



**Part 8 Submission**  
**on behalf of Maynooth Community Council**  
**Ref: P82021.06 Proposed Redevelopment of**  
**Harbour Field, Maynooth**

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*Maynooth Community Council*

*Maynooth,  
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## Introduction

Maynooth Community Council is a voluntary group comprising Residents' Associations and Community Groups in Maynooth. The Planning and Development Subcommittee of Maynooth Community Council would like to make the following submission on behalf of our members.

We'd like to welcome this long awaited plan for the Harbour Field. The plan has many very positive aspects that will go a long way to increase the amenity value of this much loved and used public space.

At the town-centre health check community engagement process in 2018 the development of the Harbour field was by far the most popular proposal.

## Observations

All aspects of the new development must be accessible to and cater for all ages and abilities in our community.

All materials and designs must be sustainable. For example, consider the use of recycled plastic materials instead of wood. The recycled plastic products are maintenance free helping to reduce costs.

### 1. Playground

We welcome the upgrade of the playground. Provision of new equipment such as trampolines, sand pits, diggers, zip lines will bring this facility up to modern day standards. The existing climbing towers have encouraged anti-social behaviour and could be replaced by spider web climbing frames for example. The playground must also include more accessible and inclusive equipment.

### 2. Basketball Court

It is important to keep this facility.

It is noted that there is no provision for a basketball court in the current design. The basketball court is now very popular and constantly in use. For health and safety reasons, a court dedicated solely to basketball is desirable as opposed to a dual purpose pitch.

### 3. Toilet Facilities

Toilet facilities are much needed in this area.

### 4. Green Areas

This green area would need to be large enough to accommodate informal kick-arounds. The Central Axis route splits up the area. We think it should be removed from the design.

### 5. New Features

The new facilities such as the Sensory garden, Boardwalk, Events space, bowling and table tennis, Skate park, pump park are all very welcome additions to the Harbour Field.

We would recommend the addition of specific tables with embedded designs for board games.

### 6. Entrance Structure

A less harsh and more inviting entrance to the Harbour Field is suggested.

### 7. Stone wall removal

While the stone wall has some historic significance, we agree with the proposed partial removal. The current laneway encourages anti-social behaviour and is used as a toilet etc.

We agree with keeping the metal turnstyle.

## 8. Landscaping and Planting

Welcome the addition of landscaped raised beds and other planting schemes.

Suggest that beds include year round pollinator friendly herbaceous plants, shrubs and spring flowering bulbs.

Trees must be native species e.g Rowan, Birch, Holly etc.

Consideration should be given to planting edible hedges.

Planting wildflower meadow seeds should be avoided at all costs. Most wildflower seed mixes are imported from other countries and are not native, so there is a very high risk of accidentally bringing in pest species that can be devastating to our natural ecosystems.

## 9. Bicycle Facilities

To encourage active travel, a number of covered bicycle parking facilities should be included in the design and in close proximity to the playing areas.

## 10. Upkeep and maintenance

It is imperative that there is a park keeper to ensure the proper upkeep and maintenance of all facilities.

## 11. CCTV/Security

CCTV and proper security measures including lighting will ensure that the park is safe at all times and fit for purpose.

## 12. Adult Gym

The provision of the adult gym equipment should be reconsidered as it is rarely used.

## 13. Picnic and BBQ area

The picnic and BBQ area is a welcome addition to the facilities. Safety signage and disposal facilities should be provided.

## Conclusion

This excellent design and proposed development of The Harbour Field will be a positive and welcome addition to our town.