



# ALLENWOOD TIDY TOWNS

## ALLENWOOD COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND - PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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### **Overview**

As a community group that has been helping to drive forward the Allenwood Playground project from what was a dormant state for several years to the point where Part 8 Planning is now being sought, we welcome the decision by Kildare County Council to build a playground on the site that was offered by ACDAL to the wider community. We have a panel of interested members of the community ready to assist with the project now and in the future. We also welcome the opportunity to provide some input regarding the playground at the planning stage, via the public submission process.

Please find below the key points we would like to make for your consideration at this stage.

### **Inclusive Play**

By far, the most common request that we've had in relation to the playground design is that it should be suitable for all children, including those with disabilities that may be restricted from using some types of playground equipment.

We trust that the team in Kildare County Council are already aware of the need for this and we are simply concurring with that need, based on the feedback we have received from parents and groups such as the Kildare branch of Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland.

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We attach a PDF that was produced by the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency that is a great reference on the subject. We found it very informative and include it in case you haven't seen it yet.

### **Community Engagement**

We are grateful for the engagement that Kildare County Council have had with us to date and we would like for that engagement to continue. Particularly as we come to the point of deciding a final equipment choice and layout for the playground.

We are considering expanding our group to have official representatives from all local groups such as scouts, sports clubs and the primary school. If the council would be willing to work with us, we would endeavour to keep things moving along and at the same time ensuring that what we build will meet the needs of the community for years to come.

### **ACDAL Liaison**

We recommend that Kildare County Council formally request a designated liaison contact from the ACDAL Board of Management to oversee the playground project on their behalf.

This would help expedite the process of obtaining any necessary documentation for the transfer of lands, if required, or obtaining grant aid on behalf of Kildare County Council or ACDAL. ACDAL is going through a transitional period right now and without a designated person for the playground project it is possible that communications with the group might cause delays or missed opportunities for funding.

### **Project Plan**

We would like to see an overall plan for the playground project, broken down into phases, assuming that it will be a phased project. It has always been the aim of our group and, we believe, Kildare County Council, to have the playground built first.

We welcome the high level plan for the entire site to include amenities for older children and adults. We would like to see some plan and costings for the various sub-sections of the plan which would help us to set expectations and make our own plans for the project in the long term.