



Playground for Allenwood

Public Information Meeting

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Why Allenwood needs a playground
3. Inform you of the progress made before we started
4. Give an update on the work we've done since taking on the project and our proposed plans

Introduction

It was assumed that work on a playground was ongoing and the community were not aware that the project had stalled

Playground was raised in [council meeting](#) in January 2015

KFM reports on the meeting and states that ACDAL offered a site and the [last status](#) was that the council were awaiting confirmation that the site could be used

No progress is reported after this and nothing is documented relating to the project

The purpose of this meeting is to inform you as of now

Why a playground is needed

1. Over [800 houses](#) in a 3 kilometer radius of Allenwood Cross and rising
2. At least two pre-schools within 2 kilometers of the cross
3. The only village in North Kildare with no playground [within 10 kilometers](#) (most have 2 and some have 4)

Previous work

Thanks to:

ACDAL Board and Creche Committee

Wilfie Cronin

Previous work

- A site was offered by ACDAL near Bright Sparks
- A site was offered by Tommy Carroll near Derrymullen Bridge
- Wilfie Cronin met with Fiona O'Loughlin TD and Simon Wallace (Parks Dept., Kildare County Council) to evaluate both sites
- The ACDAL site was considered suitable by the council but the council did not receive confirmation that the site could be used
- Progress stalls at this point

Why did progress stall?

- It is possible that the bulk of the work was being done in conjunction with the work to develop Bright Sparks and when that work completed the meetings ceased and the playground project lost momentum.
- Some of the community believed that the ACDAL site was too far from Allenwood Cross. This may have caused division that stalled progress also.

2017

Following some queries as to the status of the project it was determined that the project had stalled

Brendan Wyse attempted to garner interest in forming a committee to restart the project and was told that the Tidy Towns had recently discussed same

At a subsequent Tidy Towns meeting a sub-committee was formed for the purpose of moving the playground project forward again

We began by identifying the sites available now and assessing them and we are now ready to recommend a site

Sites that were assessed

1. Site opposite Cushalla on Derrymullen Road
2. Allenwood GAA grounds
3. Derelict House on Main Road
4. Site on Main Road between Cross and Allenwood South
5. Entrance Road to Bright Sparks

***We only assessed sites that we were told were available*

Criteria for assessing potential sites

Area	What size is the site?
Cost	How much would the land cost?
Availability	When will the site be available to us?
Security	Is it safe when in use and at night time?
Parking	Is there adequate parking for visitors?

Playground Areas

Ellistown	1700 m ²	Kildare Town	1890 m ²
Rathangan	2000 m ²	Naas (Monread)	1940 m ²
Monasterevin	2360 m ²	Kilcullen	1090 m ²
Clane	350 m ²	Newbridge	1050 m ²
Maynooth	1920 m ²	Timahoe	360 m ²

Average Area: 1466 m²

Houses per Area

Allenwood Cross - 237 (within walking distance)

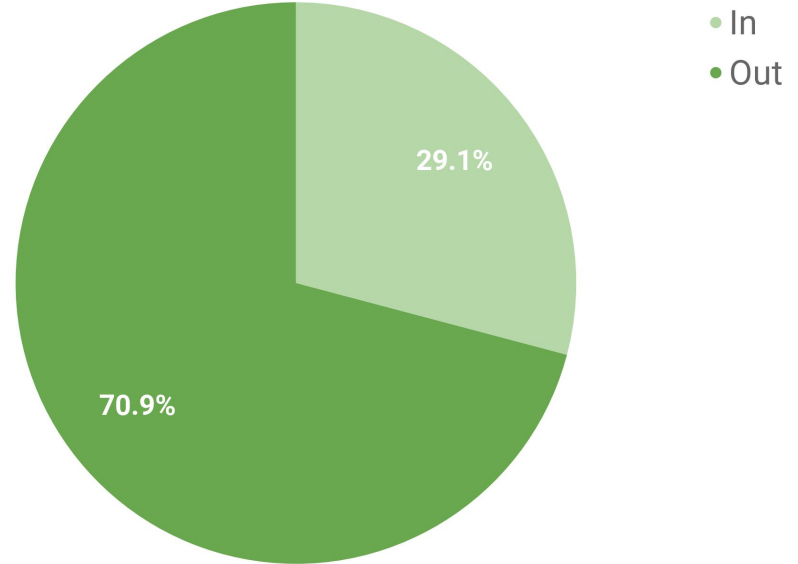
Allenwood South - 178

Derrymullen / Grangeclare / Ballyteague - 164

Bluetown - 137

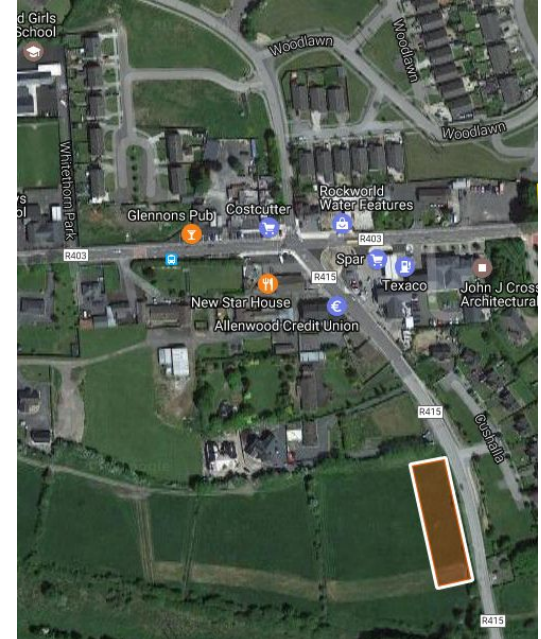
Back Road / Killinagh Road - 68

Lowtown - 30



1: Opposite Cushalla on Derrymullen Rd.

Area	Unknown
Cost	No cost
Availability	No longer available
Security	Close to residential area
Parking	Nearest parking would be at Cross



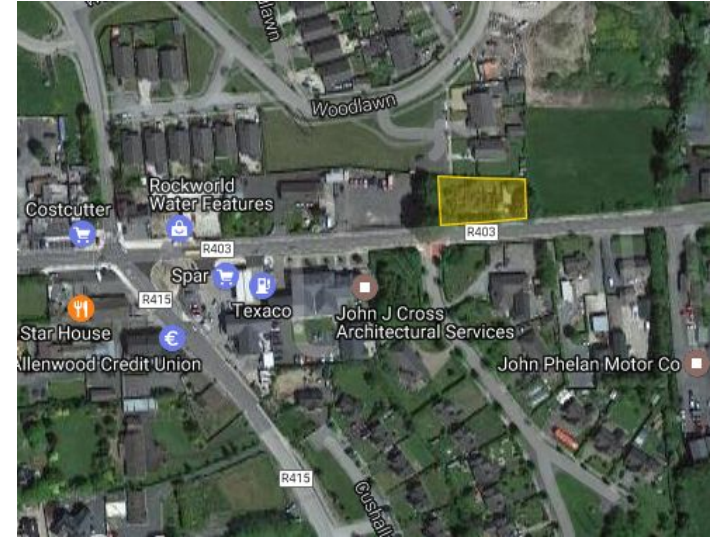
2: Allenwood GAA

Area	Estimated 970 m ²
Cost	No cost
Availability	Never offered
Security	Gate locked at night
Parking	Large car park adjacent



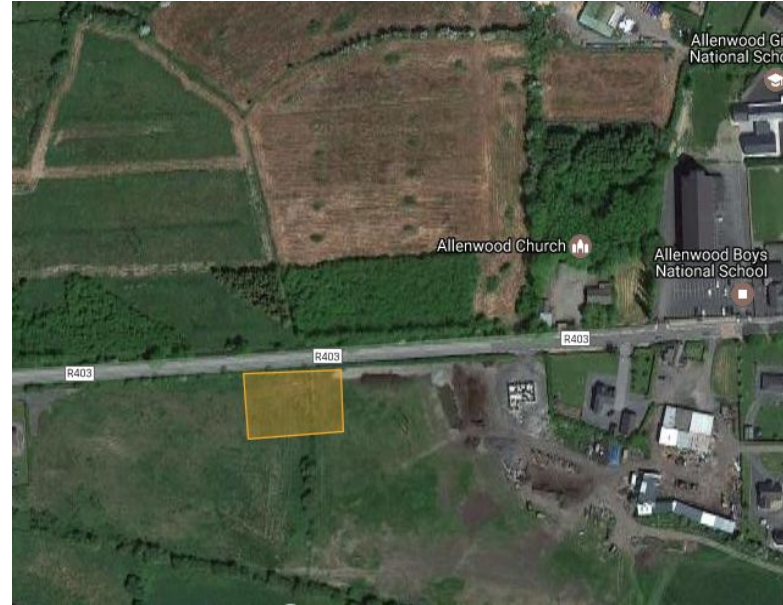
3: Derelict House on Main Rd.

Area	1040 m ²
Cost	Thousands
Availability	Unavailable
Security	Very open area
Parking	Nearest parking would be Cross



4: Between Cross and Shee Bridge

Area	Unknown
Cost	No cost
Availability	Possibly, in 10 - 15 years
Security	Would be in residential area
Parking	Parking in residential area?



5: Bright Sparks Driveway

Area	2800 m ²
Cost	No cost
Availability	Available now (since 2012)
Security	Gates locked at night time
Parking	ACDAL car park adjacent



Recommended Site

Having assessed the sites we are now proposing to move forward with the Bright Sparks Driveway site for the following reasons:

1. The area is larger than any existing playground we assessed
2. The site is available right now and at no cost to the community
3. The site is secure with lockable gates, regular traffic during the day and CCTV on the nearby office block
4. There is a large adjacent parking area which is easily accessible
5. It is close to Bright Sparks and could be used by the creche also

Bright Sparks Driveway



SuperValu 
Tidy Towns Allenwood

Finance

Recent Costs

- Ellistown Playground: €150,000
- Rathangan Playground: €180,000

Sources of funding

- Funding available from Kildare County Council
- We will be applying to AES Drehid to be our sole major sponsor through their Grant Scheme

Next Steps

- Formally notify ACDAL board of our wish to proceed using their offered site
- Work with Kildare County Council to determine how to initiate the planning
- Preliminary contact with AES Drehid Grant Committee to notify them of our intentions to seek funding
- Work with local Councillors to agree funding from Council

Timescales

- Timahoe planning application went in December 2014
- Permission granted September 2015 (10 months)
- Opened Spring 2017 (1.5 years)

Questions

Thanks to:

- Allenwood GFC for the use of their hall
- So Fresh Entertainment for the use of their PA System
- All local businesses for allowing us to promote the meeting

Please let us know if you want to help in any way.

