

The Cabbage Garden Report

1st PUBLIC CONSULTATION

February 2019

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1 HISTORY OF CABBAGE GARDEN

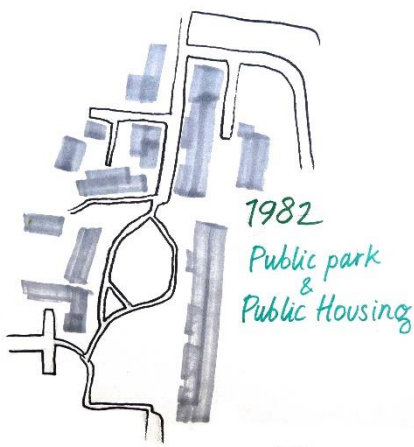
The name of the plot can be traced back to the arrival of Oliver Cromwell in Dublin 1649, who planted cabbages on this spot to feed his soldiers

1666 Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral as cemetery

1668 Ground was consecrated, later part of this plot was reserved for the burial of Huguenots

The burial ground was closed in 1878 to all but 14 families.

The last interment took place in 1896 and the cemetery closed early in the 20th century



Part of the ground was converted into a public park while the rest was covered by public housing constructed by Dublin Corporation at the junction of Cathedral Lane and Upper Kevin St., which opened in 1982.

2017 – 2018 Commencement of inter-agency meetings to begin to examine use and potential for re-development and re-imagining of the space

2. CONTEXT FOR CONSULTATION

- The park has fallen into a bad state of repair and entrances gates, railings, paths, all are in need of major cleaning and weeding.
- Graveyard section is particularly an eye sore; some of the gravestones have been damaged and defaced.
- Anti-social behaviour has escalated with drug users, sellers, youths with no engagement process mis-using their energy on destruction.

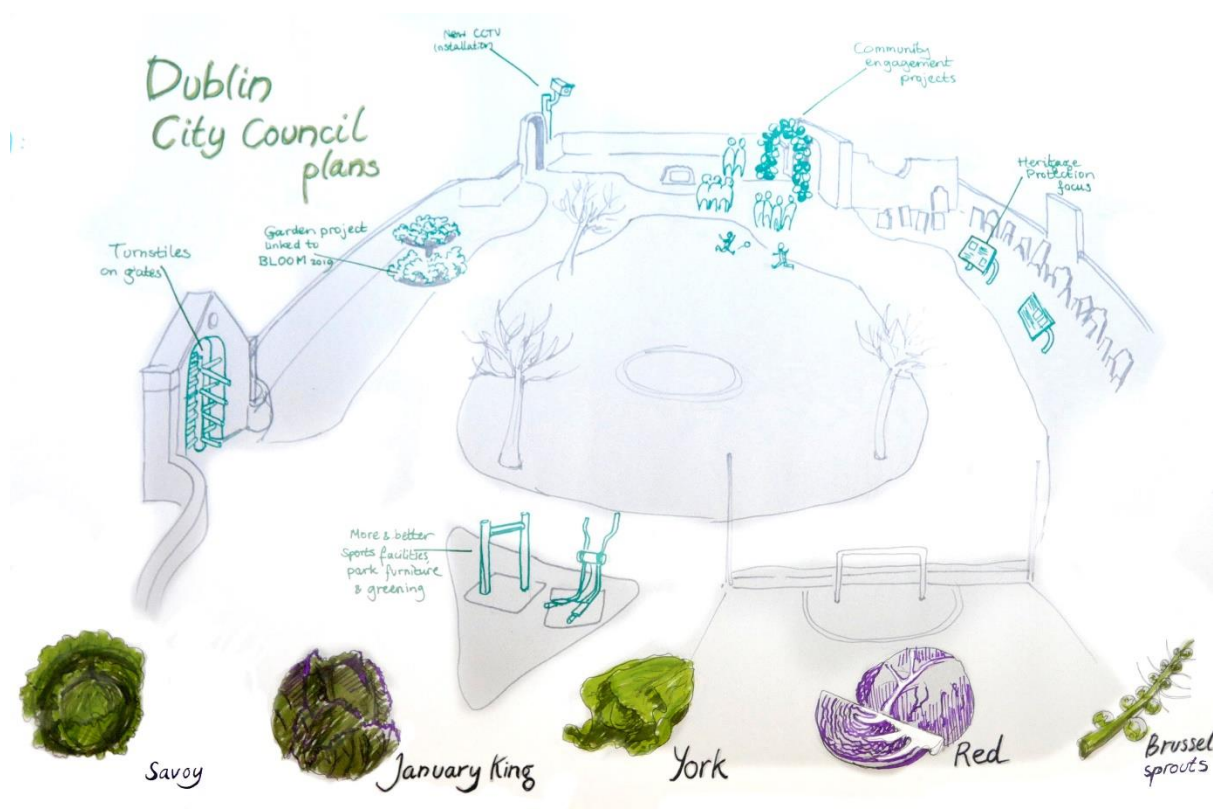
- Soccer pitch has been neglected and used for wrong reasons, dog park, etc.
- Lighting and signage are poor in the park and some new lights inside with park signage on opening hours, litter, dog control etc all needed.
- Cathedral Lane leads down to the Main Road and then onto St. Patricks Close - a busy tourist destination with Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Marsh's library - extending some tree planting and signage, with a new programme of arts,
- Hallowe'en a major problem with bonfire lit every year in centre of park.



3. D.C.C. PLANS FOR CABBAGE GARDEN

Dublin City Council South East considers the refurbishment of the Cabbage Garden a priority and has allocated funds in its 2019 budget to start the project, which is anticipated to take three to five years to complete. Initial DCC plans include new CCTV installation, turnstiles on gates, the enlargement and improvement of sports pitch facilities, park furniture and flowering / greening, community engagement projects and a heritage protection focus and a proposal for a Garden project linked to

BLOOM 2019.



As there are many various interested parties and residents it was considered vital that an agreed approach and commitment is decided upon. A number of meetings were held with core individuals, agencies, local councillors and residents in the area in 2018, to begin discussions on what can be done. It was agreed that, in early 2019, an independently moderated public meeting and a related online survey would facilitate local residents giving input on their experience of living close to the Cabbage Garden and how they would envisage its use as a community resource. It is considered essential that the local residents feel ownership and belonging to the Cabbage Patch and the process for long term change and success.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 2019

Data Collection

The consultation comprised three elements:

1. A Public Meeting was moderated by Cora Lambert, Lambert Consulting, and illustrated by graphic facilitator, Stéphanie Heckman, [Appendix 1](#)
2. A youth Meeting facilitation by YMCA facilitators

3. An online survey, designed by DCC in consultation with locally based stakeholders

A summary of the collated feedback, [Appendix 2](#)

4.1 Participants

Approximately 40 people participated in the Public Meeting. The following groups were represented:

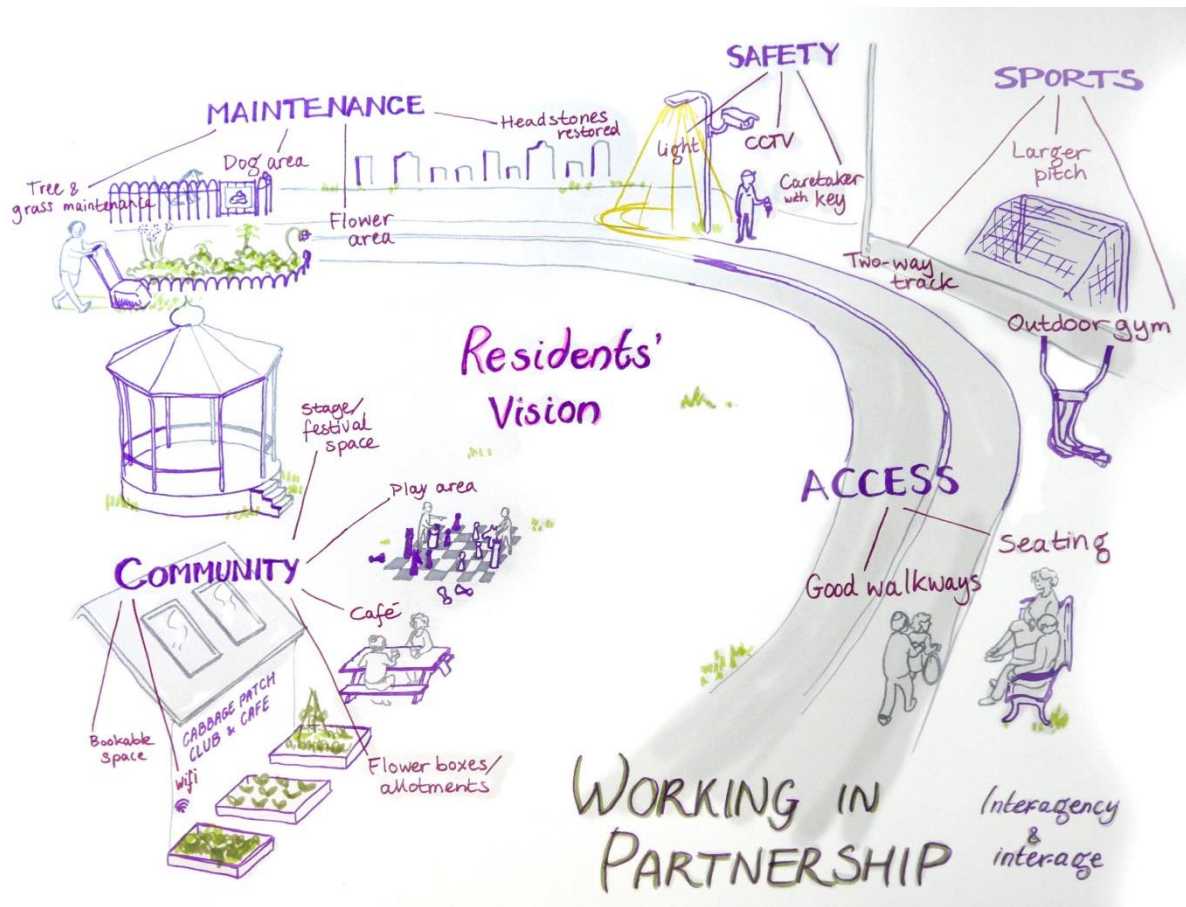
- Residents' Associations – Kevin Street, Iveagh Trust, Bride Street, New Street
- Garda Síochána based at Kevin Street
- Various Party Councillors
- Dublin City Council – South East Area, Parks, Library Sections
- Saint Patrick's Cathedral
- The Iveagh Trust
- YMCA Youth organisation
- Iveagh Celtic Football Club
- Scouts
- RADE @ Our Lady of Victory building

4.2 Structure of the Consultation Meeting.

The meeting was designed around a focus question, with time for individual consideration, followed by small group conversations and feedback discussed in plenary.

4.3 Focus question

If you were in charge, what would you consider to be the best use for the Cabbage Garden as a community resource?



5. FINDINGS

5.1 Security

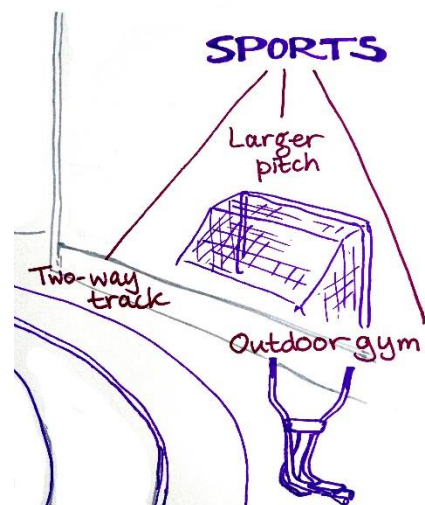
Security emerged as a strong concern for the majority of respondents in both the adult and youth forums and online respondents. Lighting, security cameras, turnstiles, and a strong police presence were seen as necessary deterrents to antisocial behaviours, and a critical first step in reclaiming the Cabbage Garden as a community resource.



5.2 Sport activities

The potential to use the Cabbage Garden as a sports amenity was a strongly held view among the respondents. Suggestions included upgrading the pitch to an all-weather pitch, an outdoor games area, exercise machines, and a fitness area.

Facilitated fitness sessions for all age groups – yoga, bootcamp, and a double lane for walkers and cyclists were also mooted.





5.3 Leisure Activities

Ideas for leisure activities were plentiful, and as would be expected, age related; mens' sheds, allotments, a café, a hub container for movies, dance club, films, youth club; and a play area (outdoor chess)

A number of people in both adult and youth groups requested wifi.

Opinion was divided on the subject of dogs, with some happy with a designated dog area and others requesting a ban on dogs in the park.

5.4 Relaxation

A quiet area was requested by many respondents – flowers, a water feature, plant life, seating would create a relaxed ambience. Murals would add colour, and interest.



5.5 Management

To maintain the park, ongoing maintenance and management is needed. A caretaker, who would be a key holder, would manage a booking system for use of pitch, and activities, oversee the use of the amenities and lock the park during darkness.

5.6 YMCA Youth Facilitated Consultation Findings

What services would you like to see in the area?

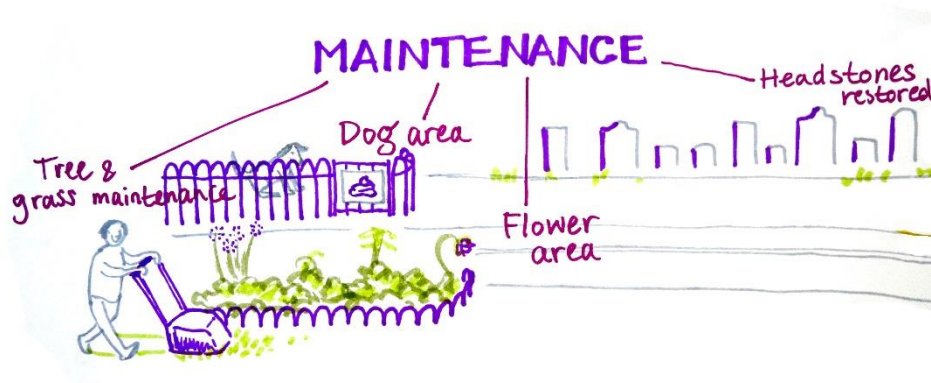
A dog park, disco for young people, more clothes shops, expand the Y (YMCA?)

Do you use any local services in your area?

YMCA, Iveagh Trust, Schools, New Street Park

What do you want in the Cabbage Garden?

- Lighting
- Security cameras
- Caretaker, with keys
- Larger pitch
- Exercise machines
- Playground
- Swimming pool
- Play area
- Stage, festival space
- Storage space
- café
- Dog park
- Designated dig area
- Allotments
- Stop fireworks, drugs
- Bigger pitch
- Fence around grave yard

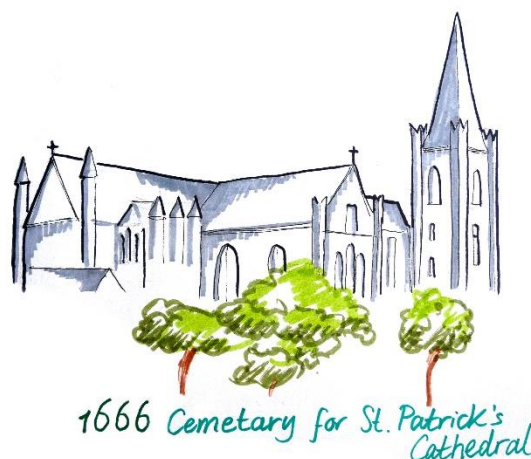


6.ONLINE SURVEY FINDINGS

6.1 What are the main things you like about living in area?

In response to the above question, nine of the fifteen online respondents cited community, a neighbourhood where people look out for each other, and proximity to amenities as their reasons for liking the area. Some have lived in the area all their lives and are not rearing families and could not imagine living elsewhere. Others moved away and came back and will be 'staying here for good'.

One respondent referenced the lovely old buildings and a wealth of history.



6.2 What are the main challenges and problems living in The Cabbage Patch area?

The main challenges cited relate to young people, dogs and antisocial behaviour. The lack of clubs, and outdoor facilities, such as parks, leaves young people with not enough activities and interests, and consequently vulnerable to mental health issues, and to engagement in drink, and drugs. A parent commented 'The children of this area the future adults need to be focused on.'



Poor lighting, unfriendly gates and fences, and 'rowdy, unsupervised youths' all contribute to making the streets 'no go areas' at night. Anti-social behaviours include drug dealing gangs, rubbish being dumped, graffiti, and quad biking. Christmas and Halloween were named as flashpoints for anti-social behaviours.

A dog owner said that there are very few places to let dogs off lead. As a result, there are quite a few 'poorly socialised dogs' in the city centre, and other respondents bemoaned dog 'rubbish' on the streets.

One respondent questioned continued building, including student accommodation in Dublin 8, the developments are seen as diluting the ‘community feel’ of their area, and increasing traffic congestion.

6.3 What three changes would you make in the area?

The responses to this question echoed the responses in the consultation processes. People want investment of funds and personnel, in particular a strong police presence that will allow them to live safely, without fear of intimidation by those engaged in antisocial behaviour, with the Cabbage Garden as a hub for social, leisure and sporting activities for all age groups.



RECOMMENDATIONS

There was a very high level of agreement across all the findings. People feel intimidated by the antisocial behaviours, and want to feel safe in their homes and neighbourhood, and visualise the Cabbage Garden, properly managed, as a hub for community, leisure and sports activities.

It is imperative that Dublin City Council (DCC) continues to collaborate with local police and community residents and organisations to expedite the wishes of the local people, clearly articulated through the consultation process, and communicate their plans and progress with them in a timely manner.

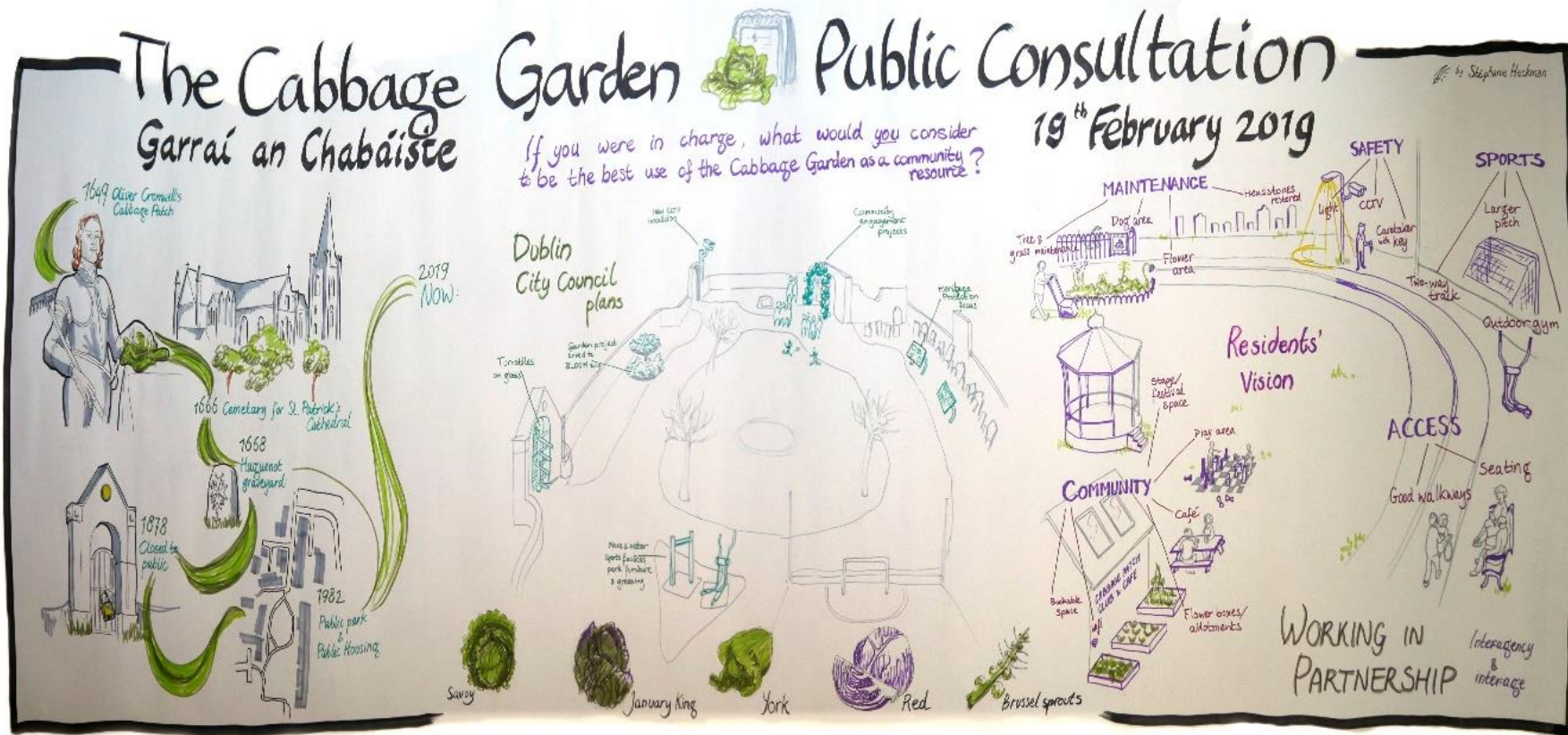
Appendix 1: Summary of Consultation Findings

SECURITY	MANAGEMENT	SPORT ACTIVITIES	LEISURE ACTIVITIES	RELAXATION
Strong police presence (4) More police	Booking system for use of pitch and activities (2) Booking pitch	Large all- weather pitch (5) Larger pitch Pitch upgraded	allotments allotments	Water fountain (2)
Lighting & Security cameras (5) cameras lighting	Continued maintenance & upkeep (2)	Game area	Café (3) Café cafe	Flower area (3) Flower area Plant life
Turnstiles (2) gates	Upgrade the pitch	Fitness sessions for all age groups – yoga, bootcamp	Hub Container, (2) for movies, dance club, Disco for young people Storage space	seating seating
	Wifi wifi	Fitness machines (3) Exercise machines Outdoor gym Gym equipment	Stage space: cinema, music etc. (2)	Murals
	Care taker with keys (2) left with local resident Care taker with keys	Double Lane Track for running (2) & bikes Cycle lanes	Men's shed/ garden tools	
	Prevent bikes and scramblers (3)	Play area i.e.outdoor chess	Designated Dog Area/ dog run (2) Designated Dog Park Closed area for dogs Dogs not allowed	
	Fence around the graveyard	Skate park	Youth Club for the community	
	More rubbish bins		Playground (6) Play area	
			Street Fest for whole area Festival Community activities/days	
			Clothes shops	

Colour Key:

Black = adult consultation (27 residents and 21 representatives from local organisations, see p. 4) Red = youth consultation (9 participants) Blue = online survey respondents (15 respondents)

Appendix 2: Graphic Facilitator's image of Public Consultation



END