Line may be abused again. The Manager suggests there should be some parking within the city park to help prevent the potential mis-use of Fathom Line on-street parking and an over-reliance on parking within the Quays complex. The issue of parking needs to be given careful consideration.

Newry Coarse Fishing Angling Club

NCFAC is currently dormant, however it has a keen interest in development of Albert Basin. From 1965 onwards the club has organised angling events in Albert Basin – catch and release – including 'World' events, Home Internationals (2015) and Ulster Pairs Championship (2018). With a well established fish stock the Albert Basin is an ideal location for angling events. Angling in Newry has been challenged in recent years; angling stands on the Omeath Road are now unsafe due to increased volumes of traffic and the narrowness of the road; the new boulevard on the Fathom Line now has a fence which prevents angling; the section of the Fathom Line with mooring of boats can no longer be fished. This leaves the Albert Basin side of Newry Canal as anglers' best option, providing up to 40 angling positions/stands.

Comment

The club has a 'hut' on the Albert Basin which serves as a registration/administrative centre for competitions. Presently the club is looking to hand the hut over to Newry 2020. The ideal space between angling positions on the canal is 12 metres which allows for up to 40 positions. The angling positions cannot be compromised by railings. Angling can co-exist with other water-based activities such as canoeing and rowing although the placing of a pontoon(s) needs careful consideration. Participants in angling competitions in Albert Basin have a considerable amount of equipment so it will be necessary to have some way of getting equipment to/from the angling positions; one solution is to allow participants to drive onto the site and park close to the angling positions.

The club suggests an ecology display could be included in the park, educating visitors about the fish stock and the angling heritage.

Newry 2020

'Newry 2020 is a grassroots voluntary community organisation, established in early 2014, with the goal of making Newry a better place for residents and visitors. We aim to promote visionary projects that will excite people's imagination and help Newry city to achieve its full potential. To date we have focused on three main on-going projects - the Festival of Windows (a public arts project in Hill St), Iur Cinn Fleadh (a music festival that runs throughout the city in September), and the regeneration of the Albert Basin as a city centre park. Despite being a relatively young organisation, we have already had a significant local impact, and were awarded 2014 Community Initiative of the Year by the Newry Reporter'.

The above statement reflects Newry 2020's contribution to the Newry community in the first two to three years of its existence. It continues to be a key stakeholder in Albert Basin City Park and how it is developed. This is evidenced not least in the community consultation exercise and design proposals it put forward for the park in 2014/2015 (<http://www.newry2020.com>). Newry 2020 reports it has grown as an organisation organically rather than strategically, focusing on getting things done. With no paid staff it wholly relies on volunteers and the skills and experience they bring to the organisation.

Presently, Newry 2020, working with Newry Digital and funded by the Department of Finance's Open Data Innovation and Outreach Fund is delivering 'Smart Newry' whose goal is:- ***'to empower our local community with the necessary environmental data to influence decisions at local government and business level with the aim of improving living conditions, quality of life and allowing local schools and colleges access to a wealth of real world data for analysis, projects and learning purposes'***. This project and its goal reflects the ethos of Newry 2020, that of empowering the Newry community, in this case through obtaining and sharing information.

Comment

Newry 2020's design ideas for the Albert Basin include:-

- ❖ All ages exercise area (play park, urban sports park, outdoor gymnasium, perimeter jogging track).
- ❖ Integrated Marina (finger jetties, mooring bollards, WCs, café/shop).
- ❖ Bio-diverse Park (wild flora, arboretum, park service building).
- ❖ Canal Heritage Centre (a building celebrating the canal's history, outdoor events space, landscaped public space with seating, sculptures, etc, central fresh water pond).
- ❖ Accessibility (northern and southern pedestrian bridges, the latter opening for access to Marina, drop off area from Bridge Street).

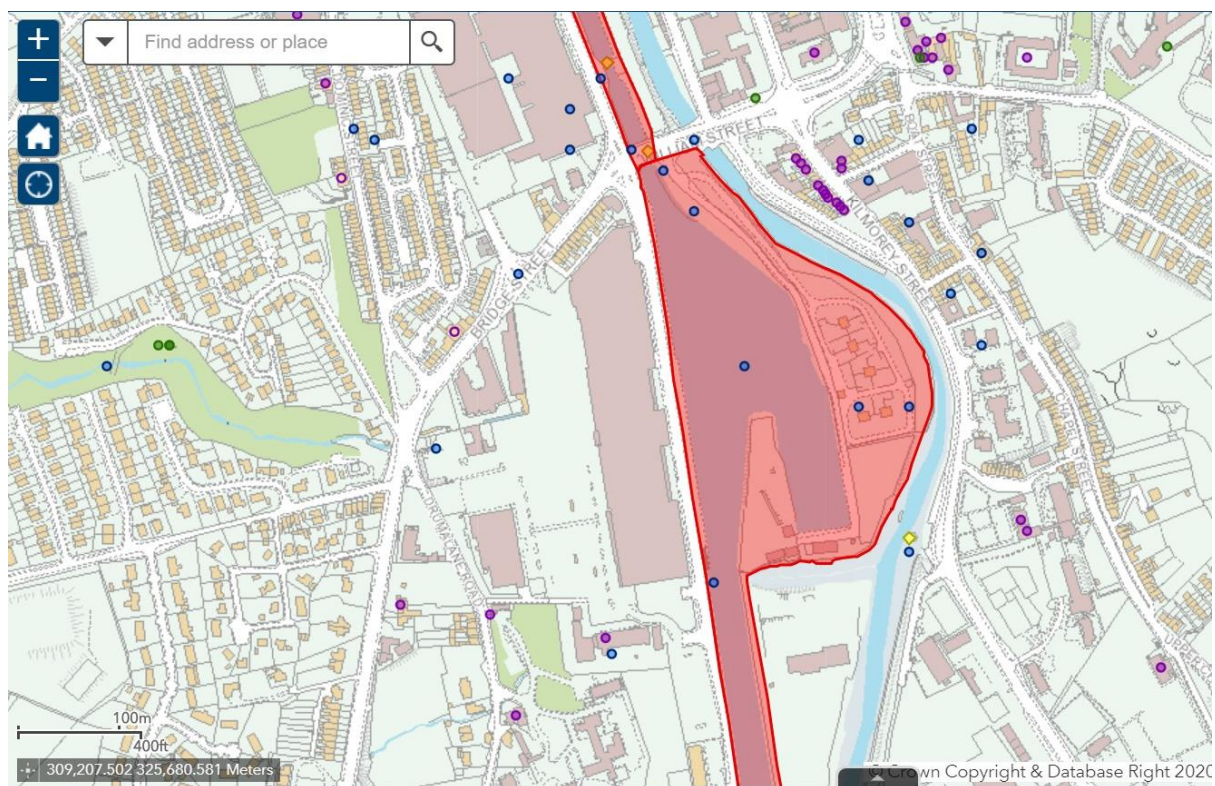
The focus of the park should be nature and everything that flows from it, but not a 'green desert'. The park should attract and provide value for as many people as possible. It is only valid if it is what the community wants and if the process of developing the park is managed with care it can be very harmonious. The conversation on design and development between the Council and the community must be continued.

The Albert Basin City Park project can give the economic development of Newry city direction; eg, a vibrant waterway, a draw for tourists. Consideration needs to be given to the role that the asset plays

in the overall economy of Newry. The site formerly hosted the Travelling community and the Travellers heritage needs to be recognised.

Department for Communities; Historic Environment Division (HED)

The HED considers aspect of capital projects that may impact on the historical environment. The Albert Basin itself and the adjoining areas of the Newry Canal contains a Scheduled Monument as well as a range of recorded historic environment assets – the blue dots on the below map locate these assets. The HED comment as follows:- *‘The historic environment constraints in the Albert Basin area are significant and it would be best to discuss what the Council is thinking about with HED as early in the scheme design process as possible. For example, any works within any of the red shaded areas on the map would require the grant of Scheduled Monument consent by HED in addition to any planning policy protections provided in the planning process’.*



APPENDIX 1

Stakeholder Forum Engagement Workshop

Session 2 – Developing a vision for the Albert Basin

- Safe (1)
- Community centred (1)
- Active
- Healthy (1)
- Water centred
- Attractive
- World class (2)
- iconic (4)
- Transformative
- Natural habit
- Biophilic – to include nature (1)
- Inclusive
- Happy
- Educational
- Inspirational (1)
- Sustainable
- Economic opportunity
- Unique
- Hive of activity
- Welcoming 24/7 (4)
- Inclusive (2)
- Oasis of calm
- So peaceful
- Vibrant
- So busy
- Great meeting place
- Amazing
- Dynamic
- So much on
- Diverse activities
- Hard to believe you are in the city
- Possible creation of series of small workshops to facilitate training of the various trades to bring on the young people (1)
- Large area of greenery (1)
- Unique design
- Something for all
- Area of learning
- Information re history of waterway
- Play
- Exercise
- Recreation
- People friendly
- Green space (1)
- Pedestrian connectivity

- Community (2)
- Adult meeting place within sight of playground (1)
- Ample water access – river and canal (4)
- Inspiring marina
- Inclusive (2)
- Welcoming to all ages
- Relaxing
- Playful for all ages (2)
- Joining past and present (1)
- Conservation area
- Eye catching gateway
- Imaginative (2)

Session 3 – Who will use the space? What are their needs/interests?

Users	Interests
Parents and children	Safe play space, place to relax (& toilets!), activities in that space
Artists / artisans / craftspeople	To work, demonstrate, teach display
Shoppers (& shoppers husbands)	Access, respite, conversation, relaxation
Local Workers	Relaxation, lunch, physical activity, entertainment
Sports clubs	Facilities and equipment
Water users (swimmers, anglers, rowers, boat users, sailors)	Facilities, water access, clean water
Fitness enthusiasts	Outdoor gym, pathways, routes
Single people	Safe environment, chairs, conversational environment
Visitors / tourists	Interest points, meeting point, culture, entertainment, cafes (plastic free!)
Older people	Accessibility, interest, entertainment
Dog walkers	Dog park
Bird watchers	
Anglers	Good bank, access, car parking
Visitors	Information displays, aquatic aquarium showing ecology of waterway
Swimmers	Access to water, changing area
Night time users	Bar / restaurant
General public	Coffee shop / bike hire
Skateboarders	World class skate park
Newry people	Healthy outdoors
Low income people	A free facility with lots to do for free
Ship crews / passengers	A good marina / somewhere unique to visit
Visitors to Newry	Interesting place to visit / relax/ stimulate/ excite / photograph
Boat users	Sailing, canoeing, rowing - slipway, marina
Swimmers	Swimming/triathlons – ramp, changing facilities, toilets
Anglers	Hygiene / safety – parking, fishing stands, buggies
Runners	
Cyclists	
Skateboarders	
Walkers	
Tourists	Music / performance area (outdoors)
Children	Play areas
Teenagers	
Adults	
Older people	Accessibility
Disabled users	Accessibility
Vendors	
Public transport users	Cycle hire / café / boat hire / bus stop
Historians	Heritage
Bird watchers	Birds / Hides

Session 4 Features / Facilities / Opportunities

- Marina – moorings / pontoon (3)
- Slipway – showers / toilets /changing (4)
- Festival area – exhibition area / crafts (3)
- Bio security station / wash down (1)
- Heritage Centre (3)
- Angling stands
- Outdoor gym
- Woodland area (1)
- Iconic public art piece
- Elevated viewing area
- Aquarium
- Urban sports
- Big screen
- Bird hide
- High ropes park
- Franchise spaces
- Rickshaw taxi
- Disabled parking
- Walk / cycle paths
- Bowling green
- Public transport / water taxi
- Music / maritime festival
- Telescopes
- Telephone
- Outdoor BBQ / grill space (1)
- Green space and woodland area (particularly at opening area) (4)
- Footbridge access (2)
- Multiple access points / park and ride
- Parking far into area (1)
- Artisan / crafts people / creative space (2)
- Marina and mooring points and slipway (2)
- Outdoor watersports centre
- Boat rental
- City garden – put men's shed / other community groups in
- Staging area for events and event space (1)
- Covered area / communal space
- Café
- Toilets and changing areas
- Library
- All weather table tennis
- Art / sculptures
- Natural play area
- Accommodation for water related sports clubs (eg rowing club!) (2)
- Heritage centre reflecting our maritime tradition which makes Newry unique (2)

- Restaurants / coffee shops / bar with late opening (2)
- Aqua park (1)
- Marina facilities (1)
- Sight and sound of wildlife / birds native to canal and Carlingford lough (interactive) (1)
- Small workshops showcasing traditional trades and crafts (2)
- Water based activities and nature trails – open up the waterway with leisure trips (2)
- Urban sports (2)
- Park and ride facilities
- Event space

APPENDIX 2

Online Survey

Albert Basin City Park - Public Consultation

The Council has a commitment to a 15 acre city park in Albert Basin; Newry Shipping Canal and Maritime Heritage is an integral part of the project. The vision is to regenerate Newry city centre, providing a world class city park, attracting investment, promoting tourism, creating jobs and sustaining our environment.

Otium Leisure Consultancy has been appointed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to explore the options for a 15 acre city park in the Albert Basin in Newry City. This short questionnaire will help inform the the future designs for the site and we would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete. Closing date - 17 July 2020. Thanks, Alison Keenan - Otium Leisure Consultancy. E:info@otiumleisureconsultancy.co.uk, T:028 25862070.

Albert Basin City Park - Public Consultation

Successful public spaces are lively places which host a wide range of community activity and where people feel ownership and connectedness. The aim of such spaces is to attract a wide variety of people and offer them an experience which encourages them to return again and again throughout the year. To create such a space needs residents, community groups and local businesses to work together to generate ideas and realise the potential of underused spaces like the Albert Basin.

- * 1. Great places generally have four qualities: they are accessible, comfortable, have a good image and offer a range of activities. They are characterized by people remaining when they have no reason to stay.

Picture a city park in Newry and tell us in one or two words how you would describe it:

City parks around Europe and the world are attractive because of the range of features they include. The Albert Basin is an area with a unique history and character. We want to hear your views on how the site can be developed so that it is a place which is accessible and vibrant.

2. What play and sports focused features would you include in the park?

3. What features focusing on the natural environment would you include?

4. What water centred features would you include?

5. What entertainment features would you include?

6. Is there anything missing from this list which you think should be included in the development?

Giving some of the above a bit of further thought...

7. Thinking about a play area, in order of priority please provide up to 3 key characteristics of your ideal play area

1

2

3

8. Thinking about a civic/event space, please provide, in order of priority, the main features/characteristics of such a space

1

2

3

9. Thinking about the development of the park being inclusive of nature, in order of priority, please provide your suggestions how this could be done

1

2

3

10. The best city parks offer a wide range of activities. This encourages use of the park by people of all ages, at all times of the day, all year round.
Thinking about opportunities for physical and recreational activity in the park, in order of priority, what suggestions do you have for activities which could take place in the park?

1

2

3

11. Great city parks are sociable places where communities come together.
Thinking about the opportunity for community activities and events to be facilitated in the Albert Basin, what suggestions do you have?

1

2

3

3

12. City parks work best when they are an integral part of the city where they are located.

Thinking about inclusion of micro hospitality and commercial elements which are compatible with the park (such as cafes, wellbeing and other activity led enterprises), what would you like to see?

1

2

3

4

* 13. Thinking about the use of land on the 15 acre site, please indicate the how you would prioritise the allocation of land each of the following? Rank the options from 1 (your highest priority) to 7 (your least priority)

Green space

☐ N/A

Play area

☐ N/A

Sports

☐ N/A

Events / Entertainment

☐ N/A

Woodland

☐ N/A

Car parking

☐ N/A

Micro Hospitality / Compatible Commercial elements

☐ N/A

* 14. A development on the scale of the Albert Basin may need to be delivered in phases – this would enable the Council to develop the partnerships and access the finances which will enable it to invest in the site over time while still delivering on its commitment to a city park.

If the Council were to take a phased approach, please rank how would you prioritise each theme from 1 (your highest priority) to 5 (your lowest priority)

Play and Sports Elements

☐ N/A

Nature Centred Elements

☐ N/A

Entertainment Elements

☐ N/A

Water Centred Elements

☐ N/A

Micro Hospitality/ Compatible Commercial Elements

☐ N/A

15. What other thoughts, if any, do you have about the proposals for a city park in the Albert Basin and what should be included in the development?

Finally, please tell us a bit about you

16. Which category includes your age?

- ☐ 13 to 15 years old
- ☐ 16 to 20 years old
- ☐ 21 to 35 years old
- ☐ 36 to 50 years old
- ☐ 51 to 65 years old
- ☐ 65 plus years old

17. Are you male or female?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ prefer not to say

18. It would be helpful if you could add your home address postcode please.

Postcode

19. Have you any dependents?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

20. What age are they?

- ☐ 0-3
- ☐ 4-7
- ☐ 8-11
- ☐ 12-15
- ☐ 16-18

21. Are you....

- ☐ Employed
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other

The information provided in response to this survey will be processed in accordance with the Council's privacy policy which is available at <https://www.newrymournedown.org/privacy-policy>

APPENDIX 3

Online Public Workshops

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Monday 22 June 2020 **11.00am – 12.05pm**

Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

AK showed a series of photographs of city parks, highlighting the sort of features typically found in a city park. Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Peaceful, tranquil
- ☐ Learning environment, eg, learn how to ride a bicycle, learn about natural habitats
- ☐ Green, environmentally friendly, attractive
- ☐ Cultural, reflecting industrial heritage and history
- ☐ Non-commercial, no parking (excepting exclusions). People should be encouraged to walk from nearby car parks
- ☐ Family friendly
- ☐ Different, open
- ☐ Ponds/animals – water which blends in

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Skatepark – concrete & permanent; currently have to go to Banbridge.
- ☐ Play area(s)/facilities for all ages, including play equipment, adventure play, spaces for creative play, water-based play.
- ☐ Traffic management – entrances, access points (eg, pedestrian bridges from Quay and Warrenpoint Road), bus routes.
- ☐ Open space for sporting activities.
- ☐ Water access for water-based activities, rowing.
- ☐ Picnic area, tea/coffee, toilets.
- ☐ Running & walking paths (there is no Park Run in Newry).

- ☐ Concert area.
- ☐ Angling facilities (World Anglin Competition in Newry in 2004).
- ☐ Education facilities (wildlife, heritage) including a multi-purpose building/structure to facilitate groups in their visit to the park. Could this be a floating facility, eg, houseboat?
- ☐ Pond within the park – Albert Basin has a river course running under it.
- ☐ Arboretum with Irish nature species.
- ☐ Designed gateway to Greenway.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

Discussion here was wide-ranging and moved onto general points:-

- ☐ Establish green space and landscaping first.
- ☐ The site could be designed as a series of spaces/parcels of land allocated to types of use, eg, play, natural habitat, events, open space, etc.
- ☐ The project offers up an opportunity to engage groups and organisations in develop[ing and assisting in the management/operation of the park.
- ☐ No car parking was emphasised, whilst allowing accessibility for people with particular needs.
- ☐ Aspects of the park can be developed in parallel, subject to funding.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ☐ 'There is no park in Newry to bring children to – I take them to parks in Banbridge, Lisburn and Belfast. Somewhere nice to go in the city.'
- ☐ Can the City Park project help to re-generate Hill Street through linkages.
- ☐ The park can highlight the Carlingford Lough Greenway.
- ☐ The project has the potential to work in partnership with stakeholder organisations, eg, Woodlands Trust, to help attract capital grants.
- ☐ Capitalise on freshwater and seawater on each side of the park.
- ☐ Maritime heritage – tall ships.
- ☐ Bus stop at entrance/exit points.
- ☐ Need for conclusion to the project – been discussed for years – develop elements in parallel so people can see results.

22 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop **Monday 22 June 2020** **2.30pm – 4.00pm**

Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Inclusive
- ☐ Accessible
- ☐ Multi-use/multi-functional
- ☐ Iconic
- ☐ Green, cool, wet
- ☐ SEN friendly

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Adult gym/SEN gym, areas for teenagers, forest walkways.
- ☐ Outdoor pursuits centre area.
- ☐ Safe access to water, slipway, access for all.
- ☐ Ramps to play equipment , adaptive swings and roundabouts etc .
- ☐ Adult gym.
- ☐ Skateboarding areas.
- ☐ Bike access to Greenway.
- ☐ Fishing points for anglers.
- ☐ It is most important that the park is nature friendly and supports a wide variety of wild life.
- ☐ Tree walk.
- ☐ Sensory garden eg planting for feel, smell, colour, etc.
- ☐ Arts area-multifunctional area for holding music/drama events.
- ☐ Marina.

- ☐ Area to host events.
- ☐ Lots of native species trees, shrubs, plants animals and birds.
- ☐ Cultivation of trees as an education opportunity.
- ☐ Central building with facilities for heritage/education centre, cafe, changing facilities.
- ☐ Potential for boat trips.
- ☐ The Arts Centre and Town Hall already host music.
- ☐ The town centre around the Cathedral is more suitable for outdoor music.
- ☐ Native species / tree trail / wildflowers.
- ☐ You could have a fireworks display from a barge in the basin at Halloween.
- ☐ The park should be for nature.
- ☐ People need exposure to nature.
- ☐ Now is the time to start growing trees. They would grow to quite a large size in 15 years, Ash grow to 8m in about 15years.
- ☐ Lots of woodland, wildflower gardens.
- ☐ Avoid lots of concrete – skatepark would be better elsewhere eg somewhere more industrial.
- ☐ Don't necessarily need permanent structures/buildings.
- ☐ Need to consider litter and the environment when supplying food and drinks – no paper plates!
- ☐ Basin lends itself to being a natural amphitheatre.
- ☐ People need nature to chill.
- ☐ I remember planting the trees around the old Abbey site back in the 1960s.
- ☐ The community can also get involved in planting and adopting individual trees.
- ☐ I'm a primary school teacher, children in schools would get involved in planting.
- ☐ Planting can also be used for remediation (re: contamination).
- ☐ Illuminated events would look spectacular reflected against the water.
- ☐ What about the water features like little fountains that come up from the ground? My kids love them in Spain etc!
- ☐ Lots of trees!!
- ☐ We need to give kids areas to be active and gain hobbies within the park.
- ☐ No council offices etc.
- ☐ We need clear pathways for kids to scoot on.
- ☐ We need lots of benches places to sit for elderly.
- ☐ Play area needs to include equipment for children of all ages (including young teens).
- ☐ Disability access, possibly a mobility scheme within the park.
- ☐ Events staged on barge with spectators on land.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

- ☐ Planting first
- ☐ Landscaping and play area(s)
- ☐ Landscaping and play area
- ☐ Play areas for children

Other Considerations/Comments

- ☐ I think that (extending the greenway) is essential in the longer term. We have been talking about doing that for over twenty years!

- ❑ Some people have talked about a dog park as an option. Where do people walk their dogs?
How can dog use be managed alongside peoples use?
- ❑ Protocols around dogs on the site – on-site dog park maybe not a good idea.
- ❑ Knitting the Newry parks together as nature corridors would be a good thought.
- ❑ Aerial corridors could be created with more street trees.
- ❑ No cars!! Definitely a good point.
- ❑ The aerial corridors can include private gardens if they have large trees.
- ❑ Needs to be a place where people can be active.
- ❑ Car free as much as possible – there are ways it can be done strategically.
- ❑ Proper community engagement and meaningful participation by community.
- ❑ Need to take account of Council's play strategy.
- ❑ Involve Playboard and Sticky Fingers in animating the space for children.
- ❑ Gosford and Portadown People's Park good examples.
- ❑ Needs to be meaningful participation by the community in the park's development, not just consultation.

22 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Thursday 2 July 2020 **11.00am – 12.30pm**

Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

AK showed a series of photographs of city parks, highlighting the sort of features typically found in a city park. Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Game changing – once the park is built it will change Newry forever... will start a trickle which will evolve into other parts of Newry developing green spaces.
- ☐ Epic
- ☐ Unique
- ☐ Green
- ☐ Active – promotes and active lifestyle
- ☐ Accessible – to all of the community, walking and cycling etc
- ☐ Clean and well maintained
- ☐ Welcoming (to people who traditionally can't use parks eg wheelchair accessible).
- ☐ Innovative -what's special about other parks is that they have thought outside the box.
- ☐ Legacy – chance to make Newry a more healthy and active place.
- ☐ Vibrant
- ☐ Green
- ☐ Community – available to everyone, suits all ages.

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Needs to be clean and well maintained
- ☐ something to draw you in - Children's play area – boats on the lake, fishing which you can watch.
- ☐ Able to move around and "find" different elements of the park.

- ❑ Management/control of dogs – eg a fenced off area where dogs can run/dog park area. Dog waste would therefore be in a contained area (c/f Delamont) However, risk of isolating dog owners if obliged to go into a specific area.
- ❑ Design and planting which is native plants and wildflowers.
- ❑ First and foremost natural environment eg a pond.
- ❑ Something unique – eg tree trail of all the native species of trees in Ireland which people will visit.
- ❑ In keeping with its environs – take advantage of its location (water and greenways) eg a marina which would take advantage of maritime heritage.
- ❑ Outdoor event space – facility to run events and which could put a cover/marquee for indoor events.
- ❑ Art or sculpture.
- ❑ Fountain in which the water flows to music and lights – something that people would come to and congregate around.
- ❑ Play area is really important to bring in the whole family – accessible by range of ages.
- ❑ Trails and paths for runners and events (currently runs tends to be laps of town centre).
- ❑ Links to the active network – towpath and greenways – make the connections encouraging.
- ❑ Plan that it is open 24/7 365 days per year – a place that people see as safe as opposed to somewhere that people avoid.
- ❑ Boating area eg swan boats.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

Discussion here was wide-ranging and moved onto general points:-

- ❑ Green space, benches and paths – somewhere where people can get some fresh air.
- ❑ Greenspace, water elements and entertainment (event facilities to casual meetings of friends).
- ❑ Green spaces and paths to walk and run; then play area for families; then the elements which appeal to people from beyond area – the basics need to be there first for the residents of Newry.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ❑ If we are going to do the park do it and not open it until it's done – we've waited so long that people will be prepared to wait longer for it.
- ❑ There is an urgency – Newry doesn't have green spaces for children to run around in, sooner rather than later would be better for opening. Get the green space first and then add the infrastructure later. People are crying out for green spaces.
- ❑ Connectivity is very important. An addition a possible bridge from Warrenpoint road and from the Quays shopping centre.
- ❑ Skateboarding does not suit a park which people are looking for peace and tranquillity in – should be accommodated somewhere else.
- ❑ Definitely no housing – designate it as a green space, use areas on the outside of the city.
- ❑ No parking – small enough space that there is no need for 100-150 spaces on site – it should be connected up in order to make it accessible on foot and by cycle.
- ❑ No commercial activity but still a need for some sort of reliable supply of coffee/tea such as mobile catering.

- ❑ Keep commercial to a minimum – bike hire, coffee, changing, toilets, boat store for rowing club.
- ❑ No (civic) buildings within the park.
- ❑ Value of sitting and watching the world go by is probably my favourite element of a park.
- ❑ Planners should refer back to the concept design video of the park – engage with departments e.g. greenway and active travel strategies. Now is the time for engagement with departments on these issues.

2 July 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Thursday 2 July 2020 **2.30pm – 3.50pm**
Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Disassociated from hectic noise of the city
- ☐ Oasis of calm
- ☐ Green
- ☐ Vibrant
- ☐ All generations – fun for all ages
- ☐ Green freedom
- ☐ Sense of oasis and separation from the city
- ☐ Car free
- ☐ Animal or pet free
- ☐ Sustainability – environmentally eg biodiversity;
- ☐ Explored
- ☐ Natural – reflective of the nature of the area (native plants and trees)
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Better than any other
- ☐ Iconic
- ☐ Destination
- ☐ Inclusive
- ☐ Family orientated – everybody can enjoy every aspect
- ☐ Exciting
- ☐ Green lung

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Play “equipment” isn’t limited to one enclosed space – integrate across the park so that it is an experience which can be explored.
- ☐ Art installations.
- ☐ Colour and texture.
- ☐ Make the most of the views beyond the park which could be captured by the setting of the trees and lineage of the pathways.
- ☐ Potential for a forest school – native trees, edible planting.
- ☐ Educational aspect – nature and water.
- ☐ Strict policies around littering – opportunity to educate people in how they manage their pets.
- ☐ Viewing areas for under the water – educational element, teach children to be respectful of the water and environment.
- ☐ Water plays a very powerful role – waterway which put Newry on the map and which has significant heritage in the city.
- ☐ Event space – staged area which could attract fairly big concerts, but also **adaptable** to host something smaller/intimate and outdoors; partial covering at least.
- ☐ Amphitheatre (with permanent awning to give shelter) -use natural design and have a space which can be adaptable and can be used throughout the year.
- ☐ Amphitheatre can manage space and sound.
- ☐ Giving height.
- ☐ Idea of being able to hire cushions and blankets to improve comfort at events.
- ☐ Include a small number of buildings which are functional and sympathetic – facilitate the boaters, skateboarders.
- ☐ Event space which can facilitate craft and specialised markets (which can be moved and taken away).
- ☐ Facilities to park bikes.
- ☐ Integrate buildings with multiple functions.
- ☐ Water could be used to have a café on it – café barge.
- ☐ Bigger boats need to be able to come up into the basin (Tourism opportunity) ... accessibility from all around.
- ☐ Pontoon from Drumalane to the greenway?

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

- ☐ Planting of trees etc needs to be put into place early so its established.
- ☐ Infrastructure and linkages to the city need to happen early.
- ☐ Need for a plan.
- ☐ Planting and landscaping need to happen early – install the play equipment etc, need joined up thinking if integrating with nature.
- ☐ How are we engaging with, and encouraging in, the older generations of residents.
- ☐ Needs to be a safe space.
- ☐ Need to think about the existing strategies and what’s already happening – accessibility and connectivity; what’s already happening and how does that connect into the plans for the park?
- ☐ Nice green space and an area which feels safe and inclusive and for people.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ☐ Animal/pet waste – individual responsibility.

- ❑ Clean water – appreciation of it.
- ❑ Play equipment/play features which are distributed throughout the park.
- ❑ Lack of zoning to promote exploration and discovery -the parks you really remember are the ones where you find something unexpected.
- ❑ Planting – consider allergens at the point of planting (botanical sexism), don't create a space which can end up excluding.
- ❑ No excessive parking – needs consideration in the context of the wider city. City currently doesn't cater for pedestrians and cyclist.
- ❑ No need for permanent structures – there is ample retail and café provision in the surrounding area.
- ❑ This is a once in a generation opportunity to think strategically – ability of park to integrate with the water space. Take the long view.
- ❑ Connect (pedestrian) with the city – no need for additional provision of cafes etc when there is so much in the surrounding area.
- ❑ Embed natural and sustainability into the development – eg rowing round the basin.
- ❑ Connectivity for cyclists – towpath and greenway (tourism opportunity).
- ❑ Just call it **Newry City Park** – keep it simple and make it a space that anybody can go into.
- ❑ Newry should be what's important in this development.

2 July 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Thursday 25 June 2020 **11.00am – 12.05pm**

Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

REDACTED PERSONAL DATA

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

AK showed a series of photographs of city parks, highlighting the sort of features typically found in a city park. Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Iconic – Newry's one shot to undo a lot of horrendous problems; First summit level canal in the British isles – celebrate and enhance that
- ☐ Biodiversity – sustainability and haven for wildlife
- ☐ Car Free (Newry has 50 acres of car parking), Prioritise a park for people
- ☐ Environmentally friendly – somewhere tranquil and where there is peace (forest, plants, trees, birds)
- ☐ Family friendly (be able to take grandchildren)
- ☐ A city centre park would be a real opportunity
- ☐ Eco friendly
- ☐ All inclusive – kids adults and disabled users
- ☐ Iconic - Location between 2 waterways, Newry has turned its back on its waterways, links to Warrenpoint
- ☐ Green lots of nature – trees, flowers, and plants to attract wildlife
- ☐ Sensory
- ☐ Attractive – calls people to spend time there, whether for socialising exercising etc
- ☐ Passive and active
- ☐ Adaptable – facilities to hold pop up events, performances, markets, put away chairs
- ☐ Impressive
- ☐ World class
- ☐ Car Free
- ☐ Eco aware – no chip stand, ice cream

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Central pond area – use the culverted river.
- ☐ An events space – an amphitheatre or something similar built into it for events such as a maritime festival.
- ☐ Boat trips on the canal - Marry the history with the present and the future.
- ☐ Open air amphitheatre (Dyke road Brighton).
- ☐ Water features.
- ☐ Sensory areas – sensory planting, wildflowers, water features, “Wilding”.
- ☐ Play areas – green area with play equipment for all ages but zoned.
- ☐ Wood/natural play equipment.
- ☐ Would prefer there not to be “markets” as this might degrade Newry’s market further.
- ☐ Wooden huts selling refreshments.
- ☐ Play facilities are essential.
- ☐ Pop up theatres.
- ☐ Create a tree trail.
- ☐ Pop up market stalls.
- ☐ Some covered space.
- ☐ provide a sense of being on the water but not in it.
- ☐ Enclosed area for dogs.
- ☐ Education information on the Newry area.
- ☐ Toilets.
- ☐ Canal themed concrete skatepark designed in conjunction with Newry Urban sports.
- ☐ Preference the pop-up stands are food.
- ☐ Reinvigorate the whole town – park not as a central space but rather as a greenway multi using space - outdoor serviced event space similar to custom house Square that can double up for markets, shows, etc.
- ☐ Pedestrianisation - Warrenpoint road pedestrian bridge and Canal bridge.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

Discussion here was wide-ranging and moved onto general points:-

- ☐ Need it to be part of a long term vision.
- ☐ Have to have a masterplan – infrastructure and locations and connectivity.
- ☐ Connectivity – more access points (which provides access for more communities by foot), parks work when people can get to them.
- ☐ Walks and paths with connectivity – like to walk a circuit.
- ☐ Need more than just the connectivity – make it more attractive, eg planting.
- ☐ Connection to other areas can only add to bringing more people in and add to the tourism industry. Whilst improving the living space for the local community.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ❑ Do not move the big tv screen from the town centre to the park.
- ❑ That the consultation doesn't stop here and the Community Groups (+87 Community Groups) have ongoing input in the design process and seeing this as a long term vision.
- ❑ Exploit as many funding sources as possible.
- ❑ Not just a vision for Newry but other places – e.g. connect to the greenways in the south down area.
- ❑ Neutrality of name will be important.
- ❑ City of Merchants festival – included a treasure hunt around the city.
- ❑ Canal festival – events throughout the town.
- ❑ Ride in a currach along the canal.

25 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Thursday 25 June 2020 **7.00pm – 8.05pm**
Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
 Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

AK showed a series of photographs of city parks, highlighting the sort of features typically found in a city park. Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Botanic Belfast – green space and mature trees
- ☐ Grand canal in Dublin – clear water and a buzz of people drawn to it
- ☐ As soon you walk through the boundary fence you feel like you are leaving the city – feeling of escape (Ivy Gardens)
- ☐ Phoenix Park – so many different areas within it.. break it up into areas with a different feel about them
- ☐ Not necessarily world class - would settle for reasonable – something like Kilbroney but on my own doorstep
- ☐ Feeling of not being in the city
- ☐ Peaceful
- ☐ Accessible
- ☐ Would love to see people leaving work at lunchtime with somewhere nice to go to
- ☐ A place for people to get a bit of peace
- ☐ Hugely important for peoples wellbeing - a park for all ages
- ☐ Escape
- ☐ Refuge
- ☐ Nature
- ☐ Haven for native trees, plants and wildlife
- ☐ Could connect into the Cooley area (Slieve Gullion)
- ☐ Water – fantastic resource which is underused
- ☐ Haven – peaceful getaway from busy life, no traffic, no retail, green space
- ☐ Spectacular – reflect its location and its spectacular views in the landscaping
- ☐ Diverse / Inclusive – there is something for all ages
- ☐ Gateway to the Mourne and the Cooleys in one spot

- ☐ Connecting -eg towpath to Albert Basin
- ☐ Slow (pace of life)

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ No traffic or cars.
- ☐ Flexible space.
- ☐ No traffic (apart from maintenance drivers).
- ☐ Vernacular – materials which reflect the area.
- ☐ Access to the water by tall ships for example.
- ☐ Trails which attract and entertain children.
- ☐ A focal point.
- ☐ Reflect the history and culture especially the maritime heritage.
- ☐ Not big into the idea of having buildings – for events.
- ☐ Skatepark – space where kids can go to relax and just be kids.
- ☐ Play park.
- ☐ Marina.
- ☐ Swimming area – would be a shame not to make use of the water.
- ☐ Angling points – don't take up much space but would get quite a bit of use.
- ☐ Skatepark.
- ☐ Basketball area.
- ☐ Bike track.
- ☐ Green area where kids can kick a football about.
- ☐ Outside seating / picnic area.
- ☐ Possibly a (good quality) café.
- ☐ Tourist information / heritage centre.
- ☐ Accessibility from quays and either Greenbank or Kilmorey Street.
- ☐ Outdoor entertainment area (in some ways a green space will provides).
- ☐ Places to go through and places to go to – there's only one entrance, need access from Warrenpoint Road and Quays.
- ☐ Plenty of benches.
- ☐ Large flat grassy area – offers flexibility of use (eg football or yoga).
- ☐ Concrete and tarmac shouldn't be anywhere near it – use paving or brickwork.
- ☐ Paths are best done with compacted gravel.
- ☐ Create spaces with mobile refreshments and flexible / movable seating.
- ☐ Make use of the canal – café barge.
- ☐ No cars or permanent buildings are required to make it work.
- ☐ If we encourage the use of the water the pop up culture would come with it.
- ☐ Art installations – semi-permanent.
- ☐ Permanent table tennis / chess tables – also an oversized board for kids.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

Discussion here was wide-ranging and moved onto general points:-

- ☐ Green spaces – get the landscaping correct initially to set the scene for everything else.

- ❑ Get as mature trees as possible in as soon as possible to get them established – emphasis on native species (lots of willow).
- ❑ Playground (close to the entrance to allow work to be carried on further down).
- ❑ Bias the immediate facility developments towards the children and young people of Newry.
- ❑ Rather see the whole thing done right than rush through any part of it.
- ❑ Get the paths and connections right.
- ❑ Do a section (eg northern end) first and well to give people a sense of what will come – try to avoid it feeling like there are “separate zones” ... integrate different parts together.
- ❑ Model play area on Slieve Guillion – wooden structures and ropes etc as opposed to stainless steel and plastic.
- ❑ Get the whole thing landscaped initially and the paths in – show commitment to the full site.
- ❑ Masterplan so that people can hold council to account.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ❑ Waterway should remain open – that is our heritage, any footbridge should facilitate access by boat traffic.
- ❑ Connect towpath to Greenway.
- ❑ Smaller pathways which don’t overwhelm the site (reasonably scaled).
- ❑ Tree cover along both sides of the paths.
- ❑ No cars at all – use bikes and buggies.
- ❑ Only parking on the site should be for your bike and your bum (provide secure bike parking).
- ❑ Don’t have separate zones which are fenced off from each other.
- ❑ Sitting is an underappreciated art of what makes a park good (moveable seats).
- ❑ Don’t cram everything in – let it be a green space with the basics done right.
- ❑ The best parks in the world don’t try to be anything more than a green or wooded area – people will make use of the spaces whatever way they see fit.

25 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop **Wednesday 24 June 2020** **2.30pm – 4.00pm**
Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Iconic
- ☐ Fun
- ☐ Memorable
- ☐ Unique – it has so many assets: access to water and land, cross border link
- ☐ A go to spot for yachtsmen – sailing onto a city is unique
- ☐ Ours – everybody of all generations and walks of life has input into it
- ☐ Special
- ☐ Pride/Proud of it
- ☐ Legacy

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Access from the South – by cycle and by boat.
- ☐ Outdoor concert / amphitheatre.
- ☐ Connect the park with the other recreation assets in the city.
- ☐ No parking – retain its greenway nature.
- ☐ The boundary of the park is more than the 15 acres of land – need the water element to be intrinsic.
- ☐ Maritime / water aspect – maritime heritage to be built into the park.
- ☐ The history is important to people – capitalise on the maritime heritage of the area.
- ☐ Watersports – currachs – wakeboarding.
- ☐ Multi generational – appeal to variety of interests.

- ☐ Not too much permanent infrastructure on land or water which would inhibit wider use of the space.
- ☐ A lot of green space – kids want space to run and be with friends.
- ☐ Space to be – safe for children and families.
- ☐ A space of water for kids to play in (splash pond).
- ☐ No parking – there is ample nearby already.
- ☐ “Green lung” – air pollution in Newry is worst in NI.
- ☐ Extend the cycle lane through the carpark towards the bus station and to the Towpath.
- ☐ Things that we don’t expect – utilise the water and canal.
- ☐ There’s nowhere for kids to ride their bike or fly a kite.
- ☐ Able to access on foot – if this is a park for Newry people c15000 would be able to walk there in 20minutes.
- ☐ Skateboard park – entertaining and free (skateboarders are currently in the town centre).
- ☐ Does a skatepark have to be made of concrete? Are there other ways to create it?
- ☐ Grass / solitude.
- ☐ Greenway from Victoria lock.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

- ☐ Accessibility of the site is key – there used to be a railway track from the Warrenpoint Road with a bridge.
- ☐ Need to look at the whole of the site.
- ☐ Acknowledge need for phasing.
- ☐ Get the blueprint laid out – what’s in it can come – line it out.
- ☐ Start to grass it and lay it out so that it begins to feel like a park.
- ☐ Start planting trees and things that don’t need infrastructure.
- ☐ Need confidence that it is being delivered – people need to see something in front of them to buy into it.
- ☐ As much green space as possible – there needs to be a finite timeframe.
- ☐ There should be a project manager in place to drive it forward.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ☐ Council should show enthusiasm and commitment for the park – it needs leadership from Marie Ward as head of the Council to embolden staff.
- ☐ A park champion – someone from council who will lead and drive and be seen to do so.
- ☐ People just want to see it happen.
- ☐ Report progress of development to the public on an ongoing basis.
- ☐ A legacy park for Newry.
- ☐ Potential business spin offs.
- ☐ Fee income from visitors to marina/slipways.
- ☐ Warrenpoint road access – link to ramparts.
- ☐ Master Plan the entire site and put a timeline to delivery.
- ☐ Despondent that other places have parks but not Newry.
- ☐ Thanks for listening to us – it’s good to be engaged.

24 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop **Wednesday 24 June 2020** **7.00pm – 8.05pm**
Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Social
- ☐ Active
- ☐ Green
- ☐ Safe
- ☐ Accessible
- ☐ People
- ☐ Nature
- ☐ Secure
- ☐ Quiet corners

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Social spot for teenagers such as a skatepark.
- ☐ Event space – simple flexible space e.g. a small amphitheatre or bandstand, well integrated into the park (150 seater which can be for various events).
- ☐ Cafes such as small businesses – terraces and outdoor spaces or canal boats for cafes or restaurants.
- ☐ Play areas – cater to a number of age groups side by side.
- ☐ Nature – quiet green spaces.
- ☐ Sports – including niche sports.
- ☐ Area for dogs – fenced off area where dogs can be let off the lead (Important to have signage re dog fouling).

- ☐ Cycle routes – make it easy to get around.
- ☐ Incorporate the water into the park.
- ☐ Somewhere where wildlife and nature can flourish.
- ☐ An event space which is integrated but doesn't dominate.
- ☐ Newry already has a market area but something to facilitate small businesses.
- ☐ If permanent building was to be in place then have a space above which can be used for events etc such as activities for children.
- ☐ Incorporate boats as part of the commercial element.
- ☐ Features which are easy on the eye in the green spaces.
- ☐ Waste and bin points.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

- ☐ Green space first – that's the foundation of it all.
- ☐ Without the initial green space and natural element being there – pond wildflower meadow and trees – the rest can't follow.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ☐ Facilitate sports – ranging from the routine to niche sports.
- ☐ Ability to get away from the city.
- ☐ Integrated entertainment/social element **and** the ability to "get lost".
- ☐ Take the different aspects of parks in Dublin – nature, seclusion, social.
- ☐ Accessibility – via cycle and public transport.
- ☐ People- event space for all ages.
- ☐ Connection with the yew tree.
- ☐ No parking – there is a car park on the other side of the road – facilitate access from there
- ☐ Newry is a city made for cars so no further car parks
- ☐ 95% people don't need the parking spaces – they do need the green space
- ☐ Integrated project masterplan which shows what is coming from the get go – illustrate that it's incremental and a journey/process
- ☐ Sense of ownership by the people of Newry is crucial
- ☐ Other parks are integrated into the city and overlooked – albert basin isn't therefore risk that it might not be safe at night, however don't want the gates to be closed
- ☐ Tiny details can change how inviting spaces can be
- ☐ Important that any features are "traditional" and blend with the local space rather than modern which will date or weather badly

24 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Tuesday 30 June 2020 **2.30pm – 3.45 pm**
Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

TM welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Green – that's what we're missing.
- ☐ No cars – too much space already given to cars.
- ☐ Oasis
- ☐ Unique – should represent Newry and its history and beautiful position. Capitalise on what we have that others don't have (in particular the water and the land).
- ☐ Destination – a park that people want to come to and see (as opposed to a gateway to other places).
- ☐ Community – where all members of the community want to go and mix and recharge their batteries.
- ☐ Inclusive – all abilities, facilities for those with disabilities as more than an add on (Disability Action); open and safe for people with visual impairment.
- ☐ Safe
- ☐ Green – create a woodland area in the city.

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

TM asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Woodland
- ☐ Take advantage of the waterways – canoe fishing, canoeing and swimming.
- ☐ Leave the ship canal open for tall ships – help maintain maritime heritage.
- ☐ Ireland's longest zipline (William street to greenway) – income generating.
- ☐ Putting an emphasis on the maritime heritage makes no sense of the ships can't come up.
- ☐ Look at this project in reference to the southern relief road.

- ❑ Destination – guides don't refer to Newry other than as a gateway to Mourne or Gullion.
- ❑ Make the most of the water – watersports facility, outdoor swimming, kayaking etc.
- ❑ Concert / event space – something that you don't need to collapse or build all the time.
- ❑ Natural setting – kingfishers otters etc ... include and interpretative / educational centre.
- ❑ Part of why we are unique is the water... also only 5km to Victoria lock...rowing boats.
- ❑ Perfect venue for open air concerts ... could have seating on the quay side.
- ❑ Use the water – open air swimming pool in the summertime.
- ❑ Provide the opportunities to fish and to row.
- ❑ Event space – stage/bandstand where local groups can put something on spontaneously... scope for it to be pop up.
- ❑ Combine theatre/stage with a green area.. flexible seating which can be put away.
- ❑ Look at river park in Banbridge and the tiered event space.
- ❑ Idea of pavilions is good – provides "light" infrastructure.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

- ❑ Most important thing is to bring life to the area – canoe and pedalo rentals for example. Develop the idea of using the area.
- ❑ Interim uses that don't cost much but get the idea of a park up and running.
- ❑ Pathways and green spaces... places which cater to health and wellbeing eg via park runs, spaces for children and families.
- ❑ Health and wellbeing should come first – paths and grass – try and use the whole 15 acres from the get go and then do the next stages.
- ❑ Plan it out so that it can be used as soon as possible not wait until the whole thing is finished.
- ❑ Get activities up and running at the same time as the physical development.
- ❑ City woodland: woodland trust and tree council of Ireland - would be keen to work together on this; possible to sponsor a tree.
- ❑ Get events and access up and running so that people become more aware of the site and are able to use it ... make the most of / amplify the things that are already there such as the wildlife.
- ❑ Don't wait until everything is finished before opening it.
- ❑ Idea of the leisure aspect – running track for example that can be used in the interim. Have a part that is always accessible.

Other Considerations/Comments

- ❑ The town is growing and the climate is getting warmer so we should take advantage of this.
- ❑ Combine facilities so that they make the best use of the space that is available.
- ❑ Accessible on foot – avoid having to drive to somewhere.
- ❑ Ensure that any building doesn't dominate or break the park into 2 parts.
- ❑ Newry has a limited and compact city centre.
- ❑ Car parking – it's a destination park to bring people to Newry and is an added reason to come to Newry. The park should benefit businesses in the town. Park in the town centre and use the retail and hospitality in the city. The park is an investment in the assets of the town. Park shouldn't be considered in isolation from the development of the rest of the town. As the town grows assets like the basin will become more and more valuable.
- ❑ The park is an opportunity for Newry to shift its emphasis away from retail and related parking – change the direction which looks at more sustainable things such as why people come to

the town and how they use the space; need to change minds and perceptions... show the potential of a great facility in the city centre.

- ❑ c/f Newry in the rough guide....” bustling market town but...” Make Newry somewhere that is attractive to spend time in. Newry needs to establish itself with a personality that is worth coming to see.
- ❑ Newry has a lot of potential which is just lost at the minute – park as a catalyst.
- ❑ If the park is there, people with different interests will get behind development of different elements Need the leadership and to get it started.

30 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Record of Online Public Consultation/Workshop

Date of Workshop Tuesday 30 June 2020 **7.00pm – 8.00pm**

Facilitators Alison Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy (AK)
Tony Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy (TM)

Attendance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REDACTED PERSONAL DATA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction

AK welcomed people and explained the workshop's purpose, highlighting these workshops, the online survey, a schools design project and interviews with key stakeholders.

What is a City Park/Discussion 1: Describe your ideal City Park

Participants were asked to think of describing words:-

- ☐ Green – is the most important thing
- ☐ Tranquil
- ☐ Indigenous species of plants
- ☐ Green is really important
- ☐ Diverse – different areas, wooded, children's park, running routes, cycling tracks
- ☐ At one with the water – nature, water, mountains and greenery
- ☐ Peaceful
- ☐ Water and scenery
- ☐ Inclusive for everybody – park users of various needs and interests

Discussion 2: What should the key features be?

AK asked participants to think of physical features that would make up the City Park:-

- ☐ Children's play area.
- ☐ Make sure that the park enhances and blends with the scenery – limit the use of concrete, no cars.
- ☐ Really good walking routes – important for people of all ages to be able to walk eg with pram, if older.
- ☐ Provision to cycle – link with the greenway.
- ☐ No parking – except for possibly disabled spaces.
- ☐ No buildings – possibly a small kiosk (not a proper café).
- ☐ Marina inc berthing for 2 tall ships.
- ☐ Wooded and flat areas.

- ❑ No need for a pond given the water on either side.
- ❑ Too small a space for anything other than greenery.
- ❑ Very unique location – work with what is there already, marina is really special, landscaping, minimum infrastructure.
- ❑ Nature trail for children – opportunity to learn about different species of plants and trees; heritage of Newry and Irish trees.
- ❑ Should work for tourism – concern about antisocial behaviour out of hours – campervans and berthing overnight can act as a deterrent.
- ❑ Good area for dog walking – would be nice if there could be a space where the dog could be let off the lead.
- ❑ Safety for lone walkers – app or buzzer.

Discussion 3: What level of priority for each feature?

- ❑ First priority should be to tidy it up – most of the entrance area is concrete, some temporary planting.
- ❑ Nothing should impose on the use of the water in the Albert Basin for boats of all sorts of types.
- ❑ A clear comprehensive plan – commitment by council to 15 acre park and in timeframe, what it includes and how its delivery will be phased. If people know what has been committed to and what to expect it brings everybody along with the plan.
- ❑ View it separately and distinctly – the park shouldn't be dependent on any other developments in the city, park plan should be stand alone.
- ❑ Nothing which takes away from the marina or boats coming into the marina.

Other Considerations/Comments

- Safety by the water, particularly for children/families.
- The ambience of the area is greatly improved by yachts – would like to see 2 tall ships berths. If there is a fixed bridge as part of the southern relief road this will affect access by yachts.
- No railings on the other side of the river.
- Do things as sympathetically as possible – limit the interference with the environment as possible.
- Get the trails right for walkers, cyclists and a park run.
- Incorporate art into the park e.g. community art.
- would like to concur about safety, and the out of hours/seasons use of park – important that it is kept safe as a public space.

30 June 2020

Otium Leisure Consultancy

APPENDIX 4

Open Comments

Is there anything missing from this list which you think should be included in the development?

Open-Ended Response

▪ No
▪ Cycling path, coffee shop
▪ Small indoor centre, information stands
▪ Make sure there are plenty of bins available, including recycling bins
▪ The construction of replicas of some of the ancient cairns, burial chambers or dolmens from our Neolithic past, would be both educational and encourage interaction.
▪ Everything is covered
▪ No
▪ A coffee stand (from a local company!) also a chip van (local company again)
▪ Skate park, somewhere to showcase local talent (Irish dancers)
▪ No
▪ Sculptures, viewing platform to appreciate the scenery (eg a big wheel or Kew treetop walkway)
▪ When will it happen
▪ Park Wi-Fi, noticeboard for activities, join clubs, Playground for kids
▪ Lighting, CCTV, lots of bins, features for dog owners
▪ autism/dementia friendly areas. Some small open farm for visitors old and young
▪ Plenty of flat grassy areas, free parking, sheltered areas for sudden rain
▪ Public toilets
▪ No
▪ Bridge to home avenue and bridge to Drumalane
▪ No
▪ Somewhere to relax and spend time with family. Oasis in the town
▪ There should be a walking path for people who want to walk. Also an adequate car park.
▪ Sensory area
▪ Coffee shop with toilet
▪ Accessibility for disabled users
▪ No
▪ Availability for refreshments eg coffee, ice creams, sandwiches etc, a number of toilet facilities strategically placed, water fountains, numerous litter bins. Contact person on site for information, signage and emergencies.
▪ Lots of bins for rubbish
▪ Wide open green space for picnics/ frisbees
▪ Climbing wall, fitness circuit
▪ Barbecue facilities, picnic tables/seating/benches, lighting, keep park car free
▪ Good seating
▪ Ample car parking Cafe facilities Toilet facilities
▪ No
▪ No
▪ Some kind of 'security' measures like gates/fencing to protect the area from vandalism.
▪ I think a lot of the old Newry, buildings walls gates history etc have been lost and replaced with quickly aging "new stuff" this is an opportunity to get some traditional features back to city centre
▪ Splash pad for children. Stone circle and Celtic crosses, linking to Newry's ancient past.
▪ Inclusion of art installations in city parks has been increasingly popular in city parks.

▪ Lighting so that everyone feels safe and security will be important
▪ Safety measures
▪ Picnic tables, dog parks and an iconic lifting bridge
▪ Nautical theme
▪ Keep the park car free Plenty of lighting for night Dog bins and litter bins throughout Segway hire
▪ Yes community involvement - a need to have a natural place for people to meet. We don't need a civic centre to rattle mayor chains, arts centre, town hall all somewhere else. Safe
▪ Picnic tables and central building for cafe or similar
▪ toilet/changing facilities
▪ All's covered
▪ Public art, seating areas
▪ A parking area for motorhome overnight parking exercise
▪ The Park should be accessible and engaging to all so there should be an attempt to make paths accessible and sculptures, installations, activity zones more sensory and accessible to deaf and blind people. It should be pet friendly and maybe even have a dog Park as it would attract visitors from outside the district and help generate spend in the town. Definitely a café Kiosk in the Park with late opening hours to encourage staying more time in the park and make it a sociable space for Young people, as there's so little for them to do in the town.
▪ Please do NOT have a carpark, we don't need another one
▪ An iconic lifting bridge, linking the park to the Quays and Drumalane/Fathom •A pedestrian bridge to Kilmorey Street/Warrenpoint Road (re-using old railway bridge infrastructure) •Keep the park car-free - we already have over 40 acres of car parking space in Newry! •A single building to house a cafe/heritage centre/natural environment centre/changing facilities, etc •Iconic public art - monuments/statues celebrating our unique heritage •Lighting to make it safer and more accessible at night •Picnic tables/seating/benches •Barbecue facilities •Dog park - a tennis court-sized enclosed space for dogs to roam free. These are increasingly popular worldwide
▪ Plenty of seating and picnic tables.
▪ Maritime heritage centre
▪ Parking/secure bike area
▪ Yeah why the hell are you all still even thinking about it. Get it done now!
▪ Opera house style building on the waterfront for arts/concerts with small cafes etc outside facing
▪ Lots of seating for senior citizens
▪ Area for infants/small children, area for young adults free from alcohol and drugs
▪ History of area or significant monument
▪ Bridges,
▪ Adequate free parking
▪ Opening foot bridges connecting Warrenpoint Road and Drumalane
▪ Plants - A botanical garden or some sort of unusual landscaped area would be good
▪ The park should work for the people of Newry as well as enhance tourism to the area. Carlingford successfully incorporates a motorhome Aire/ parking space in conjunction with the marina. Newry is well placed to mirror such existing activity at the Albert Basin.
▪ N/a
▪ Keeping the habitat for nature is important in the park, a wildlife area to preserve and increase the native species of flora and fauna with a small botanic garden greenhouse and pond would be an attractive feature along side an area for a community garden allotment because there are many now living in apartments without access to a garden who would appreciate it.
▪ Small food outlets for patrons to get a snack or coffee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This should be a green space for people to escape to with family activities first and foremost. Adventure and entertainment should be a lower priority.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A social space/café
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park should be accessible from all sides using pedestrian bridges. While making it accessible we do not need to detract from it being a green lung for the city, therefore it should be a vehicle free area. There is ample parking all round the city. There should also be a lifting bridge so as not to cut off the basin which is a huge asset to attract beautiful sailing boats to the marina. It should also be a place to visit in every season and in the evening, eg the Halloween event in Newry market has been a huge success in the past few years. Thinking about how early it becomes dark in winter months good lighting design is vital, we could be hosting our very own festival of light. Although we want as much free open space as possible there could be special zoned areas, for example areas for pets to be allowed to run free
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenty of green space and not cement. peaceful environment , no cars other than delivery for goods and services allowed or parked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cafe with display area of local history, educational tours,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play areas for children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ seating areas ... meeting spaces for older people - use of mythology and legend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic area with BBQ facilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenty of bins (recycling bins and dog bins) Plenty of seating, benches, picnic tables and individual seats for people who want to be socially distanced. Well stocked hand sanitizer stations. One-way system perhaps due to COVID 19. Signage that says, walk in left etc... Some nice features eg globe in Newcastle, metal features you see on roundabouts are quite welcoming and memorable.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integration of the park with both the Ship Canal, River, and Greenway in a way that reflects Newry's maritime history.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walls that have positive mental health messages, signage giving info on biodiversity and history of the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play area for young children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A huge iconic peace sculpture should be at top of middle bank. Don't impede tall ships by having fixed relief road bridge over ship canal. Put plans in place to reopen town centre canal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor Basketball court
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timeframe! Now not next year or in few years ! Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toilets, coffee dock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pieces of functional art, eg single unusual Seats with a handrail leading to the next one ,this is to facilitate elderly ,frail, disabled , people to walk unaided thanks to the handrail .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball court please and thank you
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proper security/access so no youngsters with alcohol/ drugs running around
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access from Warrenpoint road direction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parking needs to be considered though it would be great if this could be done in a way that left the vast majority of the area completely free of cars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bike parking across site, linking network of walking, cycling and mobility scooter routes for all to use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A small store with healthy options for food and drink
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nope

▪ No cars allowed at all except for disabled. A small Kiosk not a large cafe. Barbecue and picnic facilities.
▪ Parking?
▪ Cafes Associated related retail
▪ History and photographs/murals. A timeline. Storyboard and picture lines.
▪ Packing for disabled only but safe connection to city car parks for others.
▪ Storage containers for watersports
▪ Nope
▪ Lots of seating areas
▪ It could be interesting to incorporate a visitors centre or park pavilion, with a waterside café/bar. A space dedicated to showcasing and teaching about the wildlife that lives along the canal would be a good initiative, that could be combined with birdwatching hides and routes for nature walks. A place for boats to dock and for watersports is essential to capitalise on the position of the park on the water.
▪ A café or tea stand, seating for elderly, disabled or pregnant women
▪ Static and moveable benching and tables. Space for street food vendors; coffee; ice cream; hot food etc.
▪ Residential, commercial. This area needs people to be invested so it does not become an area for drinking, drug taking, etc.
▪ Features/space for dogs. A dog friendly area that could include taps/water bowls/plenty of bins for poo bags. Seating - so people can enjoy the space for longer Lighting - so it can be enjoyed all year round
▪ Make it attractive to the eye... modern yet traditional
▪ Catering
▪ Takeaway coffee bars and benches for families to sit
▪ Somewhere for outdoor events in it , like stage area etc for events
▪ Regular monitoring to ensure that the wildlife is protected. Some low-level community policing (similar to the Botanic Gardens in Belfast) to ensure the area is not abused and to keep litter levels down.
▪ The rest of the city centre canal.
▪ Learning opportunities/ sensory trail
▪ Basketball court
▪ Free from litter and crime such as dumped supermarket trolleys and vandalism.
▪ Housing
▪ A walkway around the entire perimeter, one or two small cafes or restaurants beside the water
▪ Cafe like Kilbroney and toilets.
▪ No
▪ Would like to see more yachts and tall ships invited to the Albert basin and movable pedestrian bridge to the quays shopping centre
▪ An open space for live performances. Skate park. Cycle hire.
▪ Seating, picnic benches, coffee shop, gift shop featuring local crafts
▪ Areas of information to display local history related to Albert basin and the maritime history associated with it, sculptures and artwork displaying this.
▪ The park should link to the greenway which should link through to the towpath. With coffee shops and/restaurant, it would give people the opportunity to walk/run/cycle from as far as Carlingford/Portadown. There should also be clear routes of access from the city centre to encourage people to spend more time in the area.
▪ Artefacts which depict the history of the site and local area.
▪ Dredging of the canal.
▪ Cycling access to greenway. Boat and yacht access.

▪ Bins for dog poo separate from refuse bins
▪ Boathouse, changing facilities and toilets all exclusive to rowing
▪ A fenced off area for dogs I have a phobia of dogs and can't avail any local open spaces or parks because dog owners won't keep their dogs on leads or under control. A dog park would be a fair solution
▪ Club house, changing facilities for water-based sports
▪ No car park
▪ An area that is undercover that people can still have a peaceful experience within a city when it is raining
▪ Dog park .
▪ Pedestrian bridge to Warrenpoint rd. Benches.
▪ Consideration should be given to toilets and baby changing facilities along with a lay out that would support various market type events - Christmas markets with an ice rink or events like taste of Dublin in summer.
▪ Commercial
▪ Room for outdoor groups to practise yoga and circle sports, an environment which stimulates interest and learning and creative interaction with the environment.
▪ Café or eateries
▪ Sensory garden for autism
▪ A link to the greenway
▪ Ease of access and resting areas for elderly and disabled
▪ In wintertime area for ice skating
▪ Safety measures and oak trees
▪ Use the water area adjacent - kayaking / wake boarding / SUPing etc
▪ Area for kids with special needs. Area for food shops
▪ Open green area for people to lie around Plenty of trees and wildflowers for bees, birds Information on local bees, birds in the information centre Green way for cycling and walking Play area for children
▪ Covered areas to sit when raining
▪ Kids play park
▪ Floating piers for fishing or water sport activities
▪ Walking paths and Ample seating. Bins throughout and bags for pooper scoops available
▪ Coffee kiosk, food vendors, smoke free park with a designated smoking area
▪ Running track
▪ Keep it natural please, no tack eg, No fibreglass sculptures like Kilbroney Parks ice castle on the Narnia trail.
▪ Lots of outdoor space that had a roof
▪ Cycle lanes
▪ Space for food stalls.
▪ Toilet facilities , bike lock ups
▪ Armagh has a central area people walk around play cricket in, but Newry can offer more. Our children sometimes have no gardens or in some sad cases they will of the parent to teach them beyond the garden. I'd like to think this park would open a child's mind to nature a haven that removes them from their current reality to what might inspire them for the future.
▪ No car parks or hotels. No apartments
▪ Pedestrian access across the water from both the quays and the Warrenpoint side. Must be no cars.
▪ Bicycle trails
▪ Please separate the cycle routes from the walking ones.
▪ Coffee stand or shack for drinks. Toilet block

▪ Museum to appreciate the history of the area
▪ Lockable gates so people aren't able to destroy the area and ruin it for everyone else! Plenty of parking with decent sized spaces for disabled, prams etc. Picnics benches, toilets,
▪ Ensuring park is accessible to all ages and abilities, green areas for relaxing, adequate facilities, parking area for bikes, car parking space BUT encouragement to leave car at home.
▪ Maritime museum
▪ No , using natural assets best way forward
▪ Toilet facilities
▪ A cafe or restaurant, play area for children, areas for relaxation, maybe a maze or trail
▪ Local artist exhibitions
▪ Tree canopy ziplines
▪ Food trucks with a variety of cultural options, plenty of seating and bins etc
▪ No
▪ N/A
▪ Quiet areas
▪ This is a great opportunity for Newry to prove to the world how forward thinking we are for our people, please don't let it be the same as everything else in Newry created to below par standards and only certain people being catered for. Live music would be great thing for music festivals.
▪ No parking, no housing. Just give the city the park the people & city deserve
▪ Parking
▪ I lost my son in an RTC and have become involved in road safety and support. I have proposed a small section be set aside for a memorial garden. If at all possible
▪ Information centre for local wildlife, space for outdoor concert
▪ The need for a bridge that lifts or swings open enabling tall ships to visit at the quays. No point developing one side of Albert Basin and restricting access to a valuable tourist and beautiful picturesque asset for the city centre.
▪ Sculptures ... develop the marina. Allow tall ships. Local Maritime history Museum/display old ships tall ships to Board and possibly even eat on?
▪ Full access for tall ships.
▪ Availability for bars/restaurants/coffee carts. Outdoor eating areas. Will the park be closed off at 5pm with no one able to access?
▪ A zero waste Policy applied, no single use plastic vendors used for events, proper recycling and composting bins,
▪ Skate park
▪ Sports area
▪ A small cafe or some drink stands, local businesses should be given the first opportunity to invest.
▪ Toilets, changing facilities
▪ Environmental services such as regular multi-compartment recycling bins, bins for pet waste, solar power in any buildings
▪ I don't think so
▪ Paddling pool and sand station for kids
▪ Small independent local café, food outlets. Outdoor market
▪ Bicycle training area for children.
▪ It would be a great shame to see this opportunity go to waste on more parking or office buildings, something to be proud of for its beauty and facilities.
▪ Sports facilities - pitches, basketball, tennis, bike trail, running trail
▪ Sport events need help. Basic set-up cost reduced by permanent infrastructure
▪ Outdoor table tennis table

▪ Lighting is incredibly important for people to feel safe in a park. Beautiful, not overbearing and not a feature-in-itself lightning is important (in the same vain as old gas street lamps)
▪ Car park free, picnic tables and iconic lifting bridge
▪ BUILD A SKATEPARK FINALLY!!!
▪ Café or two
▪ Art. Having modern art or graffiti and murals to Newry and history would be a beautiful feature to the park. Further consultation with community group and local artists/organisations would be needed for this.
▪ Common sense
▪ Heritage centre, large skatepark
▪ No
▪ Restaurants and nightlife. I'm not talking about discos or late bars. I'm talking about beautifully presented restaurants that are not cafes! So in the evening you could walk through the park on your way to the restaurant. Have like fairy lights gently swaying through the tree lined pavements, go have a lovely dinner with some red wine and then walking back through our gorgeous park again.
▪ Utilizing the canal
▪ In Europe people want to use their city parks because they offer an oasis from the hustle and bustle. People lie on the grass, sit on steps and enjoy the space. Newry City park should seek to offer a similar feeling, one that is welcoming, safe and clean. People come to have lunch, a coffee or read a book in the sun. It should also be locked at night from vandals.
▪ Skate park
▪ Cafe / restaurant
▪ No
▪ Marina Bridge link to shopping centre
▪ Showers for rowers and swimmers
▪ Would be great to see more use for Newry canal. Rowing and other water sports
▪ Separate parking area for canal users and parking for play park users. Seating and picnic tables with view of play park or canal
▪ Boat yard
▪ Rowing
▪ Picnic areas
▪ Lots of seated areas spread throughout the whole park for both meeting people & quiet sitting alone time
▪ Quiet place, seats, nice trails round park, water sports boats,
▪ A single small cafe, which could display local artwork.
▪ Some references to the past history of the area - docks / ships etc
▪ Outdoor yoga, cafe/ restaurant, pony rides
▪ Running tracks, cycle tracks. Focused programmes for elderly.
▪ car parking, services, cafes, income generating income.
▪ Benches and sitting areas for elderly and families
▪ Art or sculptures which could be commissioned by local community.
▪ Coffee shacks. Picnic areas. Play park
▪ A simple building in which choirs and other groups could use for rehearsal and recording purposes.
▪ No
▪ Public art / sculptures
▪ Outdoor gym & sandy beach & skatepark
▪ Cafe, ice-cream shop, water sports, bike hire, as u would find across the world
▪ Toilets. Space for street sellers.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractive seating maybe made from reconditioned oak trees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has to be an appreciation of the NI weather and ensuring that the park can be enjoyed in inclement circumstances. I am not suggesting it be indoor but it does need to have lots of cover and lots of inside spaces too.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points of interest/info boards in relation to the history of the Albert basin and surrounding parts of Newry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What list ??
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't believe the site should be exclusively reserved for a park - needs a mixed use approach to ensure a safe park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Above should be integrated with commercial space to ensure longer term viability. Spaces to work and play in one area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates that can be closed at a time each evening to prevent bad behaviour overnight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive play equipment for children & toilets. Accessible change area including baby changers in men's toilets. Electric chargers for e-bikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of seating areas, identifying there is water beside it and what ways would there be protection for children, ie, it needs good fencing. Perhaps phases, simplest 1st and local people to design the greenery and planting . services that might be included in the park, bike rental for example, coffee take away points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Something ecological and perhaps some kind of environment activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrance statement. Car-free pedestrian environment but inclusive in terms of paths. Accessible from Kilmorey St via a new bridge. Multi-functional building with toilets including 'Changing Places' toilet, cafe, room for hire for workshops, child activities. Building to be of a sustainable eco-design, single storey, green roof, reusing non-potable water for flushing toilets, bespoke seating, dog zone, play zones to be dog-free. Public art installations (not the Big TV screen!) Eco and nature events for children, forest-type teaching area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ample parking spaces and toilets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic areas cafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We don't want parking. Newry has enough parking. No more than one or two small shops for refreshment only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike paths, good walking/running routes, café, incorporate rowing club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A display showing the history of the canal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No housing, minimal buildings and mobile shops/barges/stalls only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor pet friendly cafe area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nice cafe with outdoor seating(covered)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenty of proper recycling points, solar wind energy where possible, making park structures out of reclaimed materials from locals area of industry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure it is designed with safety in mind for the older generation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A park 4 all
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An iconic lifting bridge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling plastic bottle machines where the public get paid for disposing of their bottles appropriately
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moveable bridge for Southern relief road
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well it should be all about families. Our city is starved of an area where a family can just pack a picnic, play and relax
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of different walking trails, bicycle lanes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat trips up the canal 😊 Take plenty of before and after photographs and put them in the new coffee shop/ resting area 😊 😊
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

▪ Appropriate measures to prevent public drinking and intimidation within the park
▪ A dedicated and state of the art children's play park would be ideal! However, there is a vermin problem around this area that needs tackled
▪ Look at what coronavirus has done to society. People want to be able to get outside and do long undisturbed walks and runs.
▪ Camouflaged kiosk spaces (chateau de Versailles style) maximised natural area with grass, trees, children's park, teen park, something to encourage ownership from the community and inspire pride not to deface and destroy it.
▪ Small museum to inform visitors of the history of the ship canal and Albert basin as its part of our local heritage, Guided maps dotted along with information and the paths along the greenway, Botanical Greenhouse
▪ Seating areas and picnic tables
▪ Skatepark, tucked away from the main area, seating and shelter, picnic area, rollerblades area, cycle lane, full disability access
▪ pond with fish, ducks and swans
▪ A bicycle ice cream vender in the summer
▪ Prioritised over new council building which we don't need
▪ Plenty of seating picnic areas etc for family enjoyment
▪ Facilities for activities to take place such as a communal clubhouse with bathrooms changing facilities lockers and food.
▪ No
▪ Quiet areas dotted a long the way for peaceful meditation.
▪ Anything that enhances the quality of the activities that already take place in the park (e.g. rowing or fishing)
▪ Cafe
▪ Lots planners And the elected councillors need to start using their imagination and do what is best for Newry rather than waste the natural area we have other towns in Ireland can do this it is about Newry put itself on the map and gave Newry people something to be proud of.
▪ Walk
▪ Park, gym equipment, outdoor water sports facilities, outdoor cinema, constant monitoring and cleaning
▪ Disability access, sensory garden area
▪ Cycle parking. Cycle lanes to get there, limited access to cars
▪ Tea rooms or cafe
▪ Bike parking
▪ Public toilets
▪ Pedestrian only. No parking onsite apart from staff/limited access. Bridges.
▪ Less is more
▪ Area should be all inclusive, separated where u can meander through to the children's play area, sports area, natural walk area which provides a very peaceful area for relaxation
▪ Yes, there needs to be bins and the potential for massive fines for the inconsiderate idiots who trash it with their kids
▪ A water fountain
▪ Bridge over Newry River to connect to Greenbank Trail/The Rampart. Rising bridge to connect to Drumalane while allowing access for boats. Limited number of buildings (boathouse for rowing, café). Maximum green space. Park benches. Bicycle racks. No car parking to encourage active travel (walking/cycling etc).
▪ Recycling signs
▪ Boathouses
▪ Equipment, storage and facilities for the Newry rowing club and public toilets

▪ Rowing club pontoon and shed storage
▪ No :)
▪ Boat house, changing facilities, hand washing stations
▪ Contributions to local sports
▪ No
▪ Environmental educational features....attractive recycling bins...boards about wildlife
▪ Several sitting areas like benches for people to sit and eat and talk, and sheltered areas in the events of rain. And all places near water are to be properly and securely sealed off for safety.
▪ A city park would be amazing for walkers, runners, and people on bicycles all these to their needs also a place for kids to play off all ages and for people to walk freely
▪ The park needs to be interconnected within the existing urban context. Currently there is only one access point to the park from Bridges. This increases the park's walking distance substantially for citizens from South Newry (Drumalane) and Northern Newry. Pedestrian footbridges (one reusing the old railway bridge from the Warrenpoint Road) and another openable canal bridge from the Quay's side) need to be invested in early as this will multiple the success of the project. Also the new southern relief bypass road for Newry City needs to include an openable section so that the tall ships can eventually dock in the Albert Basin. Everything is connected to everything else and the Albert Basin Park project requires the council to reassess other strategic decisions they are making to make sure they align to a shared vision.
▪ Promotion of water sports and facilities for them including changing areas
▪ Bins for rubbish and dog poo
▪ Mooring points for boats. Cafe facilities. Toilet facilities.
▪ Skatepark
▪ Closed off dog park could be beneficial so dog owners can allow their dogs off the lead without bothering people who are afraid of or do not like dogs.
▪ 5K , 10 K markers, and outdoor gym Get the park started before we are too old to enjoy it.
▪ N/A
▪ That the bridge on the proposed southern relief road must be an opening bridge to allow access for yachts. Without larger boats the ship canal becomes pointless.
▪ No
▪ Foliage, encouraged planting, pathway through the area for walking
▪ A café - small shop - ice cream parlour
▪ Café
▪
▪ No.
▪ Play area for the small kids gated like Kilbroney park
▪ Our park should be a relaxing green space with something to do for all ages - walks, play and sitting spaces to just take in the scenery. Could have more than one play area spaced throughout the park with different themes and types of play. Could anyone be hired on busy periods to initiate group games with any kids in the park. Toilet and changing facilities available. Small dog park or specific area to walk dogs.
▪ Attract the whole community together: young, old
▪ The Albert basin as a dick for boats
▪ Community gardens
▪ The site should embrace carbon neutrality and should be promoted as an example of sustainable excellence. I would like to see the park utilise renewable energy wherever possible, integrate sustainable urban drainage, promote ecological bio-diversity and encourage active transport through enhanced pedestrian and cycle links.
▪ Well lit, safe, staffed, car park, no winos or gangs of youths, no drug taking, no litter.
▪ A place for old and young to hang out on good days. Plenty of bin facilities

▪ None
▪ Separate areas for events while still keeping main area open to public
▪ Sip wire. Mountain climbing.
▪ Skate park
▪ Needs to be a place that suits everyone from all age range & disability friendly. Needs to be a peaceful place to go & feel as if u can escape from everyday life. Accessible to all
▪ Cycling/running/walking paths
▪ Dedicated dog play area
▪ Dog park, gated with dogs only
▪ Focus should be on walking, exercising and not car parking. Boats should have access with no fixed bridges blocking the historic routes.
▪ Food outlet on site
▪ Skatepark
▪ I would encourage lots of sensory flowers and plants! Good for the pollinators, relaxing to visitors and visual beautiful
▪ Cafe. Take away only
▪ Dog park, lots of bins, picnic areas, outdoor cinema
▪ Plenty of seating for parents, elderly and equipment for disabled and also something for autistic children.
▪ SKATEBOARDS
▪ Bike stands, toilets, shaded seating areas, picnic tables
▪ No dogs without leads
▪ Sensory areas for those hard of hearing or have limited eyesight, appropriate cafe or food stands
▪ Life size Jenga or connect4. Chess game. Use the canal 4 people 2 hire out large paddle swans like Newcastle. Also water zorbing. People will pay 4 this or hire of canoes. Use the water more 4 games and activities.
▪ Nature area, conservation area, maritime history area
▪ Event base, a ground zero for 10k or cycling competition
▪ Suitable seating areas so that visitors can avoid sitting on obstacles in the skatepark for their own safety and co operation, which should a safe distance from the course.
▪ Maritime theme to reflect the history of this area
▪ Public art . Possible combine public art and play
▪ History boards culture
▪ Acknowledge that this park is next to a waterway
▪ Cafe, small shops, farmers market, monthly night markets, barbeque and picnic areas. Early licence bar,
▪ Kids playpark
▪ Lots of green space, cycle hire,
▪ Water sports?
▪ A dog agility park. A sectioned off and fenced off area specifically designed to let dogs off the leash. With obstacles, water truces. Otherwise dogs are to be on a leash around the rest of the park.
▪ No car parks no offices no houses ! It must be a public park. People before greed . A complete transparent development is needed.
▪ Accessible to all
▪ Ultimately the park is a green shared space and it should not be overdeveloped.
▪ People just want a park, a green area to walk in, admire the views, learn about wildlife. Primary schools could take kids there on nature & history walks. Bring it to life.
▪ Petting farm

▪ Cycling path for triathlon, so triathletes can do open water swimming and then do a cycle route and run. Suitable for all ages.
▪ Recycling options for litter and graffiti art to allow expression.
▪ Car parking needs to be considered - big issue at Slieve Gullion and Kilbroney
▪ Security
▪ No, a park in Newry needs to be for the locals and not over run like Slieve Gullion which now very few local people frequent
▪ I would like to see local not for profit coffee/ cafe (possibly run by our local gateway social enterprises offering employment to people with learning disabilities for example). I believe there should be a central space for community work similar to Rostrevor Cloughmore centre on a larger scale.
▪ A well-designed lifting bridge across the canal would provide essential connectivity to the Quays and Fathom/Drumalane community, as well as acting as a tourist attraction in its own right. There should also be a pedestrian link to the Warrenpoint Road over the old railway stanchions. Iconic public art pieces should be part of the design.
▪ Skatepark
▪ Centre to relax coffee bar or ice cream parlour
▪ Skatepark and biking area
▪ Include Newry urban sports when making decisions in regards to skatepark
▪ Skatepark
▪ Cycle path
▪ Community style Allotments - very important and something the area should have. Could be used by individual residents, groups, schools etc - also a means of income generation
▪ Have a quiet area with benches away from the children's play area. Somewhere tranquil where people can sit a read.
▪ skatepark
▪ Skatepark
▪ Nature walks, paths, a kids mini maze.
▪ cycle hire to encourage sports. A full study into other sports including paddle boarding. A small catering facility would also be great
▪ An enclosed dog park.
▪ Skate park should be built
▪ Outer swimming area/watercourse similar to let's go hydro.
▪ SKATEPARK
▪ Skatepark would be my number one as it brings a group of all ages and genders together doing the same thing regardless of skill etc it's helped Banbridge a lot!
▪ I think we need to connect Kilmory Street with the basin and onto the Quays. think long term on a cycle / Greenway all around our coastline.
▪ A skatepark please
▪ Nice Ground patterns for guiding people into the park & bag lockers for people exercising and need to store away valuables when shopping
▪ Skatepark
▪ A skatepark
▪ Outdoor play physic learning centre https://m.facebook.com/ParkOgrodzieniec/
▪ I feel there would be a strong need for a cafe and shop also. Apart from disabled people, there should be no parking.
▪ Arts and crafts events, painting events
▪ As long as it has a park focused on a healthy lifestyle, I am happy
▪ Links to the quays, links to the greenway, links to the greenbank,
▪ Dog park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Space should be provided for some small scale start-up business units, potentially to be housed within any admin buildings needed for the park - this would provide activity essential for the proper passive policing of the park during the normally more quiet hours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimal car parking to encourage walking and cycling. A boat house with changing and shower facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep it natural as possible, no plastic rubber things
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorhome, campervan parking. electrical hook up and fresh water supply.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No, just follow the recommendations document
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I think there should be an area that kids with autism or special needs can enjoy in the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provisions for people visiting the park who may do so on a bike (e.g. bike racks etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An area set aside for local groups (inc schools and folk wanting to provide free food to vulnerable folk) to grow fruit/veg. I know a group like this exists and has long campaigned for you to give them some land to use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shower facilities for city centre workers to utilise after using the park for morning exercise before work. Lockers for patron use while using the outdoor facilities and/or walkways. An information centre which gives tourist information on Newry's great, yet not well-known history.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Titbits of historical info, a nod to the maritime history of Newry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic or barbecue area. Public w/c
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flowers area around water feature and natural path for walkers, joggers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I would like to see a maritime museum which would tell Newry's history of same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public bathrooms (well maintained)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lifting bridge to look fathom/quays. Car free, public art. Picnic area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs to be fully for the people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gated entrance / exit to stop kids or dogs running out
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open spaces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some commercial or residential development to assist payment and management of the park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park should be designed from beginning to open 24hrs/ 365 days. Park should be extensively marketed as an attraction in its own right, dedicated website regularly updated with events and activities, Designers should refer to Newry 2020's Albert Basin Park concept design video when considering park plans. It needs to be designed with its surroundings in mind, ie, an integrated part of the Albert Basin and Newry Canal and Greenway/ Towpath. A canal navigable by tall ships that can travel all the way to the heart of Newry needs to be kept in operation as it adds a completely unique Newry element to the park from the start.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mental health outreach centre, that can sign post and provide activities and programs to support our community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only install bridges that raise up so that ships can still gain access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenty of parking, toilet facilities, possible place to buy tea, juice etc however not as expensive as those available in other parks such as Kilbroney or Slieve Gullion. Plenty of picnic benches and summer seats and areas to sit with your own picnic. Space to walk dogs with bins available. Possible first aid station for minor cuts, stings etc.

What other thoughts, if any, do you have about the proposals for a city park in the Albert Basin and what should be included in the development?

Open-Ended Response

- It would be a huge asset to the city. I think every citizen would take great pride in it and would enjoy time spent in it.
- A place where peoples can exercise, relax or entertain kids of all ages
- I saw people online discussing the possibility of a skate park for the new Albert Basin park. That would be great, but my concern is that there would be little uptake from girls either due to: 1) lack of interest/no prior knowledge of skateboarding (which could be combatted) or 2) boys dominating the space and making it an intimidating environment for girls to use/play in. The park design should work for everyone, and this is a chance to encourage girls to be more active, rather than just sitting on the sidelines watching the boys. Consider reading Caroline Criado Perez's book "Invisible Women" about how women are often completely left out of design specifications – she talks about urban design in one chapter. Also, here is a link about a case study of trying to design a more girl-friendly park: <http://www.wpsprague.com/research-1/2017/1/6/more-girls-to-parks-case-study-of-einsiedler-park-viennamilota-sidorova> Here's a link to a BBC piece about female-friendly urban design: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-50269778/what-would-a-city-designed-by-women-be-like> Here is a thread on Mumsnet with UK feminists discussing how girls and boys use different park facilities and how to make this more inclusive for girls: https://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/womens_rights/3736592-Play-equipment-is-a-feminist-issue
- The choice of name for the city park should be reflective of the social and economic history of the good people of this Greater Ballybot quarter of Newry city.
- Recreate spaces like Kilbroney, botanic gardens. Playful spaces which has calms areas through the use of plants and water features
- To be inclusive for everyone and kept well maintained and looked after. Also a dog friendly area of the park would be amazing!!
- Skate park, section for dogs and section to showcase musicians and dancers
- Peaceful and quiet place
- Focus must be on sustainability and climate change to make this park fit for the 21st century and beyond
- Please hurry up
- CCTV, Free Wi-Fi, community clean-ups, set up a park committee of local people who care deeply about it to maintain it and campaign for regular funding and upkeep.
- Please consider dog walkers - facilities for them, multiple entrances, paths, and consider non-dog walkers - how to ensure fair sharing of space? 15 acres of woodland would be wonderful. Anything else is a bonus.
- Drama. Education classes etc four seasons nature area.
- Absolutely no housing to be involved.
- Indoor ski area
- Access is important so the bridges need to be installed to home avenue and Drumalane ; this will also help with parking
- Security and cleanliness
- The park needs to be secure so not to allow for antisocial behaviour or abuse of the facilities. It needs to be inclusive with disability access, and somewhere that people of all ages can get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy the natural surroundings of the Albert Basin.

- Can't wait for this project to come to fruition! Long overdue. Maybe include an art gallery/exhibition space that would be interesting for older people who should be considered also. Dog walkers are important to consider also.
- I feel it should be commenced ASAP too much time has been wasted already, the canal should be a big feature of the project and used to its full potential, features already implemented in parks from Kilbroney to Slieve Gullion should be included in the development.
- No houses to be built. Plenty of security to look after park and people using it. No cars.
- Eco friendly ,use local business for planting trees. Open, honest ,Discussion
- Car parking is not necessary for the development as it would take up unnecessarily space that could be used for other developments such as a nature reserve or sufficient lighting
- Get it done!
- The park needs to be identified as the council's top priority for Newry, the park should be well illuminated and open 24 hours
- Great idea.....very needed. Opportunity to build on the success of Slieve Gullion , Kilbroney, etc.....
- Definitely no civic centre or office bindings or housing - all nature, play, sports, water centred activities, recreation, entertainment and events
- No parking/cars allowed on site
- I would like this park to include elements from its past use as an industrial and maritime working part of Newry and to tell the story of the men and women who work there and how they lived their lives
- It should reflect aspects of the history and culture of Newry, such as its monastic roots and the Patrick legend.
- The inclusion of art and drama events.
- The park has been delayed long enough and it should be a top priority for the council!
- None
- Should be top priority for the council now. Should be well lit and open 24/7 with good security measures in place to prevent vandalism. The development process should be community-led.
- Inclusive and green and free to residents
- Nature, Trees a place both wild and kind
- This should be a priority for Newry with a real lack of usable greenspace and park and all actions should be community lead and focused
- A long time in the making. Newry needs an Albert Basin Park
- Priority over Civic Centre
- An area for overnight parking space motorhomes with fresh water and toilet emptying.
- Make it a park that Will deliver for the City of Newry but that has the potential to attract visitors from outside the district. Encourage entrepreneurship and enable clever businesses to offer activities and food services in the Park without making it super hard, expensive or bureaucratic as our council is well known for doing in the past.
- The park needs to be identified as the council's top priority for Newry. The park should be well illuminated and open 24 hours. The park development process should be genuinely democratic and community-led, with meaningful participation from local community groups. ● ● There should be formal recognition of the fact that the Albert Basin and Ship Canal were given to the people of Newry in 1986 There should be a dedicated park website and social media presence
- No shops, no housing, minimal car park space. Lots of green areas to play and enjoy nature.
- No carpark on site, there is enough accessibility for able bodied people.
- Canal and walkways very important, access for tall ships very important our Maritime History must not be forgotten

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What should be included is the lack of motivation from the council who piss about in everything they do, 2 words, hurry up!!!!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concert hall on waterfront with small businesses outward facing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial elements should be as minimal as possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'd love to see a park in Newry with as little buildings as possible. When I picture a park in Newry, I think about Botanic park in Belfast city centre. I want a park that has more green space, woodland, plants and flowers than a park with an artificial environment and lacking natural colour. I'd like a natural, spacious and eco-friendly outdoor space where people of all age groups can mingle and enjoy themselves
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get it done. 100 years waiting for this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Kids play area, walk/cycle path Water sports facilities and changing facilities Restaurant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no need for further parking or retail. There are enough struggling businesses already & we should support the existing businesses rather than create more competition (and litter). New planting should be limited to native species only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids should be the centre of the proposals and they need to be adequately covered and sheltered to take account of the
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog friendly, off lead space and disposal bins. Dog walkers are out 365 days a year, unlike most park users. Public space must be safe space, the presence of a marina and motor home parking would insure people present in area 24/7 and deter anti-social behaviour and vandalism The unique location of the park in the heart of the city should encourage tourists to linger in the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just that nature be an important element in the park but also that the teenagers have a large area to play in such as a skatepark just as it is as important the young age groups have their own separate areas throughout the park as it is large enough to accommodate all of this. Allotments would be appreciated by the community thoroughly as more and more live on apartments with no gardens.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been in the talks for years, hurry up and make a start
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park should be a green space first and foremost with woodland and walking trails for residents and their dogs to enjoy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green space walking running soft track. Event power.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am worried about the impact of the SRR on the development of the park. The park definitely should include a moveable bridge that can facilitate the passage of Tall ships.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the pressure on peoples of all ages mental and physical health in these awful times it is essential that green free space without cars and entrance cost is readily available. There are enough car parks to meet demands throughout Newry. It should be a park and walk facility and easy access drop off for disabled only. It is more important than council offices for the area. A park will actually be for all people not just those working in council offices. We have lagged behind for so long in all tourism and creative aspects. There needs to be is more going for this locality 365 days a year than occasional events in town hall. A good outside inclusive space meets that in a lot of ways as a lot of people can't afford tickets to the rare events. Never mind take a family.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A quiet secluded corner to sit and be reflective, opportunities for visitors to display art, poems, sightings of birds, flowers etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No car parking, no housing development, just a family green space for all.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open nature space needed urgently for the local community for their mental and physical wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good clean well-maintained toilets ... Places for people to refresh water bottles, changing facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets and changing facilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of the area. Excellent signage for tourists. Signs that say how far and in what directions other cities are from Newry. Connected to maritime theme. It must feel safe.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park is long and narrow. Development must be sympathetic to this, with minimal commercial development and no vehicle access.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting native species is key
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excited about this major project Good luck with it. It's what Newry needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I could not use your PR option choice table. Technical probs with it. Look: keep it simple. You're over complicating it. My main priority is to have a nature area to enjoy the trees, shrubs, waterways. Commercial activities on the park will be counterproductive to this. Aim big: attract international visitors with an iconic peace sculpture. Have boat access to it from the waterways too. These 2 ingredients will make it stand out among all the other parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stop delaying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I think it is essential. Newry does not have facilities like this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I don't think car parking is important as I will walk to the Park, A lot of locals can do that. Young people will be on the bus. I think only disabled people need to bring their cars. I think parking should be charged if it is included to make up for the environmental issues. Good luck. We are all breathe easier when we have some greenery!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximizing the potential for each space or have more than one function. Think about the Communities abilities and disabilities, the park could be a wonderful place to build good health. Ask a Chartered Physiotherapist to help with the planning 🧘
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A skateboarding area for young teens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball court
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive of all ages for walks, exercise and Basketball Court
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boat club would be lovely for users and spectators. Imagine on a Sunday morning!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be easy to make the park too open and feel "cold". Use trees as a natural way to divide the park and create a diverse environment which can be explored. Trees will also attract wildlife and will provide shooter on hot days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park should be an area for relaxation to allow the people to unwind in peace and tranquillity. It should also be inclusive of the canal thus giving importance of the heritage value of this historic asset. This could be accomplished by including a yacht marina and berthing facilities for at least two tall ships.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mainly outdoor space for my grandchildren
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This area needs a professionally built concrete skate park. The success of Banbridge and Craigavon should be not only followed but built upon and exceeded. NMDC have recently built dangerous and ridiculously bad skate facilities and the Albert Basin needs to get away from this. Please please consult local skate groups and hire professionals to build this.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In light of recent restrictions due to COVID-19 I have spoken to many people who lacked Green space and wished for somewhere local/nearby to go and distract themselves from their worries something more comforting than retail or industry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need as much open space surrounded by trees and plants for our mental and physical health for children and adults. We need to get it right and not over crowd it with trying to achieve all the things or events we would like to have.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No anti-social behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure Storage facilities for Newry rowing club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's definitely needed , especially if we want to continue to be called a city. A lot of smaller towns have large parks for example Lurgan. We need something that both the community can enjoy and that people coming here will enjoy spending time in. Currently the nearest parks to Newry are Kilbroney and Gosford , which are largely only accessible by car , ruling out travel for a large group of people for example young people meaning they have to occupy themselves elsewhere . This may mean getting involved in alcohol /substance abuse.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primarily it should be a green space It would need to be managed with a park ranger in place

- I think that the previous question 14 on the phased approach is not so black and white - in reality, the phases would not be so cleanly split by theme so it would be possible to incorporate elements of the different themes into each phase. I think temporary uses should be incorporated into the phased delivery in order to engage people right from the outset - for example, there is no reason why a pop-up café on the canal basin couldn't be launched right away, with perhaps a small 'beach' area where kids can play while their parents watch - examples of this can be seen in many cities throughout Europe every summer. Then while the nature-centred elements are being developed, running trails through the site could already be opened on a phased basis. There are many opportunities for temporary occupation during the development of the park that should be examined.
- Would prefer council to just get on with the park as do not want any further delays.
- Make it somewhere both attractive to the eye and for all kinds of persons to enjoy
- As above
- Maybe have a 'Nature Watch' type program on YouTube to get people interested in the wildlife which is developing there.
- The park must be a catalyst for further inward investment in the surrounding area and city centre. It must encourage people back into city centre living, other small retail shops and cafes and all within walking distance.
- Basketball court
- History display. Facilities to attract classic ships (electrical supply) & water.
- Paths and bridges
- Prevention of vandalism at night
- A promenade area along side the canal with small cafe and wine bar with open air seating with views of marina and canal.
- N/a
- This is a fantastic opportunity to create a world class facility in the heart of our city. If pitched and themed correctly it would add significant value to the tourism offering in this locality as well as being an attraction for locals and catalyst for improving people's lifestyle.
- Encourage locals to sponsor trees in memory of loved ones. Encourage the families of those who worked on the Albert Basin to consider sponsoring a bench/seat in memory of a former worker.
- Corporate sponsorship of seating areas to alleviate funding costs but also promote health and wellbeing for their employees and customers.
- Asap
- Well lit up throughout the park
- A dog park
- Water level access for rowing, watersports etc
- It needs to be a place that people can still enjoy if we need to socially distance or if indoor areas are closed again
- Open 24 hours, no housing or office development.
- The Park should be top priority for Newry council action.
- There need to be free public toilets, male / female / gender neutral
- If there were to be a skatepark included in the design, the designers should include the Newry focus group for help in the design.
- Absolutely NO HOUSING
- After its development, it needs to be kept very clean and well maintained. I think Phase 1 must include some form of cafe/F&B space along with active areas to encourage people to stay
- Wild water life
- Sheltered area for senior citizens

- Establishment of a colourful annual international festival of some sort - eg themed on African culture, food, music etc etc. Something the park can make its own and attract masses of people
- MUST be nature orientated, green area, flowers, plants, wildflowers and woodland. Then leisure orientated, cycling, play area, walkway etc. Commercial, sports least priority
- To increase the cycling into city I would recommend mtb pump track and cycling trails also use of independent food trucks to bring more people to the park .
- A peaceful space. Not overrun with litter. This is particularly vital if there is onsite coffee shop as coffee cups are littered everywhere so bins must be provided and regularly emptied. Nature should be by far the main focus in the city there are already plenty of entertainment and business venues
- Safety, security and maintenance.
- Basketball court please!!!! I know lots of children crying out for one and it takes up such a small space. Not everyone is a footballer!
- A creative way to tackle litter, dog fouling, vandalism etc.
- Please make it fully accessible with nice big, even, wide paths and lots of benches and seats dotted all over the place. If you think you have enough seating please double it and double it again and it might be a just about acceptable level then. As a person with mobility issues, having a place to stop and sit regularly... Makes a HUGE difference to my life. It's so good for everyone... Old people, lonely people, young people, people on their lunch breaks from work, groups, people who are new to the outdoors, less abled people, people taking a break or a moment to appreciate the beauty...it is so important. In The Hague, which is very flat anyway, it seems like you can not go more than a few feet without a seat and it's great. Often they are empty...but also often they are full and always they are appreciated and helpful. Please put in way way way more than you think. It's a very easy, practical, thing that you can do to help people enjoy the park. Please don't just have the picnic area in one area only, or just outside the cafe only. Have a cluster of them surely, but also have them away from that cluster, down the walking tracks, by the water, a variety of places. We have an awful litter problem. Please make sure there are lots and lots on bins, including recycling bins, and that they are secure, not the standard open top, or part open top ones that the rubbish blows out of... We need to protect the waterways and our planet as a whole. Please don't give up. We can do this. Please look at other European parks, don't use the crap with have come to accept here as your measuring bar... We deserve better and we can achieve better. Stick at it. I think that this is a fantastic opportunity to have a forest school...outdoor nursery where the pre-schoolers learn outside for the majority of the day, rain, hail or shine. It's so good for them and will teach them to be good citizens and how to love and respect our planet and environment and help them to become engaged, active, catering Newry citizens. Have at least some bathrooms (if not all the bathrooms) that are individual bathrooms in individual cubicles accessible to anyone, is not 'boys' or 'girls' bathrooms, they should be open to everyone boys, girls, or other... No explanation needed. One door into one room with one toilet and sink rather than 1 door into 60 cubicles and 60 sinks but prescribed to an old-fashioned division based on 2 sexes that no longer is fit for modern society. There's no need for 'girls' and 'boys' anything these days. We should be so far past that, so please don't take us backways in that regard. We should be building for everyone and for the future. Just have each bathroom open to the outside rather than into a needless shared lounge room. I'll be so embarrassed if you still do that, it's 2020... Keep it modern.
- Green space and lots of it. Education on animals we will find there and ducks to feed in a pond. Nature trails and plenty of picnic benches 🙏
- First aid or medical help...
- No cars parking on the site
- Park must be top priority and delivered as soon as possible to fulfil the wishes of the Newry community.

- This is a huge undertaking for any organisation. Please put the right people in charge of it, people who understand how the space can be used whilst integrating it with its natural surroundings. This project means so much to the people of Newry and beyond please handle it with care. I wish it every success!
- I think it is wonderful and so exciting for our future generation. As a mother of two very young girls, I am grateful and extremely optimistic about how this can benefit our future generation. Mentally, physically and emotionally. As an educator in the local area I am extremely interested in getting involved in the Eco end of the things and if someone would like to contact me my email is pcunningham515@c2kni.net
- Newry has been without an urban park for at least my lifetime. This development is crucial to the people to Newry and needs to be done imaginatively and with their needs in mind. Where it will be placed is one of the most polluted areas, without a relief road, and the green benefits of a park would be immense. This is crucial. The park needs to be first and foremost for the people and not for profit.
- Rowing is a neutral new sport and deserves the support to develop a natural bond with the area.
- I believe it's gone on long enough putting the park to the back burner. It's time the people of Newry had a beautiful park to enjoy and stop putting other things before it.
- N/a
- This area needs to be entirely park - not city parking or housing of any kind. It should be sustainable and environmentally thoughtful. Transport to the park from outlying areas should be considered, working with Ulsterbus to publicise and encourage the use of local bus services, with perhaps free shuttles for large events.
- Aim high - look some of the world's most successful parks and try and pull some inspiration. Gardens by the Bay Singapore, Central Park, Centennial Park, Stanley Park. Young and old should flock here to spend money, socialise, exercise and be proud to live here.
- Facility for all sports and accessible
- People need quiet green spaces to escape noise & cars of city life. Highlight & nurture the maritime aspect of the park.
- Definitely need to make use of the canal. A great opportunity for rowing and other water-based sports
- As I have said previously I would like some form of memorial garden for people who have lost someone to an RTC majority of times the deceased are young like cancer taken b4 their time. X
- I think it will need to feel safe and clean so security probably will be needed at night. Clean public facilities are very important. Recycling and compost bins
- Canal side development with canoe steps, marina with moorings for small leisure craft. Water based activities with associated clubs
- You must not put a fixed bridge at the Southern Relief road where it crosses the shipping lane. You must allow tall ships and tall mast vessels access to your marina. Guest will sail from worldwide for a world class park. A maritime festival to celebrate our city of merchants. It's imperative you use this opportunity to seal Newry's fate as a tourist hotspot for sailing and nautical themes.
- Parking only for zero emission vehicles, marine residence and disabled access.
- This would be amazing for the area but would be a waste if filled with cafes etc. Newry has enough of those and it would take away from the small businesses we already have. A green space to facilitate play / sports/ group activities/ outdoor cinemas is essential. I've lived in Melbourne and the way they use their parks is fantastic. A social space for all, not cluttered with retail or tacky entertainment facilities, used for markets etc occasionally and to broadcast big sporting events but their sole purpose is a park for the people.
- There has to be something for everyone. Play area for kids(all ages) Restaurant/bar for evenings and weekends. Open air event spaces for cinema/theatre etc Advantage of the water with safe water-based activities. Green open space. Some of the history of the basin provided.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include areas for entrance to the Albert basin water for water sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park is so badly needed for the community, the greenway is well used and gives a small indication of how successful a park could be in the locality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input from local designers/artists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I would include open tennis courts, outdoor gym, cafe, water fountains to drink from
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public consultation at every point
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very little space for carparking, no large retail units. Local cafés, outlets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I don't want to see a car park or social housing or commercial buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get people using the canal Rowers have sussed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very excited about this. Newry needs a park area very much. The green way is such a success and has shown that this bit of breathing space in the city is so needed and well used.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No housing. Car park is not essential as there are so many car parks in close proximity therefore only a small one should be made. The main focus should be on making a green space where people can go for a exercising and to suppose local businesses eg cafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure bicycle parking!!! For cycles of all sizes. Draw up the paths in such a way that it is possible to run a 5k starting and ending at the same place (maybe as simple as 2/3 complete laps?) Clear pathway/trail linking north entrance with southern greenway. Moveable bollards at the entrance to prevent all car access, except for emergency services and park maintenance. (wide enough for cargo bikes and other larger cycles (hand cycles etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This should be the Council's top priority which should be open to the public 24/7 with a dedicated park website and social media presence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build a skatepark finally!!!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A park featuring an event space, woodland nature area, skate park and outdoor gym and play park area. The park should only have foot access no need for vehicles at all. Use car park located between Albert basin and the bus depot and create a footpath or walkway to the park from here possibly a bridge across the road. However, no car parking should be in the park. Use the new albert basin walkway and link it into the park and you can create connections to the Football and GAA pitches making a link between the 3. Foot Bridge entrance from Warrenpoint Road to the park. Woodland area and pond for nature. Skate park area must consult Newry community group of skaters that is in place. Live event space consult local theatre and community organisations with links to music or drama to gather information ie, Art Centre employees, Magnet Centre, Local musicians, Newry Musical Society, New Point Players, Bosco Drama. Consult local gyms and fitness organisations for outdoor gym such as The Compound, The Gym, etc having a MMA and boxing elements in this outdoor gym area could be key as many in community have interest or train for MMA. Event space could be made to host theatre, live music, and if designed well host sport of MMA and Boxing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It should be something for all the people and sustainable. Environmentally friendly. Cared for. Tolerant. Inclusive. Calming. An oasis. Unspoilt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building a skatepark and having lots of activities to do would build the morale of the people of Newry, help build tourism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The sooner this happens the better, great work being done behind the scenes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It really needs to have the full commitment of everyone involved. In the past some projects were taken on by the council and a half-hearted job was done to it. If the new park is done with a half-hearted approach and trying to save money then this project is doomed! We need to throw everything we have at it!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I think more facilities for the rowing club should be introduced as the club is expanding and I think it would be a really nice addition to the park if people could sit and watch the rowing on the canal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I think that a public park would benefit from community projects that encourage people to take pride and ownership in the space. Areas for growing bee friendly flowers or herbs or murals, for example, that community groups like the UA3, Gateway, Magnet or local schools can work on.

Perhaps a community building for hosting events about gardening or the ecosystem. Have the people of Newry take a part in helping maintain the park we need! I'm sure we have many green thumb residents who would love to volunteer. We also need a place that respects the native ecosystem. Native wildflowers that attract bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators. Trees that are native species and perhaps signposted on how to identify them. By the canal maybe have an area that is visible but blocked off so that duck, swans and other waterfowl have space to live alongside the park and information on what can be seen. There are very few open green spaces in Newry that local people are able to, or want to, utilise. Some are poorly maintained except to be mown twice a year and the dead grass left to dry on the ground. Others are just too small and end up ignored. They aren't attractive for people to sit in and enjoy and end up abused by youths and drunks. The council could gain from a park that people want to be photographed in and shared on social media! To spend a weekend in Newry shopping, going out and walking in the park. A park with beautiful trees, flowers and shrubs. Somewhere people want to take their children, or sit and read a book on the grass, sit under a tree. A park with public art, spaces for musicians, painting, book clubs, for tai chi, for yoga, for walking leashed dogs, for couples, for elderly people. A place to watch fireworks, outdoor cinemas, an area to run in, meet friends in the summer and enjoy the green space.

- Try to design out opportunities for anti-social gatherings / behaviours
- This park is really needed in Newry to be a meeting point for many people and safe place for kids to go and play sports and for adults to exercise. A dog park would also be Great to have a space where dogs can be let off their leads to play with other dogs.
- Should of been done years ago plenty of trees and wildlife.
- If the inflatable water park was put in first it would generate much needed Mooney and jobs and would get people interested. And who know maybe possible investment in the way of advertising.
- Make use of the canal. Great opportunity for rowing and water sports. Other sports ate important too. Great for young people to develop healthy interests. Green and trees
- Rowing facilities rowing boat storage toilets showers changing rooms club house for Newry Rowing Club water level access jetty floating pontoon secure parking for rowers and other canal users
- We have playing pitches, we need a park to bring kids to.
- Excellent proposal and would be a testament to the council to invest in such an undervalued site (regenerates this side of town also)
- Definitely water-based sport/ boats/wildlife
- Limit buildings, car parks and anything that requires concrete and isn't immediately about interacting with nature. Small exceptions for a reasonably sized place to store boats but by and large the park has to be about nature.
- Mini petting zoo featuring rural animals cow sheep geese etc that city children may not have the opportunity to ever see.
- Multi use, commercial, not a drain on finances, green spaces, a force for social and economic growth
- Artwork and installation from local schools, artists and musicians
- Car parking solutions should be considered away from the park itself with accessibility for parking only available for disabled or those with special needs
- No
- Public art and sculptures relating to Newry
- Keep it green
- No car parking!
- A wooded area A sunken events arena Cafes and museum A virtual ride through the years amusement ride A picnic area Water features and waterfalls Handball alley and skateboard area Children play area

- Love the idea of the park but will reiterate we need to be aware of the weather issues in Newry so that it can still be used in the winters and wet days.
- It should be accessible, open, green Somewhere you want to walk/run through.
- It's too small an area to be effective as a Nature Recreation Park
- We can't afford a park as envisaged. We need some housing to pay for it.
- Provision for space for businesses to keep a core use all year round (and a buzz during the day) and underpin its viability in the long term
- As a local business owner & resident, I think this development is absolutely pivotal to redeveloping Newry City Centre as a place to visit & live & do business. At a time when there is a mental health crisis, green space and walking & cycling should be of the upmost priority for local people to enjoy and improve their wellbeing. It is important that the space is inclusive for everyone and can be enjoyed by everyone. There is so much research to show that the more green space in a city there is the happier its local residents are. It is long overdue that Newry City has a sizeable green space right in the heart of the city. It would be nice if it can complement the local canals in Newry if possible. I feel that allotments are a fantastic way to promote biodiversity and wellbeing for local people as there is research to show that this type of activity can have major mental health benefits. It will also be fantastic for local employees to enjoy a walk-in green space during lunch or before work for a run. And for families to enjoy with their children. If you go to a park like Wallace Park in Lisburn, this is a great example of the importance of a park in the city centre, there's lots of green space & activities to do.
- Good park management and supervision at all time in the park.
- Car parking is not the focus. The park should complement and contribute to Newry as a City, a place of culture and its mercantile history both by land, sea and waterways. It needs to contribute to place-making and be a well-designed space, for the people of Newry; to enhance what it has to offer and promote that fundamental maritime connection. We all should be reminded of the history of our city and the fact that the Albert Basin and Ship canal were given to the people to Newry for their benefit, not for displacing car parking. The town/city is overwhelmed by the outdated dual road system encircling the old 'town' centre, creating disconnect and discontent. Parking is essential in the right place but not on this land. This is a small city, a walkable city - now
- My thoughts are I think it's an absolute disgrace that in 2020 the people of Newry are still fighting to get a city park. Look around the 6 counties, wee small towns with amazing facilities!!! Eg, Lurgan, Banbridge, Castlewellan, Markethill to name a few!!! Newry as a so-called city gets nothing, never has done so I'll not be holding my breath over this park. Maybe my great grandchildren might get use out of it in the year 2100
- Should be a space which is easily accessible without vehicles, should be able to be a place where people walk to in off the busy city centre. People's park at Portadown is perfect example of how it should be.
- I have lived in Newry all my life and I will be outraged if the city councillors use this opportunity to create more parking or commercial areas. We want a city park, green spaces foremost, entirely for the benefit of the people of Newry. We don't want to feel like our hard-earned tax money is being used to line your purses. We need a park for the people to go to that is free from constant advertising and commercialism, a green space to relax and play in. It would dramatically increase tourism to the area, which we already have plenty of parking to cater for. Dr Tayo Idowu had some fantastic ideas on the Albert Basin Project Facebook page.
- No car park. Need to link Warrenpoint and Carlingford up so the park can be a tourist attraction too and then it would link the surrounding shops
- No more car parks, CCTV to prevent vandalism, well landscaped, environmentally sustainable
- Local businesses to fund the project as well so a state-of-the-art park is developed.
- Should not be hijacked by any group or person

- This should be top priority for council working in true partnership and transparency with the community. It should have a dedicated website and social media presence to keep everyone updated with development
- People/ wardens to oversee the upkeep of the park at all times to ensure the park is well maintained If tarmac is being used a company in Scotland use tarmac that is recycled from plastic Kept in character, with well-lit Victorian lighting lining the walks and an emphasis on caring for the environment
- Go and visit Carrickfergus. Take a lead from their play park along the waterfront. It is amazing
- Integration of the surrounding water with the park to make best use of the unique location. It should be a world class green space to encourage tourism and assist people's health. The focus should be on nature, trees, woodland, walks and cycling. There should be little or commercial or domestic buildings on the site, this is about green space. No car park spaces, there are plenty at the Quays and build a bridge across the canal that opens up to allow ships to pass through,
- A skatepark is essential and the demand has existed for one for over 20 years
- The development of a 15-acre green space within the NMD area is essential and must be delivered in accordance to the request of the public. The current pandemic has highlighted the need for a greenspace with many being isolated in a concrete jungle being forced to commute to surrounding towns such as Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Castlewellan amongst other locations, increasing congestion on the roads and depriving struggling local businesses of essential custom. It will also be essential in fighting the ongoing pandemic of mental illness in NI, allowing a safe outlet for people of all ages through the NMDC area and hopefully bringing a fall to the high rate of suicide that plagues our area.
- Hire a professional with prior success in this type of area.
- Less car park more green space Outdoor art Solar lighting Easy route to Warrenpoint Concerts Outdoor cinemas Food places More sports Outdoor yoga Pilates New gym
- People centred - something Newry can be proud of; a selling point for people to want to visit - not an embarrassment not fit for purpose. Eg, I have friends from Lurgan who would never come near Newry as they think it's horrible! Newry needs investment and planning leadership from people who are genuinely invested in the area and genuinely care about the outcome and community.
- A footbridge from the new Greenway over the river to the rampart at the end of the greenback, which would provide a fantastic walking route.
- I think the Council should stop procrastinating and get on with it. We the people own the park and have spoken loudly to tell you we want it and need it. There is no need for another shopping mall or car parking. Forget a new fancy council building in an already overcrowded city centre and spend the money on what the people want.
- Consideration should be given to other entrances/access in addition to the existing access.
- No commercial development except for small cafe and toilet facilities. No parking. No housing. No council offices
- Just get on with it!
- Bright, leafy, welcoming, well laid out.
- Much needed area for local people to enjoy with plenty of outdoor space for outdoor living.
- Further Support Activities which take place there already
- Include as many animal habitats features as possible, such as nesting boxes, insect 'hotels', protected banks for fish and bird life
- I think the elected councillors, planners, employees of Newry and Mourne council should stop having meetings about meetings and not leave this another 10 years and get it done, stop talking and start doing!
- The inclusion of car parking space shows complete lack of understanding of the importance of green space not only as a recreational resource but as a way to reduce the life limiting effects of air pollution on the local population. The bus station is right beside the park. Where are

the questions about where new cycle lanes should be to link the town residential areas to the park?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boating facilities that would allow Olympic rowing trials return to Newry (2014)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to make use of the canal this is of historical import across UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is much needed in the area look at Kilbroney Park and the foot fall of all age groups that it attracts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community centred multi-function space grass area relaxing space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It feels like the council is not listening. We need a park for the people. Develop Boyd's car park to accommodate visitors. We need all 15 acres for park for people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure please that it does not interfere with rowing club and that there are litter pickers or plenty of bins to make sure people don't litter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be an area that has shared spaces and spaces that encourage all ages to come and relax, exercise, have fun together and on own
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much needed for the city. Will help with tourism and bringing people into the town. Especially in summer evenings. At present we have to go to Warren point, Newcastle, etc. There is no life in the city after business hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat house and pontoon for Newry rowing club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City park should encourage active and healthy lives. People should be encouraged to walk/cycle to the park - this can be achieved by having no car parking on site and improving nearby cycling infrastructure and footpaths. Adaptable space should be available for differing activities such as strengthening exercises for older people, outside yoga, creative space for young people. Walking/cycling paths should feature prominently and link with the Greenway and Greenbank Trail/Rampart. Facilities should be included for Newry Rowing Club which already use the site including boathouse for storage, changing facilities and a pontoon. Large buildings should be kept to an absolute minimum to maximise green space. Outdoor seating should take advantage of natural environment with views of Newry Canal, Cooley Mountains and Carlingford Lough.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal themes such as winter wonderland spring, autumn etc...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boathouse, Pontoon and Dock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development should include good facilities for Newry rowing club as well as other sports to use. Suitable facilities such as a boathouse, pontoon, changing and toilet facilities would be greatly appreciated by all who take part, and would encourage more community involvement within Newry. I also believe the park should have litter bins provided throughout to keep the area clean and the park should be open to everyone and represent all of the Newry community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for dogs most definitely, maybe a gift shop I'd really like the idea of paddle boats too
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water sports rowing facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat house and facilities such as bathrooms and changing areas for rowers and water users
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upkeep and litter control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newry Urban Sports group should be consulted again during the skatepark's design phase to make sure the design is of the highest quality and is suitable for the location. https://www.facebook.com/newryurbansports I am filling out this questionnaire as a founding member of the Albert Basin Park Campaign Group. I really welcome this Public Consultation stage (I also participated in the Zoom Workshops) and think they have been conducted really well by Otium Leisure Consultancy. It builds on the consultation that the Albert Basin Park Campaign has conducted since 2014 (11000+ petition signatures, 900+ google survey responses, public workshops, 80+ endorsing community groups, youth consultation report, etc). I emailed our Campaign Document (June 25th) for inclusion within this stage of City Park Public Consultation. My hope is that the Public Consultation phase continues throughout the project and the council uses the amazing network the Albert Basin Park Campaign has built up since 2014. The council needs to treat our campaign group as an amazing grassroots resource to improve the quality and impact of the City Park project. If this is achieved then the Albert Basin City Park will be Iconic, Interconnected and Bio-diverse.

- NO commercial outlets other than small cafe. NO housing NO car parking. Recent attempts to include these elements into the plan without former approval does not show council members in a good light.
- Good security important to ensure public confidence.
- Skatepark
- I think it is very important for Newry as a City to have an area for the community to meet up and get involved in different activities. Newry has become so built up it's very dull looking. A park where people can have access to different facilities would be excellent and be so helpful for many people. This location is also ideal as it is close to the Greenway walk meaning it could be a totally multi-purpose park for everybody to enjoy.
- This needs to pass to planning immediately as it has been deliberated over too long, action now not words.
- A skate park is needed in the area
- Screening the park from city centre traffic noise by hedging. Improving access from the existing middle bank carpark. Insisting on an opening bridge on the SRR so as to extend the park to include yachts and larger boats.
- All good spaces encourage people to know they can go there and get access to earth elements and freedom think and feel calm.
- This has been going on for so long it is a disgrace that Newry does not have a social park.
- That it should be completed as quickly as possible but to the highest standards. The park will be a long-lasting legacy for future generations so should be built to last.
- Sailing- using the uniqueness of the surrounding water
- The use of the canal for a water based centre similar to Craigavon lake to teach water skills and courses also using the basin as hubs for all things sport related
- Security at all times. Make it a safe place for families
- This consultation represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to fundamentally change the townscape of Newry for future generations. I believe that the future Albert Basin Parkland has the potential to be a world leading exemplar for: urban greening practices; the promotion of physical and mental wellbeing; and sustainable, community - planned development. It is crucial that Council commits itself to the creation of a 15 acre park, an asset that we as citizens of Newry can proud of, a destination that will be a talisman for the city and attract visitors and investment nationally and internationally. The benefits of doing this will be manifold: in supporting the future growth of housing in the city centre where families will have accessibility to green open space; economic diversification through the creation of a canal culture and the establishment of a civic spine from the Albert Basin to Sugar Island providing opportunities for commercial and residential growth; improving the health and wellbeing of the local population by reducing car dependency and encouraging walking and cycling; and putting Newry on the map as an international tourist destination. I cannot stress enough the importance of engaging with community and task force groups throughout the design process of the future park. I would hate for this consultation to be considered as a tick box formality and indeed, I would welcome the opportunity for any draft/final masterplan for the site to be publicly exhibited so again, the finer details of the park can be refined. In addition to my response to the questions above, I have outlined some key elements that I believe, will make a successful city park: Green Infrastructure. The quality and effectiveness of the park will be dependent on a well-considered and creative landscaping masterplan for the site. I would like to see an abundance of trees, plants, wild grasses and flowers of varying species throughout the park. I feel it is important to promote native tree planting and would like to see the incorporation of the Yew Tree in tribute to the history of the city. I think native species should be interspersed with other suitable tree species to create an arboretum style park, providing an opportunity to learn about different trees and plants with the added benefit of enhancing biodiversity. Where possible, sustainable urban drainage systems should be incorporated into the design of the park to alleviate any

surface water runoff issues and allow the site to be equipped to deal with rare flooding events. This will ensure the park remains useable at all times and is not afflicted by flooding. Incorporation of the existing greenway with the Albert Basin Park is of upmost importance. The park should provide barrier free access to the greenway at all times and should be actively promoted as the starting point/destination for its users. I believe it would be beneficial to offer a bike hire facility within the park that can facilitate convenient bicycle access to the greenway for all ages. It will be important to provide adequate street lighting and passive surveillance within the park and along the greenway so that people feel secure walking in the early morning or on the edge of dark. In order to promote bio-diversity enhancement, it will be important to incorporate design features that will encourage wildlife to thrive in the park. There are a multitude of ways that this can be achieved through bee bricks, bird boxes, living sea walls etc. The recent decline in the population of bees worldwide is well documented and it is critical the park contributes to solving this problem. I personally would like to see local wildlife return to the city, the park and the canal. It is essential the park is promoted as an example of sustainable excellence. Any buildings, associated infrastructure, street lighting and other features of the park must be carbon neutral and where possible, be powered through renewable energy. Built Form. I believe the establishment of a central building on the site that can be used for community groups and sports clubs to conduct meetings is important. This building should also incorporate public toilets, a café and restaurant to encourage people to stay in the park for longer. In addition to this, tourist information facilities and a small museum explaining the history of the site would also be welcomed. Younger citizens of the city (myself included) do not fully understand the industrious prowess of Newry in its heyday. The museum, paired with information placards around the park, can help to explain this unique history and provide an immersive educational experience for users of all ages. Any buildings within the site should be of the highest architectural quality to engage interest and add to the landmark status of the park. It is worthwhile commissioning an architectural competition for the design of any buildings on the site. Any proposed buildings on the site cannot be half baked. This is the one opportunity to make the park stand out amongst its competitors and promote itself as a destination. The same can be said for internal paths, street furniture, lighting and other ancillary elements of the park. Any built form on the site must be harmonious with the wider parkland. The building should be considered a landmark and should be visible from key viewpoints along Albert Basin, Merchant Quay, William Street and Kilmorey Street. Sensitive use of high quality and robust materials including timber, glass and stone should be utilised to assist the integration of the building with its wider surroundings so as not to dominate the site. Landscape over built form should be a key metric to assess any future planning application for buildings on the site. Bridging points will be integral to the success of the park. Pedestrians will always find the most convenient route to their destination, as such, my fear is that the park will be under-utilised if the only access point is via the existing entrance at William Street/Dublin Bridge. A swing bridge (or similar) located along Albert Basin in close proximity to the entrance of the Quays is essential and will encourage shoppers and staff to access the park for a walk or relax on their lunch break. The inner basin needs to be accessible by marine vessels and therefore any bridge along the canal side of the site cannot be permanently fixed. This will enable the creation of a small marina in the inner basin and encourage vessels to visit and stay in the city for longer periods. The existing moorings located along Albert Basin demonstrate that there is an appetite for recreational use of the Canal and the ongoing promotion of Newry as a final destination for these vessels can only be beneficial. All public domain elements of the scheme should be constructed of high quality and robust materials. Street furniture, lighting, paving and way finding signage should be complimentary to the park. Health and Wellbeing. The park should adopt a number of formal and informal play spaces suitable for different age groups and types of play. These areas should be designed to increase passive surveillance reducing risk to children and deterring anti-social behaviour. Clever design solutions such as a landscaped amphitheatre

will allow for parents to sit and relax whilst being able to keep a close eye on their children. This will also create visual interest and be a unique feature to the park. Another advantage of compartmentalising spaces in the park is to provide areas of the park that can accommodate some quiet solace for mental wellbeing, fitness classes and other activities such as a speaker's corner. A skate park in my mind is another essential element of the future park. As a resident of Sydney, Australia, I am taken aback by the sheer volumes of kids and adults who skateboard, roller blade and scoot as a past time. The reason they can do this is because every other public park seems to have some sort of ancillary skate park attached. It was disappointing growing up in Newry without readily accessible skateboarding facilities resulting in a loss of appetite to pursue the sport any further. As far as I understand there are five skate parks in Northern Ireland most of which are over an hour's drive away. It would be great to incorporate this amenity into the park and I believe this would multiply the catchment of the park significantly. In addition to this, speaking from experience, just watching skateboarders in the skate park is very entertaining. This is the type of activity that encourages people to stay in the park for longer periods, to relax and be entertained by questionable skateboarding skills! The citizens of Newry have a real appetite for running and cycling. This is evident through the numbers of long serving and committed members of the Newry Running Club and Newry Triathlon Club. The Newry Triathlon has been a successful event in the past and has been readily accommodated in the Albert Basin. As far as I understand, this event has been intermittent over the last few years but formalising this event and attracting more people to participate, in a world class park, will again be beneficial for promoting Newry and its City Status. "Park Run" has been another popular event that has thrived in local communities throughout the UK and has helped so many people improve their fitness through a weekly 5km run or walk. It is disappointing that the only location in close proximity to Newry to facilitate this event is in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. We can create a truly one-off park run in the Albert Basin. Utilising water-based activity in the canal should also be a priority. In addition to the creation of a marina in the inner basin, it would be great to see kayaks, canoes and row boats more readily used in the canal. This would potentially require the incorporation of a boat ramp or stepped access to the water edge. Council owned watercraft made available for hire would be beneficial in terms of generating income and I believe would be a popular activity for users of the park particularly in the spring and summer months. It would be great for Newry Rowing club to have a formal space to promote competitions and attract other rowing clubs to come to Newry to compete. Social It is also essential to create a flexible events space commensurate in size to the overall park. It will have to be located centrally in the park and accessible by a service road to the site. Newry has no go-to event space. Previous events that have been successful in the city over the years have been hosted either on the grounds of the demolished police station on Lower Catherine Street or amidst the concrete and overgrown weeds currently existing on the Basin. Let's formalise this space and create a flexible, outdoor events area suitable for concerts, markets and other themed events. This will promote the city as a cultural destination and ensure competitiveness with neighbouring city's including Belfast and Derry. Having a central café/restaurant is also an important feature that will encourage people to visit and stay in the park for longer periods. If managed correctly, this will help to promote passive surveillance and deter from anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Supporting Infrastructure Another crucial aspect to the success of the park I believe is making the park car-free. In my mind this is absolutely essential. Improving pedestrian connectivity and walkability across the city must be a priority. It is vital for the future sustainability of Newry that we reduce car dependency and remove the taboo around public transport. This could be achieved by:

- Vehicle access to the site should only be granted via a closed service road on the Kilmorey Street side of the site to enable council/authorised vehicles to enter for maintenance, rubbish collection and setting up events;
- If parking is required, investigate the use of the car park opposite the site (between Newry Canal and Clanrye River - presumably council owned) exclusively for users of the Albert Basin Park. There is an abundance of car

parking available at this location providing direct access to the park. The provision of Electric Car charging points and bicycle parking should also be encouraged at this location. Under no circumstances should any of the land within the basin be used for car parking;

- The establishment of bridging points along Merchants Quay and Kilmorey Street will encourage pedestrian foot flow from surrounding residential areas. This will also encourage foot flow through the site particularly from the Quays and Buttercrane where adequate car parking is readily available;
- The provision/improvement of cycle lane infrastructure in the immediate vicinity of the site along Kilmorey Street, Albert Basin, Merchants Quay, Buttercrane Quay Bridge Street and William Street will encourage people to access the park by bike with the peace of mind they are safe from traffic;
- The overall masterplan for the site should include infrastructure upgrades such as a safe drop off/pick up hardstand at the entrance to the Basin (William Street) for buses and cars. A new bus stop and pedestrian crossing along Albert Basin close to the entrance of the Quays should be investigated. Similarly, a pickup/drop off for cars and buses should also be investigated along Kilmorey Street or River Street. This should provide sufficient time to drop off the family unit safely whilst the driver finds parking in the surrounding area; and
- Investigate the potential for a free park and ride service to the Albert Basin from an accessible location

In reading my additional comments, I hope I have been able to convey my aspirations for the Albert Basin Park. I am passionate about the City of Newry and its overwhelming potential to live up to its city status. As an ex-pat now living in Sydney, Australia, home will always be home. Hopefully by the time I return, the wheels of this city-defining project will well and truly be in motion. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this project.

- Accessibility,
- Enough bathrooms. Should be a relaxed but fun place where there's enough space for children and families to come and play but also adults to meet for fresh air and a coffee
- No housing or very few limited commercial units
- Horse and cart rides
- Needs to cater for the whole community to include everyone's needs. Have decent parking allocated to allow for the amount of people who may visit from elsewhere. Needs to be disability friendly to allow family's a chance to escape and have fun but close to comfort
- Please commit to a park that the city can be proud of. Restore the water access, remove commercial elements such as housing and carparking from this precious area and make this council's legacy one that truly puts the people of this area first.
- Definitely no housing!
- A skatepark
- Look at the best parks across Europe and see what works well for each. Combine all the best attributes of each and make a park to be proud of. Don't skip!!! To be inviting all ages.
- Outdoor cinema & Dog park.
- Non-residential buildings...maximum 2 storey buildings
- No car parking
- Social, commercial and economic benefit to Newry would be significant. It would become the heart of Newry.
- Newry could be so much more if the park is built right to suit everyone. Not just a few swings thrown up. Please look at other Cities around the world. Use the canal as best u can. People will pay 2 hire out paddle boats etc. Decent green area to lie in. Nice wooded area 4 walks and picnic area to eat and relax as well as play park 4 kids.
- Avoid spots that drug dealer can hide in !!! Like wood lands
- Newry has long awaited for a skatepark and is well deserving of one, so this should be top priority as it will satisfy those wanting one and those who will use that facility and become involved once it is there.
- Excited that finally this may happen. This is so much needed and could really transform Newry and bring a boost to civic pride.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free well maintain dog friendly plenary of bins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire site should be used for park and associate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure to keep it really clean, dogs on leads, no dog mess. Plenty of bins and staff to ensure it is kept well. Plenty of free activities and coaching / guidance for local youths especially teenagers. Engage with local schools St Mary's and St Josephs and ask kids what they want. Engage with boy scouts group and ask what they would like to see. Team up with library and have some free computer stations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newry really needs a skatepark. There are no facilities in place for urban sports in the city despite popular demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No car park, offices or houses. A park for the people not developer and counsellors pockets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safe place for busking, showing off talent Daily
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This park is a necessity and has been talked about for too long, the people in the appropriate places need to heed the suggestions of the people from these surveys and begin to start some form of progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of this park to the people of Newry cannot be exaggerated, and therefore consultation at the present excellent level should be ongoing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't make it into a carpark! There are plenty of nearby parking areas which could be developed more. Keep it simple, green, lush with wildflowers & local plants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please don't wreck the damn thing by building over half the site with unnecessary hard development, no need for car parking, no need for unnecessary buildings. Use the vast majority to provide actual green and open spaces with real plants. Please don't build a concrete park with a tree in a flowerpot and call it a public park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel that services that attract people to Newry is welcome. Water sports, open water swimming, concerts and zip lines etc would attract a wide range of ages and interest from all over NI and beyond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please concentrate on giving activities to teenagers and young adults. Very little entertainment and activities are available within Newry for individuals to express themselves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff availability opening and closing times should be considered eg not closed on bank holiday. Toilets and car parking big issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is essential that the Albert Basin is treated as whole unit, including the water. Keeping the Basin open to tall ships is critical for the success of this facility, and for it to generate the maximum economic, social and wellbeing benefits for the city and the local community. 2. Connectivity to the rest of the city is also key. Well-designed walking and cycling links to the city centre and on to the towpath are absolutely essential and should be treated as a core concern of the project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skatepark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have spent enough time on proposals. Time to get things done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skatepark with outdoor gym and outdoor activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newry needs a skatepark! Include Newry urban sports in decision making as they have a vast knowledge to help meet the needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skatepark !!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel that the establishment of community allotments would be invaluable to the area and give the park all year round value.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our town/city needs a green space with walks where we can stroll, benches where people can enjoy the healing power and beauty of nature, trees, plants, birds. Need also to make a feature of the waterfront. Have nice locally commission art works/statues that reflect the rich history and mythology of this area. Think of how Kilbroney has used Narnia and Slieve Gullion the Giant's Lair and fairy doors. Children need more than a swing to play on, play should also stimulate the imagination. Boat trip could be a storytelling/historical experience too- think of Dunlewey in Donegal (Ionad Cois Locha). The LúR Chinn Fleadh music cruises have been a great success and this would promote tourism. Please only have a few car parking spaces and

prioritise for disabled. Town is full of car parks and if we are promoting healthy lifestyle people can WALK to the park from another car park. Please use all the space for green spaces that bring nature into the heart of Newry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skatepark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A skatepark would be a very good for young people and kids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albert Basin needs to be unique in a sense of being different. Creating a native Irish Forest with every tree species would help this. Furthermore, a forest with worldwide species would be amazing. A fully openable bridge to keep tall ships moving up the canal is absolutely crucial. A fenced dog play park may also be another welcomed addition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel strongly that Newry should have a city park. I would like there to be cafes, food trucks etc, but not a large area of commercial space. I do not believe that we need a car park but a bus drop off area would be good. I think we should make the most of the beautiful scenery around us with viewpoints and seating. I strongly believe that the boats on the canal are an attraction so access for them should remain. It would be great if the cycling paths in the park linked to the greenway. I would like to see the use of natural materials in the park to help link to nature. There should be lots of litter and recycling bins available and also access to drinkable water fountains. An enclosed dog area would be fun to see.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/a
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just build a skatepark, one which is high quality and professionally developed so that it can be used appropriately and can be created in a sustainable way.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please not a car park there's so many already and it's an eye sore to a great place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a natural space. Just get this done please it's taken far far too long.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please consider the fact that there are plenty of parks and green spaces in Northern Ireland which are enjoyed on the daily, what will make this one worth travelling to? Make sure you listen to your local's suggestions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good layout plan always good and friendly and always stuff to do in the park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It definitely needs a skatepark for the community to use. The current facilities are dangerous.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitely needs a skatepark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our maritime heritage is a unique hallmark of Newry and it is what sets us apart from other settlements such as Banbridge and Armagh. Therefore, it is imperative that we have a Maritime heritage centre a central feature of the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This park is well overdue . The people of Newry deserve a beautiful park for all to enjoy. We have the canal and the mountains surrounding that part of town yet we get no opportunity to enjoy the just sitting on a park bench with a coffee to appreciate our surroundings. Local parks give whole families many happy memories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newry needs a skatepark. It is long overdue and lags being the rest of the UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to our local businesses and our local people - including our young people! We aren't stupid, we have great ideas, we just want a space that puts us on the map
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is access to the park developed - particularly of importance will be the development of a pedestrian / cycle routes to the park - given the declining importance of the car on personal travel habits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourist facilities, overnight parking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please, build it ASAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be absolutely no parking within the park, this is a park the Newry people have fought long and hard for and the Newry people deserve the park they've been promised which does not include a car park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think the plans I have seen are amazing. We have waited too long for this, people have to take their kids outside were they live to a park in 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please can we not disappear down a rabbit hole around naming this park. As I have made clear in comments at the very start, this space could be equitable and accessible to all. Let's keep it simple if a name is required for the park 'Newry city Park'!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You will likely hand this over to private contractors who will run over budget, same as always. So any company bidding should be required to submit evidence whether or not they have met gov/council budgets on other projects, if not they can't get the job.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The people of Newry deserve a space such as this to be proud of. The council must deliver on this. We are a laughing stock of the North with our "city" having no green space whatsoever, yet having access to some of the best areas in the region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easy pedestrian access to the park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Na
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important that park makes physical and obvious link between the basin, the local area and all areas of community. Must obviously be wheelchair friendly and be accessible to all, no matter able bodied or not
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No car park and no social housing!!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This has been a talking point in Newry for generations with multiple promises broken. Council need to show total commitment by placing park as number 1 priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs to happen ASAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Footbridge to quays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Given its remote location security and integration with the city and local communities is vital in any design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should be accessible, potential for a bridge to Warrenpoint Road and an iconic opening bridge to Quays which could be a tourist attraction in its own right. It should mark the beginning of the greening of Newry with more trees and green areas. No car park on Site. There is a large car park outside the main entrance which would be suitable for parking including disabled. Needs to be integrated with all other elements including Canal Towpath, Carlingford Lough Greenway and the Albert Basin/ Newry Ship Canal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should be developed to support mental health and lead the way.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No parking or residential/business units
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that any bridge leading to the basin is openable/raising. Get on with it!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How easily accessed it would be in terms of traffic into and out of it. How safe it would be and how anti-social behaviour would be dealt with. Plenty of space and facilities. Plenty of assorted play equipment for kids of all ages.