



Fingal County Council

Proposed Naul Village Park Development Project

Part 8 Planning Application

September 2021







Table of Contents

	Page
1.0 Introduction	
1.1 Project Background	6
1.2 Part 8 Planning Application	6
1.3 Naul Village Park Development Project Overview	6
1.4 Naul Village Context	7
1.5 Key Challenges Addressed As Part Of The Design Process	8
1.6 Design Team	9
1.7 Non-statutory Consultation	9
2.0 Planning & Development Context	
2.1 Fingal Development Plan (2017-2023)	11
2.2 Local Area Plan (LAP)	12
3.0 Site Context	
3.1 The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre	15
3.2 Site Photographs	16
3.3 Site Analysis	17
4.0 Part 8 - Proposed Naul Village Park Development Project - Design Proposals	
4.1 Proposed Naul Village Park Development Project (Plan Drawing)	25
4.2 Detailed Proposals	
4.2.1 Village Green	26
4.2.2 Playground	26
4.2.3 Nature Play	28
4.2.4 Recreation and Fitness Area	30
4.2.5 Reflection Garden	30
4.2.6 Parking	30
4.3 Farmers market and events location	32
4.4 Proposed Planting Palette	33
4.5 Proposed Hardscape Materials & Furniture	34





1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

In August 2020, Fingal County Council appointed Áit Urbanism + Landscape Ltd. as the lead design consultant to undertake a Landscape Development Project for a Village Park incorporating a play space adjacent to the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre, The Naul, Co. Dublin.

The core of the client brief was to engage with and gain consensus with key local stakeholders on their current and future needs, and to develop a proposal for the Village Park that delivers a usable, inclusive and multi-faceted amenity through the local authority's own Part 8 Planning Process.

1.2 Part 8 Planning Application

Naul Village Park Development Project

The proposals for the Village Park Development Project incorporate the following amenities,

- A playground that can cater for a wide age range and which is inclusive in its offering
- A village green and large size feature tree to act as a focal point
- A reflection garden
- Defined entry points for pedestrians from the public footpath and a new footpath and open space offering within the park.
- A universally accessible route that connects the park and the area to the rear of the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre. A pronounced level difference separates both areas and so the corresponding route is designed with reference to Technical Guidance Document M: Access and Use, of the Building Regulations. Part M is applied as a standard

to all accessible routes whether they directly access a building entrance or not.

- Multiple opportunities for sitting and picnicking.
- A car park with capacity for approximately 17 cars.
- Relocation and incorporation of existing shipping containers within redevelopment proposals.
- Revised boundary treatment along the R122 Balbriggan Road

1.3 Naul Village Park Development Project Overview

Naul is a rural village in North County Dublin, quite close to the border with County Meath. The proposed Village Park is located to the rear of the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre (SEAC) in a plot that is officially closed to public access. There is a hedgerow beside the spoil heap which corresponds to an old field boundary. The boundary is interrupted at the sites' interface with Delvin Banks but resumes shortly after to delineate the western extent of the housing estate, or, to put it in its historic context, it defines the rear boundaries of the properties that line Naul's Main Street.

The proposed Village Park will adjoin the outdoor performance and general-use area to the rear of the SEAC. This contains a stage, a seating area under a demountable canopy, an interpretive room that describes Séamus Ennis' contribution to Ireland's musical heritage, an administrative office, a toilet block, and other ancillary elements necessary for the functioning of the centre. The boundary between the two individual spaces is an important one and design proposals will ensure that one does not impinge upon the functionality of the other.



2nd Edition OS Map



Aerial Photo of Naul - source Google photos

There are two shipping containers in the Village Park site and it is necessary to state that both will be retained, one will be repositioned beside the SEAC toilet block for its continued use as storage for performance equipment, the other will be placed beside the proposed Reflection Garden and will be used for the storage of gardening equipment.

One of the primary challenges that the site has presented to the design team is a pronounced level change that occurs behind the existing stage. As explained, a distinct boundary will exist between the SEAC and the Village Park, however, it is deemed prudent to include a means of access between the two that might be used in the future, and which is universally accessible (despite the challenging topography). For this reason, design proposals will include both a stepped and a universally accessible longer gently sloping pathway.

There are two main boundary types to the existing site. One is a close-board type fence alongside the R122 Balbriggan Road (northern site boundary from which vehicles can access the site), the other is a rendered and capped blockwork wall that forms the eastern and the majority of the southern site boundary. The south-west corner is enclosed by old farm buildings of rubble stone construction. The boundary to the SEAC is open presently, though this will be amended in the proposed design.

1.4 Naul Village Context

The village setting for the park is an attractive one and benefits from Naul's unique heritage sites. There are several monuments near the proposed Village Park that are recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), they are as follows...

- Tower House (locally known as the Black Castle or Cruise's Castle) - Monument no. DU004-045002
- Holy Well - Monument no. DU004-045003
- Church (Monument no. DU004-045004)
- Bridge/Naul Bridge (Monument no. DU004-045008)
- Watermill (Monument no. DU004-045001)
- Historic Enclosure – Monument no. DU004-045009

- Structure with 'Dutch Billy' effect gable attached to 'Inn at Killians' – Monument no. DU004-042.

The Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 includes several protected structures in Naul, some of which are also protected in the RMP, they are...

- RPS No.104 – Church (in ruins) & Cross Site*
- RPS No.105 – Castle; remains of a stone tower, known as "The Black Castle"
- RPS No.106 – The Naul Bridge over the River Delvin*
- RPS No.107 - Watermill- former mill complex*
- RPS No.108 - The Séamus Ennis Centre-a curved eight-bay thatched structure
- RPS No. 109 – Nativity of Our Lady RC Church

*Denotes a Recorded Monument protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

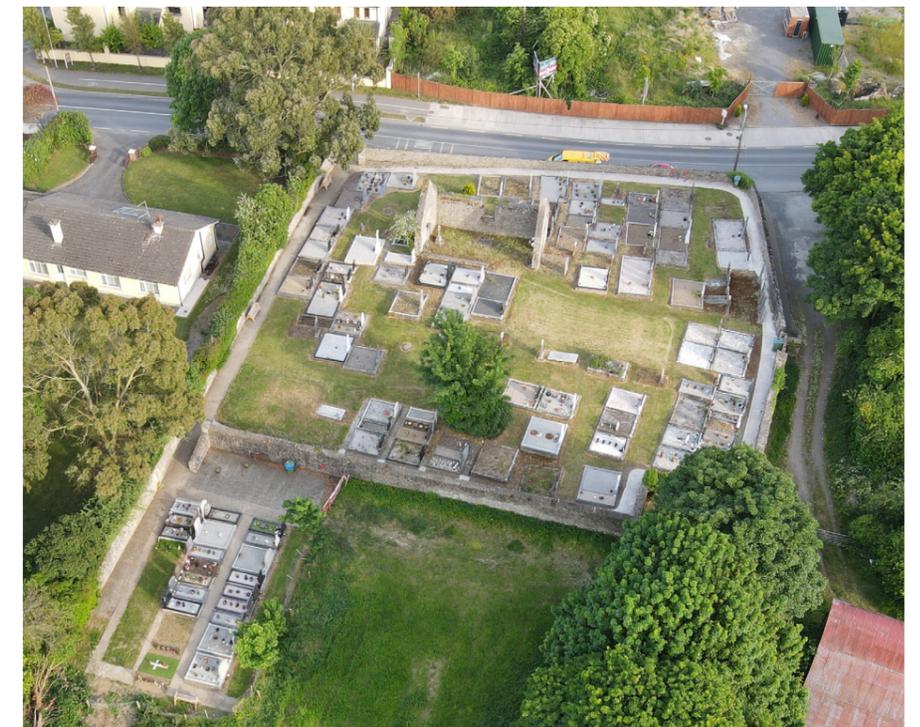
It is evident therefore that the village and its surroundings are steeped in history and the array of protected monuments and structures are all contributors to the village's sense of place. The setting of the park, directly opposite the church & graveyard, beside the SEAC and close to the village generally, places it as a central community resource that can tie together all of these historic elements and include measures to interpret them in an interactive and accessible way.



Naul Church (in ruins) & Graveyard



Overgrown Naul Black Castle (photo by Ian Lennon)



Naul Church (in ruins) & Graveyard (photo by Ian Lennon)



1.5 Key Challenges Addressed As Part Of The Design Process

A detailed brief was provided to the design team at the outset of the design process and described the key design challenges as follows,

Engagement

Using an innovative design process to engage stakeholders and build consensus for the proposal.

Play provision

The development project must include proposals for play facility for families, of an appropriate scale for a pocket public park. The Play area should reflect the musical heritage of the site while taking account of shade and functionality.

Connectivity and Permeability

The development of this site will also afford an opportunity to develop a pedestrian link from Delvin Banks to the Main Street, avoiding the Balbriggan Road. A high degree of permeability shall be provided throughout the development area, linking the space with Main Street, Delvin Banks and the proposed Naul Village Park to the north.

Landscape Diversity

A vital part of the project is to diversify the park and create greater texture and interest in the landscape. The consultant will be required to provide recommendations and priorities for further planting appropriate to the location and context.

Acknowledging the Naul historical values

The Naul includes important historic sites that influence the village structure. The selected consultant should analyse the historical background to ensure the future development of the park respects and reflects the heritage of the village setting.

Balance of Structured and Casual Spaces

The Landscape Development Project should explore and examine the most efficient and effective use of space, with proposals for substantial further tree planting, particularly as a buffer to the existing housing at Delvin Banks.

Resource Sustainability

The Village Park presents an opportunity to promote sustainability and to become a model for sustainable village park development for Fingal County Council. Opportunities for sustainable urban drainage (SuDS) and for resource/greenhouse gas reduction should be investigated as part of the vision for the park. Tree planting proposals should therefore maximise the environmental benefits of trees, as well as reinforcing the character of place within the site.

Biodiversity

The landscape development project will explore opportunities to increase local biodiversity appropriate to the scale of the park.

Roads/Parking

Opportunities to increase parking availability appropriate to the scale of the park should be explored. This carpark will serve the graveyard, alleviate on-street parking in the village, provide parking for the proposed park and additional parking for the Séamus Ennis Centre. Overflow car parking may be included in the design – incorporating reinforced grass and at least one charge point for electric cars. Parking and access to comply with road safety requirements.

Events

The landscape development project should consider the need for infrastructure to support ongoing events in the adjacent stage area. Proposals may consider use for future farmers markets and various outdoor gatherings.

Community Facilities

The landscape development project must take account of and integrate with proposals for the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre.

Residential Amenity

All issues will be considered with the amenity of local residents in mind. Noise, light, traffic, dust and any other impacts should be considered, as well as the additional increases to amenity arising from park improvements.

Retention of existing hedgerow

The landscape development project must consider the retention, protection and maintenance of the historic hedgerow running through the site, treatment shall be subject to recommendations from an arborist's survey as appropriate. The successful designer will arrange for the survey in order to capture risks management and protection measures etc at an early stage.

Level Change

A significant change in level between the park and the adjacent stage & outbuildings area poses a potential challenge in the proposed design, particularly in connecting both spaces.

Secure Storage

Stakeholders have had a request granted by the council for the long-term use of a secure storage container, which is to be placed in a suitable location within the park. Main usage will consist of garden equipment, hedge trimmers etc. The container has been purchased and is on-site. Dimensions are 40 x 8ft. Provision to accommodate the container should be included within the design proposal.



1.6 Design Team

1.6.1 Client Fingal County Council Working Group: Parks and Green Infrastructure Division

Kevin Halpenny	Senior Parks Superintendent
Marc Coyle	Senior Executive Parks & Landscape Officer
Denis Flannery	Executive Parks and Landscape Officer
Liam Campbell	Assistant Parks and Landscape Officer
Michael Staunton	Assistant Parks and Landscape Officer

The client working group is led by Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent responsible for the Parks and Green Infrastructure Division.

1.6.2 Áit Urbanism + Landscape: Lead Project Consultants: Landscape Architecture

As lead consultant, Áit Urbanism + Landscape communicated directly with the client Fingal County Council. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic public health restrictions, all client and focused stakeholder meetings have been facilitated virtually through Microsoft Teams and have proven successful as a communication tool. Non-statutory consultation has been undertaken by the design team and has included meetings with the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre representatives and members of Naul Community Council.

The external design team includes several professional sub-consultants to advise on matters requiring specialist input, they are as follows,

Mary Tubridy, Ecologist: Mary prepared an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening report for the Park Development Project. An AA report is required if it is determined that the proposed project will impact upon Natura 2000 sites (such as Special Conservation Areas and Special Protection Areas) and is a requirement of the EU Habitats Directive. The determination as to whether an AA Report is required is made by first carrying out an AA Screening Report, the screening report establishes whether the proposals in question are impactful enough to warrant a full AA report. The assessment of the proposed development works found that there is to be no direct, indirect or secondary impacts on nearby Natura sites anticipated.

Mary Tubridy & Associates also carried out an ecological review of the park. The purpose of the review was to inform the landscape proposals and provide advice on the need for further ecological studies, and to ensure compatibility between those proposals and sustained biodiversity. The findings of the review are found within the accompanying Ecological Assessment.

KPMG Future Analytics (FA), Environmental Impact Assessment Consultants: FA prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Screening Report. The screening report is a precursor to a full EIAR and establishes whether the proposed interventions are impactful enough to warrant full assessment by way of an EIAR. The FA report found that the proposed development at Naul does not fall within the list of activities requiring mandatory EIA.

McCloy Consulting (MCC), Flood Risk Assessments Consultants: MCC prepared a Stage 1 Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for Naul Village Park. The purpose of a Stage 1 FRA is to assess whether there are any flooding and/or surface water management issues at and surrounding the site. The assessment determines potential sources of flooding at the site and outlines recommended mitigation measures as necessary and appropriate. The FRA found that there is no significant risk of flooding on site, nor will development on site be the cause of flood risk elsewhere.

CMK Hort and Arb Ltd, Arboricultural Consultants: CMK undertook a tree survey for Naul Village Park. The survey assigns a number to each tree and categorises it in terms of quality. The survey records the trees' species, condition and vigour, age, height, girth, root spread and canopy measurements among other observations. Recommendations are made by the consulting arboriculturist as to a trees' suitability for retention within a redevelopment context, and where necessary and appropriate for reasons of safety, that trees are felled.

1.7 Non-statutory consultation

The design team has engaged in non-statutory consultation as part of the design process.

- A meeting was held on the 1st April 2021 to present preliminary designs to representatives of the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre.
- A further meeting was held on the 7th July 2021 to present progressed design proposals to representatives of Naul Community Council.

Both of the meetings outlined above were held remotely via Microsoft Teams. Where practicable and deemed appropriate, feedback received from these consultation events has been translated into design changes that form part of the proposed layout described in this report. A summary report of the consultation undertaken with Naul Community Council is included as a separate document within the overall planning pack, for reference it is titled '*20FG04_N-Summary Report of non-statutory consultation with Naul Community Council*'



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT



2.1 Fingal Development Plan (2017-2023)

The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 (FDP) categorises the site under the ‘Rural Village’ zoning objective

RV Rural Village: Protect and promote the character of the Rural Village and promote a vibrant community in accordance with an approved Local Area Plan, and the availability of physical and community infrastructure

“Vision: Protect and promote established villages within the rural landscape where people can settle and have access to community services. The villages are areas within the rural landscape where housing needs can be satisfied with minimal harm to the countryside and surrounding environment. The villages will serve their rural catchment, provide local services and smaller scale rural enterprises. Levels of growth will be managed through local area plans to ensure that a critical mass for local services is encouraged without providing for growth beyond local need and unsustainable commuting patterns.”

Naul is described in the Development Plan as follows,

“Naul village is located in north Fingal, near the boundary with County Meath, it functions as a key village within the Hinterland area and is part of the network of rural villages which function as small local service centres for the surrounding rural hinterland. The Village Square and Main Street provide the focus of the built form of the village and are located within a designated Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The Square contains a range of nineteenth and twentieth century buildings, including the re-thatched Seamus Ennis Arts Centre.

Naul has significant potential to develop further as an attractive destination given its charming village form, its scenic landscape setting, notable archaeological, architectural and musical heritage and its proximity to archaeological sites in County Meath. The Seamus Ennis Arts Centre located in the heart of the village hosts many of today’s foremost musicians, songwriters and artists and attracts considerable interest from around the country. The centre already has a major local role as well as further potential for regional, tourism and consequential local

economic development. Fingal County Council is committed to building upon the success of the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre”.

Green Infrastructure Objectives: Sheet 14, Objective number GIM 5

“Maintain and develop the Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre as a significant traditional arts venue”.



- OS - Open Space
Preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities
- RV - Rural Village
Protect and promote the character of the Rural Village
- Protected Structures
- Recorded Monuments
- + Historic Graveyard: Naul
- ACA - Architectural Conservation Area
- Location of the site

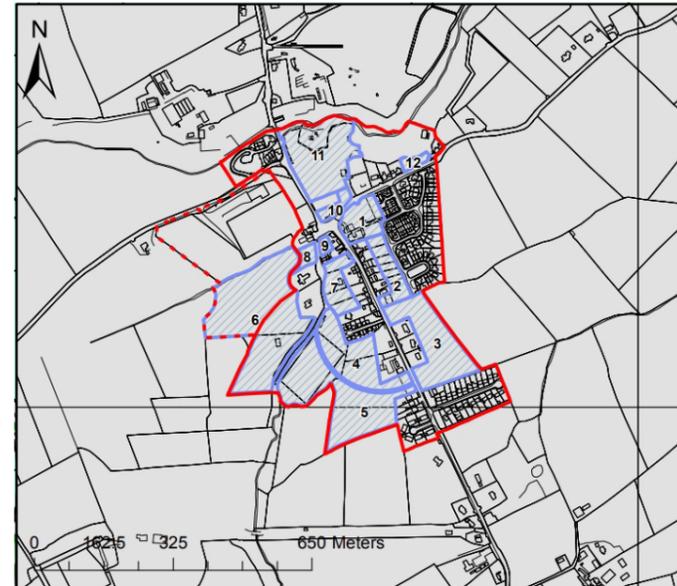
Zoning Objectives, Fingal Development Plan 2017 - 2023



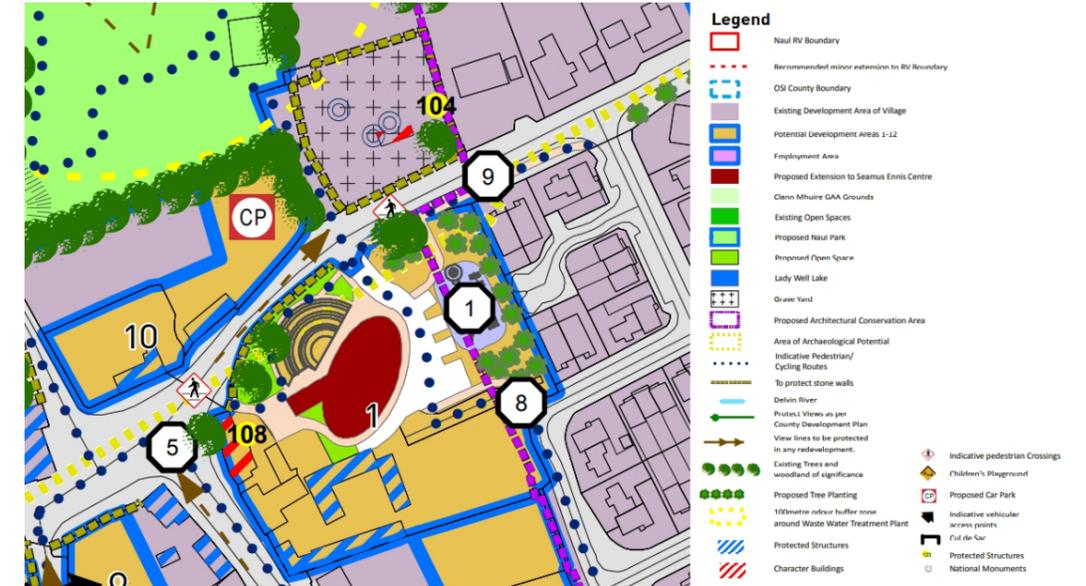
2.2 Local Area Plan (LAP)

The Naul LAP identifies Potential Development Areas 1-12, Naul Village Park comprises Area no.1 and its' development objective is described in the LAP as follows,

“This is a key development site in the heart of the village adjacent to the Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre and linking to Delvin Banks. A new civic/recreational and a children’s/elders playground and village parking are proposed for this area. Limited commercial/retail development will be considered within this development area together with the reuse of the existing courtyard outbuildings as residential accommodation for visiting musicians and other artists. The development of this site will also afford an opportunity to develop a pedestrian link from Delvin Banks to the Main Street, avoiding the Balbriggan Road”.



Development Areas 1-12



Development Area 1 showing specific objectives 1, 8 and 9

Specific objectives (SO) associated with Development Area 1 are as follows,

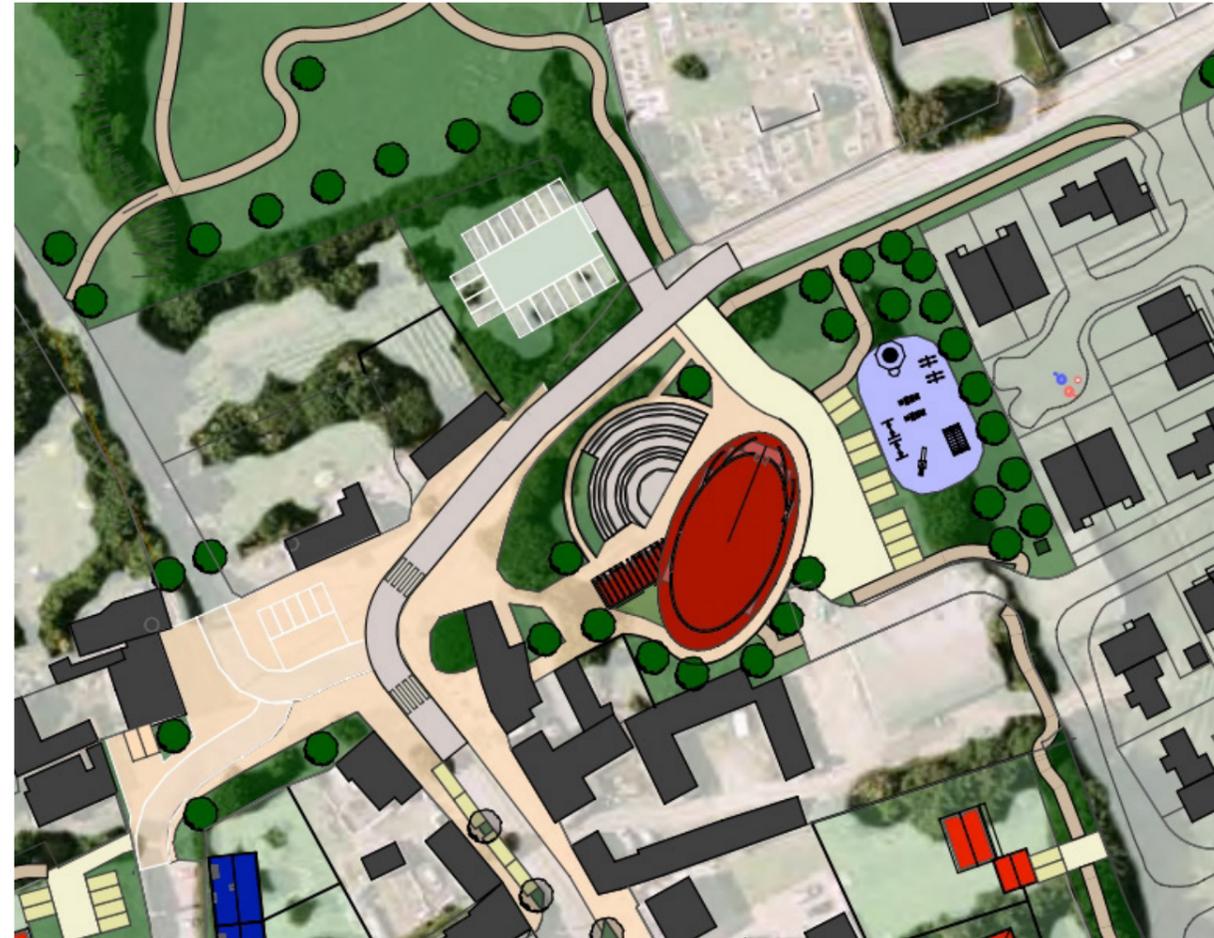
SO 1 To provided for a children's and elder's playground in association with the proposed expansion to the Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre.

SO 8 To provide pedestrian access to the south of Seamus Ennis Centre site from Delvin Banks housing estate.

SO 9 To provide and east-west footpath along the northern edge of the Seamus Ennis Centre, contiguous with the existing footpath at Delvin Banks Housing Estate.

It is an objective of this LAP that Development Area 1 shall accord with the following development parameters:

- The development of this area is envisaged as a new civic quarter with high quality buildings and an enticing public realm, providing for the creation of civic/recreational building, auditorium and rehearsal rooms, extending the capacity of the SEC Centre, together with children's/elder's playground and village parking.
- Pedestrian/cycle access routes, permitting a high degree of permeability, shall be provided, throughout the development area, linking the development area with Main Street, Devlin Banks and the proposed Naul Park to the north.
- Vehicular access shall be from the Balbriggan Road. No vehicular through route to either Delvin Banks or to the Main Street shall be permitted.
- An amphitheatre, suitable for outdoor events is proposed as a link between the existing SE centre and the new auditorium, having regard to the significant difference in ground levels.
- Ensure the protection of existing trees and hedgerows, in particularly, along the Balbriggan Road frontage and to the south of the development area. Substantial tree planting is proposed as a buffer to the existing housing at Devlin Banks.
- Provision of adequate off-street parking.



Extract from the Naul Village Development Framework Plan

LEGEND

	Proposed Open Space
	Proposed Sports Grounds
	Proposed Private Space
	Proposed Civic Space
	Proposed Paths
	Proposed Car park areas
	Proposed Pedestrian priority space
	Proposed Street
	Proposed Pedestrian Crossing
	Existing Buildings
	Proposed Business Units
	Proposed Single Storey Dwellings, suitable for the Elderly
	Proposed Two Storey Dwellings
	Proposed Nursing Home
	Proposed Community Garden & allotments



EXISTING SITE CONTEXT & ANALYSIS

3.1 The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre

The proposed village park for Naul is located behind the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre (tSEAC). The site appears to have had no defined use over time apart from perhaps an agricultural one. Due to its location, it is associated with the tSEAC and will include proposals that reference Séamus Ennis and his contribution to Irish Musical Heritage.

Séamus Ennis was most noted for his uilleann pipe playing and was partly responsible for the revival of the instrument during the twentieth century.

During his work with the Irish folklore commission Séamus preserved almost 2,000 Irish songs, travelling around the country from the age of 23 recording and documenting traditional Irish songs. Séamus was fluent in every dialect of Irish. During His lifetime Séamus worked for the BBC and later became a full-time freelance musician.

In 1975 he returned to live out the last of his days on his grandfather's land, living in a mobile home in the corner of the field across from the graveyard. Séamus marked his Naul home 'Easter Snow' with a sign on his gate, which was the title of a slow air he used to play.

In 2001 the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre dedicated to the local Uilleann Piper, was officially opened, after being in the works for a number of years. The centre has grown over the years to hold Art exhibitions musical classes, workshops, dancing and yoga classes, slow sessions, movie screenings, comedies and Gigs, ranging in genres from soul, blues, trad, folk, rock and classical.



Note: Boundary lines shown for illustrative purposes only

3.2 Site Photographs



Cove-board type fence alongside the R122 Balbriggan Road (northern site boundary with vehicle access)



Slope with unmaintained planting



View on the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre outdoor event space



Gravel surfacing on site



Rendered and capped blockwork wall to the eastern / southern site boundary

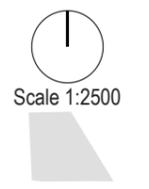


South side of the site



3.3 Site Analysis

Context Map





Contiguous Land Use



L E G E N D

-  Residential Development
-  Village Centre Commercial / Retail
-  Agricultural Grassland
-  Green Open Space
-  Woodland
-  Recreational Facilities
-  Light Industry
-  Derelict Site
-  Council Infrastructure
-  Water body
-  Buildings
-  Road Network

Scale 1:2500



Green Infrastructure



LEGEND

- Public Open Space
- Semi-Private Open Space
- Sports pitches
- Woodland
- Water body

Scale 1:2500



Circulation, Parking & Bus Stops



LEGEND

-  Regional Road
-  Local Primary Road
-  Access Roads
-  Car Park
-  Local bus stop

Scale 1:2500



Landscape Typologies

LEGEND

-  Scrub
-  Hedgerow
-  Trees
-  Loose gravel surfacing
-  Paving / concrete surfacing
-  Buildings
-  Shipping Containers




Scale 1:500



Boundaries, Access Points and Circulation

LEGEND

-  Timber Panelled Fence
-  High Concrete Blockwork Wall
-  High Natural Stone Wall
-  Low Cement Rendered Wall
-  Gated Pedestrian Access Point
-  Gated Vehicular Access Point
-  External Pedestrian Circulation
-  External Cyclist Circulation
-  Buildings
-  Shipping Containers

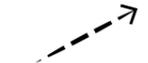


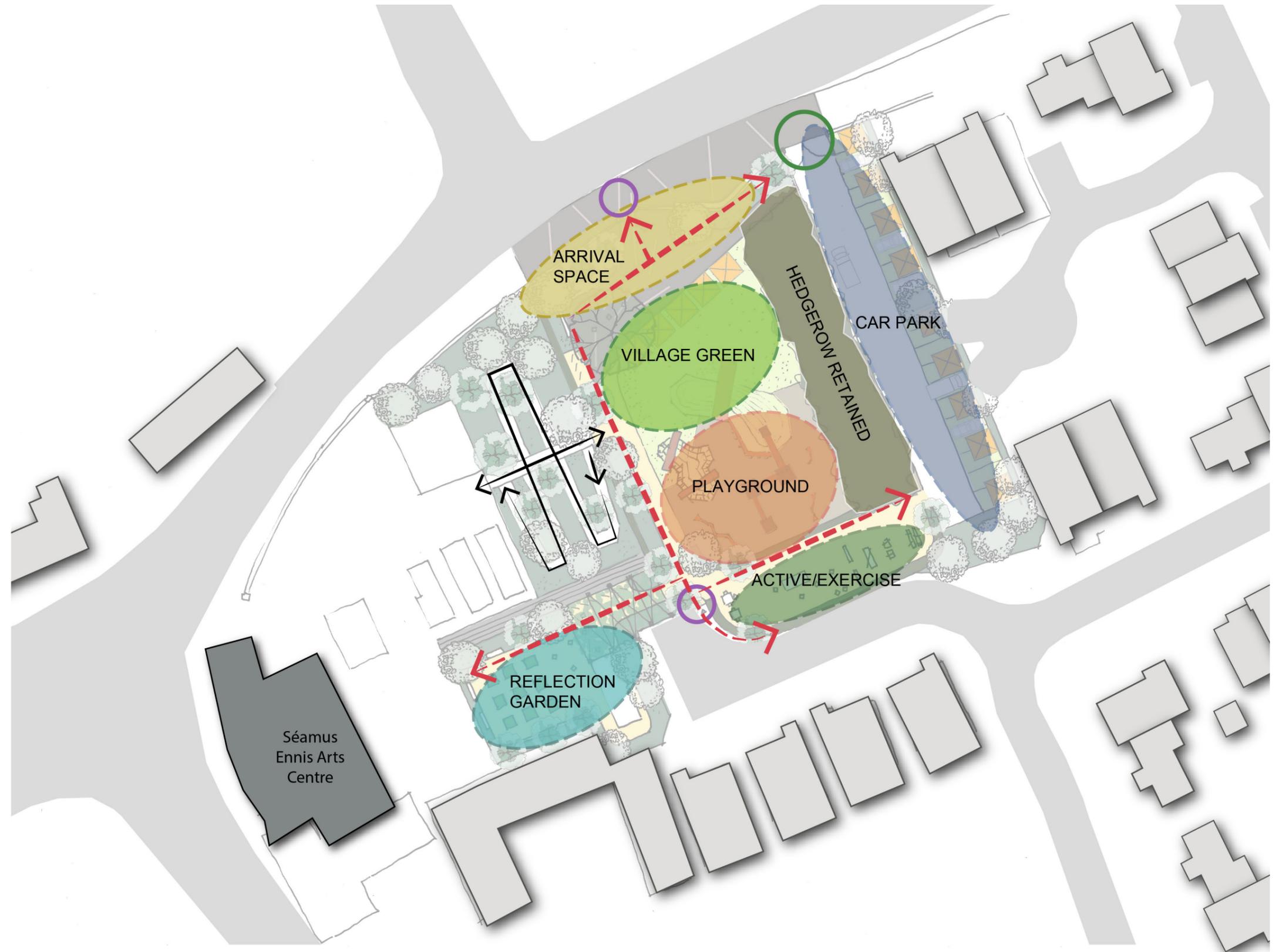
Scale 1:500



Design Strategy

LEGEND

-  Proposed Vehicular Access Point
-  Proposed Pedestrian Access Point
-  Proposed Primary Pedestrian Route
-  Proposed Secondary Pedestrian Route




Scale 1:500



PART 8

PROPOSED NAUL VILLAGE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

DESIGN PROPOSALS



4.1 Proposed Naul Village Park Development Project



4.2 Detailed Proposals

It is intended that the proposed park will become integral to Naul, a place which contributes to the village's unique character and one in which the community can come together for events and general amenity.

4.2.1 Village Green

The park borrows the concept of a village green to create a centerpiece around which other elements can be arranged. A village green is a simple concept but it is appropriate for this location, the green will be positioned opposite the old graveyard and church ruins, and will be an open space from which this heritage site can be appreciated. In an opposite sense, the church and graveyard provide a backdrop to the park, and so the village green borrows the visual amenity it provides to emphasise a unique sense of place.

A large feature tree will be positioned in the village green to provide a focal point. It is proposed that this will be a large specimen tree that will hopefully come to inspire the same fond memories of Naul that the 'Big Tree' once did amongst the village's residents. The 'Big Tree' stood proudly in the village for over a hundred years and represented a constant feature for many generations of villagers.

4.2.2 Playground

The playground will borrow themes from Naul's rich heritage to create a play experience that is rooted in its' context. The Black Castle (also known as Cruise's Castle) dates to the 12th century and sits roughly 100 metres north of the graveyard. The castle is a prominent piece of Naul's heritage (though it is largely inaccessible and shrouded in dense ivy) and it is proposed to reference it in a play piece that resembles a castle tower. Similarly, the musical heritage that Séamus Ennis secured for future generations will be referenced in musical play pieces that appeal to a child's senses and their natural creativity.



The Naul Chestnut Tree in 1885 (Image: Fingal County Council)



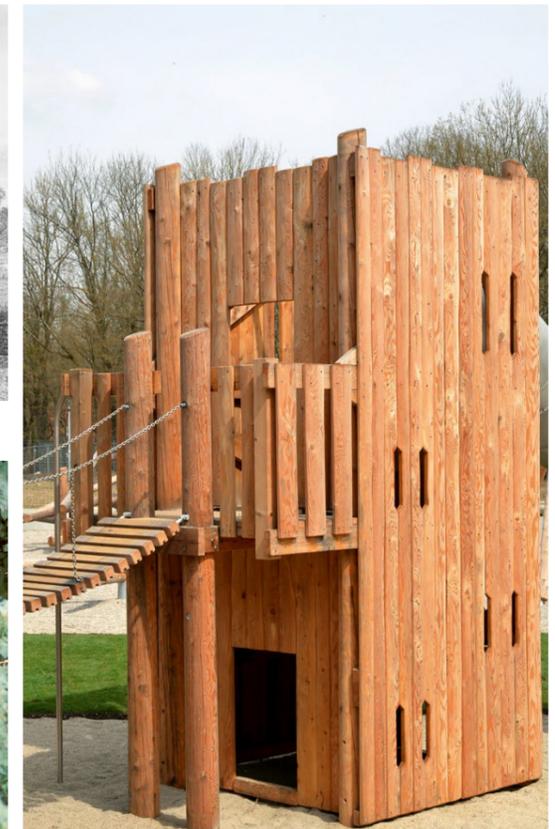
Village Green & Arrival Space Proposal



Historic image of The Black Castle, Naul



Outdoor musical play pieces



Castle play structures (inspired by the Black Castle)

CONCEPT PERSPECTIVE - NAUL VILLAGE PARK



4.2.3 Nature Play

The overall vision for the playground is that it offers high play value and inclusivity within a setting that avails of borrowed landscape elements in pursuit of an experience that is close to nature. In the case of Naul Village Park, the main borrowed landscape element will be the old field boundary hedgerow. The hedgerow is a remnant of the previous agricultural landscape and helps to further establish a unique sense of place. For this reason, it was decided at the outset of the design process that the hedgerow should provide a backdrop for the playground.

The use of borrowed landscape elements taps into the concept of nature play, that is play that occurs in a natural setting and uses elements that occur in nature. An example of this is the replacement of rubberised safety surfacing with woodchip surfacing, this does not compromise on impact absorption and complies with European playground standards. Similarly, play equipment will be constructed from bark-peeled logs so that they retain their knobby tree-like appearance, this is in contrast to play equipment constructed from metal and coated in colourful rubberised materials that are clearly artificial. The playground will be scattered with elemental features such as logs and boulders and also with tree and groundcover planting to further emphasise the natural aesthetic.

Furthermore, to strengthen the idea of nature play and taking an inspiration from Naul's historical heritage, it is proposed that the grass mound will offer an array of unique play opportunities. On one side it is connecting to the castle play structure (itself a reference to the Black Castle ruin visible from the playground) before dropping abruptly on the other into the wooden climbing wall which takes inspiration from the Irish placename An Aill – anglicised as Naul. The mound sits beside another element of the project which is the 'Quarry', a sunken area in the lawn with tree trunks acting as bridges and emphasising the feeling of adventure.



Natural play - logs



Natural play - boulders



Playground Proposal



Natural play - 'An Aill' cliff and climbing mound



Natural play - 'Quarry'



Natural play - logs and depression



Calisthenics - see section 4.2.4



Exercise equipment for older - see section 4.2.4



Table Tennis - see section 4.2.4

Arrival space to be paved in natural stone setts with contrasting paving strips scattering throughout informally, it is proposed to engrave the strips with the words of 'Easter Snow' - the traditional air that was a favourite of Séamus Ennis



CONCEPT PERSPECTIVE - PLAYGROUND

4.2.4 The Recreation and Fitness Area

The fitness area, located immediately south of the playground, is a space designated for sport and fitness activities and is intended to cater for a wide age-range of users. The space contains exercise equipment for older users, calisthenics for teenagers and adults, and table tennis for all ages.

4.2.5 Reflection Garden

A Reflection Garden is proposed in the south-west corner of the site. Backdrops such as the church graveyard and the old hedgerow have been mentioned previously in terms of borrowed landscape elements and how they contribute to the parks' identity. This location is similar in that it seeks to make a feature of the old farm buildings that partly define the park boundary. The architectural style of the farm buildings is a vernacular rubble stone that is a visual compliment to any garden laid out in a formal style, it creates associations to walled gardens and a heritage aesthetic as befits a garden in Naul's Village Park.

A precedent which has been considered for the design of the garden is Rothe House in Kilkenny. Here, a formal garden is laid out against the backdrop of Medieval stone walls and is a direct comparison for what can be achieved in Naul. It is proposed that the garden will feature raised planters for horticultural pursuits, bespoke benches and chess tables. The garden will provide for this array of passive amenities in a quiet area of the park, and so will become an ideal place to relax and socialise in a pleasant setting.

4.2.6 Parking

The landscape proposals have set out to increase parking availability appropriate to the scale of the site. It is intended the car park will serve the graveyard, alleviate on-street parking in the village, provide parking for the proposed park and additional parking for the Séamus Ennis Centre. The car parking area is to be designed incorporating reinforced grass and will be future proofed by the inclusion of ducting to facilitate electric car charging. Parking and access will comply with road safety requirements.



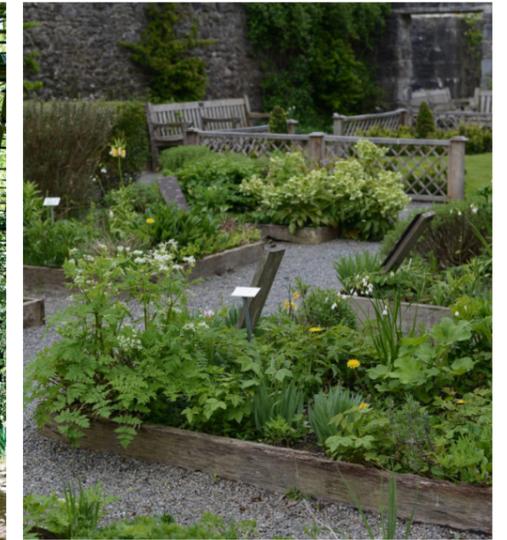
Herb Garden Proposal



Chess tables



Pergola passage



Garden at Rothe House - Kilkenny, source official Rothe House website



Grasscrete car-parking



Parking Proposal



CONCEPT PERSPECTIVE - REFLECTION GARDEN

4.3 Farmers market and events location



There is a potential to organise occasional events such as farmers markets and flea markets in two locations in the park. Market stalls can be installed in the proposed car park, allocating for example two spaces per vendor for their tent and vehicle, as illustrated in the sketch plan on this page.

There would also be scope for vendors to pitch up in the 'Arrival Space' where they will benefit from increased exposure to the Balbriggan Road and the potential customers who may be passing by.

4.4 Proposed Planting Palette

Tree Planting



Pin Oak - *Quercus palustris*



Oriental cherry - *Prunus serrulata*



Crabapple - *Malus 'Royal Raindrops'*



Wild Cherry - *Prunus avium 'Plena'*



Rowan - *Sorbus aucuparia*

Ornamental Grass and Perennial Planting



Sesleria autumnalis



Erysimum 'Bowles's Mauve'



Chionochloa flavicans



Rubeckia fulgida 'Goldstrum'



Knautia macedonica

Garden Planting



Mentha sp.



Rosmarinus officinalis



Allium 'Christophii'



Salvia officinalis

Woodland planting



Vinca minor



Polystichum setiferum



Mahonia aquifolium 'Apollo'

4.5 Proposed Hardscape Materials, Furniture & Signage

Furniture and Signage



Bespoke hardwood clad bench seating (top) and robust trunk-type seating (bottom)



Movable furniture



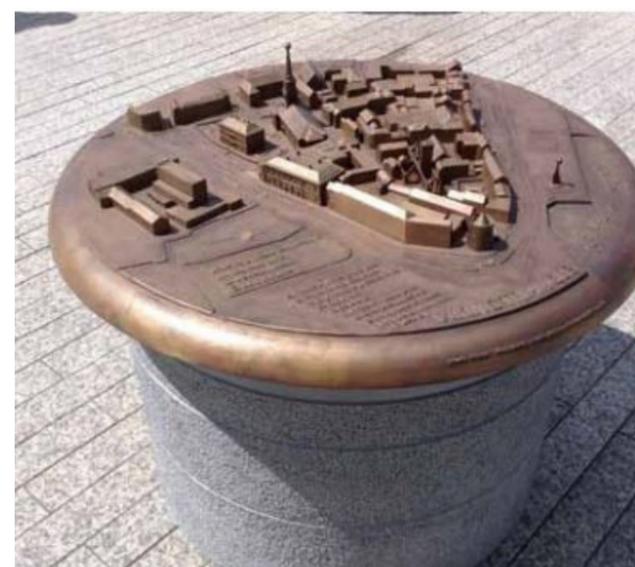
Sheffield cycle stands



Heritage information signage

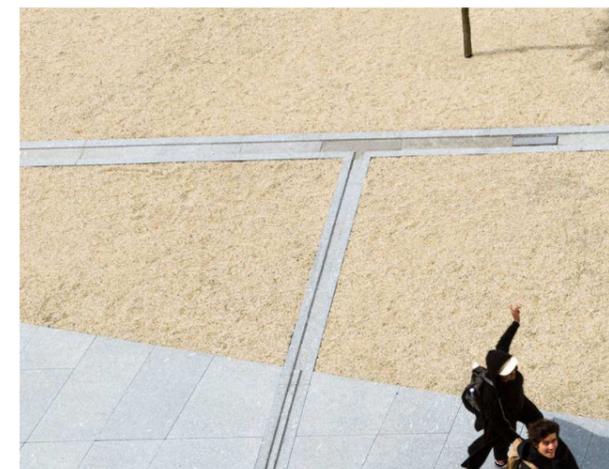


QR code signage



Heritage way-finding sculptural piece

Materials



Hard-binding gravel surface



50mm cube split face setts with engraved natural stone inserts



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County



ait
urbanism + landscape



Registered
Landscape
Architects

3rd Floor
Newmarket House
Newmarket Square
Dublin 8

Tel: 086 3263466
E: hello@ait-place.ie
w: www.ait-place.ie