



Lucan House and Demesne Public Consultation Report

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1.

Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Overview of Lucan House and Demesne

Lucan House is an 18th-century Palladian-style country house located in the heart of Lucan Village, approximately sixteen kilometres west of Dublin City Centre. Set within a mature demesne of over twelve hectares, the estate includes a remarkable ensemble of historic buildings, landscaped gardens, woodlands, and riverfront walks. The site is bounded by the River Liffey to the north and Lucan's historic Village Centre to the east and south, positioning the house as a natural bridge between heritage, community, and nature.

As recently as 2024, Lucan House was the home to the Italian Ambassador in Ireland and the site has a rich legacy of prior ownership preceding the house's purchase by the Italian government. Lucan House has long held symbolic and historical importance in the area, though it has been largely closed to the public in recent decades. The property includes numerous ancillary heritage structures such as the Bath House, the Back and Front (or 'White') Gate Lodges, the Stable Block, the Old Church Ruins, and Italian artist Davide Rivalta's Buffalo sculptures which adorn the green expanse in front of the Main House. With striking architectural grandeur, recreational potential, and considerable ecological value, the demesne represents a rare asset with the potential to become a best-in-class destination for heritage, tourism, and community engagement.

1.1.2 Acquisition by South Dublin County Council (SDCC)

During 2024, in what was seen as a landmark move by a local council, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) acquired Lucan House and its demesne with the goal of unlocking its full potential for public use. This acquisition marks a transformative moment for Lucan and the wider region, positioning the site as a focal point for regeneration, cultural engagement, and sustainable development and now presents a significant opportunity to develop a range of services and public amenities that coalesce to create a new visitor destination in the County.

The acquisition demonstrates SDCC's commitment to conserving historically significant assets while ensuring they are reimagined in ways that benefit local communities. Under SDCC's stewardship, Lucan House will transition from a private estate to a publicly accessible space that reflects contemporary values of inclusivity, sustainability, and cultural pride.

1.1.3 Historical and heritage significance

Lucan House was originally commissioned in the 1770s by Agmondisham Vesey Jr., inspired by the Venetian villas he encountered on his Grand Tour. The house, partially attributed to architect William Chambers and with interior plasterwork by Michael Stapleton, stands as a testament to Georgian elegance and craftsmanship, while also maintaining features of resilient Victorian design in its basement. Over the centuries, it was home to several prominent families, before eventually serving as the official residence of the Italian Ambassador to Ireland for approximately eighty years.

The demesne is dotted with protected structures and features of archaeological interest, including remnants of a medieval tower house, ecclesiastical ruins, and several early-modern estate buildings. These elements collectively offer a layered narrative of Lucan's social, political, and cultural history – one that spans centuries and connects local heritage with national identity.

Lucan House is listed as a Protected Structure (RPS Ref: 047 and 061) and parts of the estate fall within a Site and Monuments Record Zone, underscoring its significance under both architectural and archaeological criteria while setting in stone the care with which these elements must be preserved.

1.1.4 Strategic importance under SDCC Development Plan 2022-2028

The future of Lucan House is closely aligned with the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028, where it is zoned under the High Amenity Liffey Valley (HA/LV) designation. This zoning aims “*to protect and enhance the outstanding natural character and amenity of the Liffey Valley,*” placing emphasis on sustainable, inclusive, and environmentally sensitive development.

Lucan House is recognised as a strategic opportunity to:

- **Conserve** and celebrate South Dublin’s architectural and cultural heritage
- **Connect** key green infrastructure networks through sustainable travel and active mobility routes
- **Support** the regeneration of Lucan Village as a vibrant town centre and visitor destination
- **Contribute** to the objectives of THRIVE: the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme, co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under the ERDF. This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027

The masterplan for Lucan House is a key step in realising these objectives. Through meaningful public engagement and sensitive design, the project will help shape a long-term, community-focused vision for the site – enhancing its role as both a local landmark and a regional asset.



1.2 Purpose of this Public Consultation

1.2.1 Role of consultation in shaping the Masterplan

Public consultation plays a central role in shaping the emerging Masterplan for Lucan House and Demesne. As a site with deep historical, cultural, and ecological value, its future development must be grounded in the needs, values, and aspirations of the community it serves. Through meaningful engagement, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) sought to ensure that the Masterplan reflects not only best practices in conservation and design but also the lived experiences, ideas, and expectations of Lucan's residents.

Consultation in this case is not simply a procedural step – it is a cornerstone of inclusive planning, offering a platform for co-creation and shared stewardship. It helps identify opportunities, challenges, and local knowledge that may not be visible through technical analysis alone. Most importantly, it is central to building trust, transparency, and a sense of collective ownership over the future of this landmark site.

1.2.2 National and EU policy alignment

This consultation process is directly aligned with national and European policy frameworks, particularly:

- **THRIVE: Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme**
Funded under Strand 1 of the THRIVE initiative, this project supports the development of integrated urban strategies for the adaptive reuse of heritage assets. THRIVE emphasises citizen-centred design, transparency, and sustainable development
- **The New European Bauhaus**
A value-driven initiative from the European Union, the New European Bauhaus seeks to blend **sustainability**, **aesthetics**, and **inclusion** in the built environment. The consultation for Lucan House embraces these principles by creating space for community voices in the design of a vibrant, accessible, and ecologically sensitive public amenity

1.2.3 Key consultation objectives

The key objectives set out at the briefing stage of this consultation process were to:

- **Gather** diverse perspectives from residents, stakeholders, and specialist groups on the future of Lucan House
- **Understand** community priorities, ideas, and concerns in relation to conservation, reuse, public access, and design
- **Identify** opportunities for inclusive, sustainable, and culturally relevant development
- **Understand** the most common themes across audiences so that a community-led, shared vision for the site can be crafted
- **Ensure** transparency, trust, and accountability in the planning process
- **Create** an informed evidence base to guide the design and sequencing of the Masterplan

1.3 Teneo's Role

Teneo was appointed as the independently commissioned consultation team to design and facilitate this engagement process on behalf of SDCC and the appointed architect-led design team, Foley Architecture. Teneo's role was to ensure a robust, impartial, and inclusive process that delivered high-quality insights and captured as broad a spectrum as possible as it pertains to community sentiment.

As an independent and experienced strategic advisory firm, Teneo brings deep expertise in stakeholder engagement, public consultation, and research-led insight.

Our role has been to:

- **Design** an engagement approach tailored to the local context and policy framework
- **Facilitate** in-person and digital consultation formats
- **Provide a safe, welcoming and open environment** for discussion and debate
- **Analyse** and report findings in a clear, accessible, and actionable format

1.3.1 Scope of engagement and methodology

The consultation process was delivered across three stages:

1. **Design and Development** – A consultation approach was developed in collaboration with SDCC and Foley Architects, including survey tools, thematic workshops, and discussion guides tailored to a range of stakeholder groups
2. **Public Engagement** – A series of in-person groups, in-depth interviews, and an online survey were used to gather insights from the local community, interest groups, and under-represented voices
3. **Reporting and Insight Delivery** – Findings were synthesized into this report, identifying key themes and ideas to inform the next stage of the Masterplan

The engagement approach was designed to be as open, inclusive, and tactile as possible within the scope of budget available. This included qualitative techniques including idea ranking, sorting exercises, visual mapping, creative task allocation, and discussion of real-world comparators to help participants envision potential outcomes and offer grounded, practical feedback.

1.3.2 How findings will inform the Masterplan

Community feedback gathered through this process will directly inform the design and development of the Lucan House Masterplan. Ideas, concerns, and priorities expressed by the public will be integrated into the design team’s decision-making and will shape the vision, spatial layout, and proposed uses for the site. This ensures the Masterplan is not only technically and aesthetically strong, but also reflective of community values and local identity.

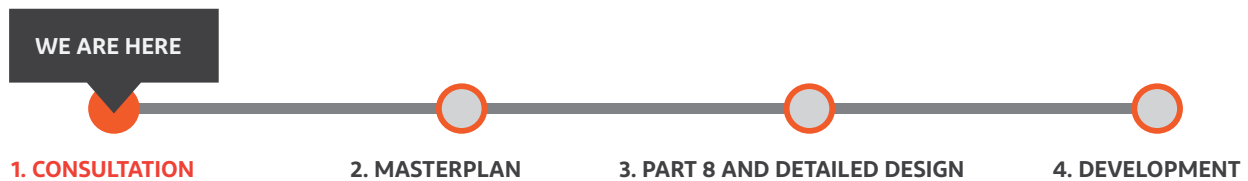


Figure 1: Timeline of the Lucan House Process.

1.4 About This Report

This report presents a synthesis of the consultation process, and the insights gathered throughout it. It provides:

- i. A high-level overview of themes that emerged from the consultation
- ii. A summary of community priorities, opportunities, and concerns
- iii. A reflection of how local input will guide the next steps in the Masterplan process

The report is intended to serve both as a record of engagement and as a practical tool for SDCC and the design team as they advance the project.

1.4.1 How community input will shape project direction

The consultation findings provide a community-led foundation for the Masterplan.

The themes and ideas shared will:

- **Guide** future uses and functions within the demesne
- **Inform** the desired/appropriate balance between preservation, access, and activation
- **Influence** decisions on accessibility, sustainability, and inclusivity
- **Help** to define the narrative and identity of Lucan House as it re-emerges as a public asset

By grounding the Masterplan in community voice, SDCC ensures that Lucan House’s next chapter is co-authored by the people who will live with, use, and care for it long into the future.



2.

Executive Summary



2.1 Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a comprehensive public consultation process commissioned by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) to inform the development of the Lucan House and Demesne Masterplan. Conducted in early 2025, the consultation was designed to ensure that community voice—not just expert vision—shapes the future use, design, and stewardship of this significant heritage site.

Over a five-week period, the consultation engaged more than 400 participants from Lucan and its surrounds through a hybrid research model combining quantitative and qualitative methods. These included:

- An online and paper-based survey capturing broad public sentiment
- Seven in-person workshops with stakeholder groups, including local businesses, cultural organisations, and general residents
- Twelve in-depth interviews with elected representatives
- Dedicated sessions for youth (primary and secondary students)
- A specialised “Critical Friends” group focusing on accessibility, neurodiversity, and inclusive design

This approach prioritised inclusion, diversity of perspective, and depth of insight. Teneo, acting as an independent facilitator, ensured that all sessions were welcoming, creative, and grounded in the lived experiences of Lucan residents.

To maximise awareness and participation, the consultation was promoted through multiple channels:

- Bilingual flyers distributed to nearly 3,000 households and public venues across Lucan
- Print advertisements in the Liffey Champion and Lucan Newsletter
- Digital outreach across SDCC’s social media platforms (with over 25,000 impressions)
- Targeted engagement through schools, accessibility networks, business groups, and community leaders

Accessibility was a core design principle—materials were provided in both Irish and English, using plain language and inclusive visual formats. Survey tools followed Flesch-Kincaid readability principles, and all workshops included tactile or multi-modal elements to support participation across age, ability, and literacy levels.

2.1.1 Key Findings

Across all engagement formats, a shared community vision emerged. Respondents expressed a strong desire for Lucan House and its demesne to become:

- A publicly accessible, everyday space—not limited to special events or heritage tourism
- A connector within Lucan’s wider green infrastructure, especially linking to St. Catherine’s Park
- A cultural and community anchor, with facilities that support arts, intergenerational activity, and local programming
- An exemplar of inclusive design, with accessibility embedded from the outset—not retrofitted
- A place where heritage is not only preserved, but experienced, through storytelling, interpretation, and adaptive reuse
- A carefully balanced site, avoiding over-commercialisation while allowing sustainable amenity provision
- A civic space, with community input and transparent decision-making

Two groups, in particular, helped define the consultation's unique impact:

- Young people, who shared imaginative, grounded proposals for how Lucan House could serve future generations—emphasising creativity, inclusion, and safe social spaces
- The “Critical Friends” group, composed of individuals with disabilities, carers, and advocates, who reframed accessibility as an enabler of joy and dignity—not an afterthought. Their contributions highlighted practical, best-in-class design solutions rooted in lived experience

These insights are not abstract preferences—they reflect daily realities and deeply held hopes. They were expressed through the language of walking, resting, gathering, learning, and connecting.

2.1.2 Impact on the Masterplan Process

The findings in this report provide a critical foundation for the emerging Masterplan. In direct response to public input, the design now includes:

- A network of accessible pedestrian and cycling routes connecting Lucan House with St. Catherine's Park and surrounding amenities
- Changing Places toilets and level-access facilities located near major gathering areas
- Adaptive reuse of historic buildings such as the stables, bath house, and gate lodges for public, cultural, and educational uses
- Community-oriented spaces for wellness, arts, play, and intergenerational activity
- Strategically placed cafés, seating, rest areas, and interpretive signage to support everyday use
- A transport and parking strategy that prioritises active travel and accessibility while protecting the green character of the site

The consultation also set clear expectations for inclusive governance, equitable communication, and transparency in future commercial activities. In this way, the report offers not only a snapshot of public sentiment, but a model for participatory planning—where the community voice is a continuous thread from vision to implementation.

3.

Consultation Approach



3.1 Overview of Consultation Strategy

To ensure a comprehensive and inclusive understanding of community perspectives, Teneo adopted a **hybrid consultation strategy** that combined both qualitative and quantitative methods. This multi-methodology approach enabled us to engage with a diverse range of stakeholder groups across varying levels of accessibility, interest, and influence.

Quantitative research allowed us to capture broad-based community sentiment through an online survey, while qualitative methods provided deeper insight into the values, ideas, and concerns of specific groups. By layering these approaches, we were able to move beyond surface-level responses to facilitate more meaningful conversations – both structured and exploratory – across a wide demographic.

The hybrid approach also enabled us to tailor formats for different audiences:

- **Political representatives** were engaged with through in-depth online interviews, accommodating tight schedules while still providing a platform for thoughtful discussion
- **Youth groups** participated in interactive, on-site workshops that included tactile competitions where students pitched and “sold” their most compelling ideas for the site’s future
- **Community stakeholders** interacted with images, maps, and visual prompts to explore their ideas in physical and geographical context – fostering both imagination and realism in discussion
- **The survey was available in both English and Irish** to align with SDCC’s commitment to inclusivity and accessibility – and in accordance with Irish public consultation standards
- **Survey design followed Flesch-Kincaid readability** principles to ensure it was accessible to a wide audience, including those with varying literacy levels and different language backgrounds. This deliberate accessibility effort reflects the ethos of the New European Bauhaus, ensuring participation was as open and welcoming as possible

3.1.1 Who we engaged and why

Engagement efforts were shaped by a stakeholder mapping process conducted in collaboration with Elected Representatives, SDCC and Foley Architects. The purpose was to ensure balanced representation from groups with:

- A direct stake in the future of Lucan House
- Local knowledge and lived experience
- The potential to advocate for broader community needs

This inclusive approach aimed to:

- Honour heritage perspectives
- Surface community aspirations
- Understand operational considerations (e.g. business, access, transport)
- And test ideas through a creative, collaborative lens

Specifically, we wanted to engage with:

1: Both primary and secondary school students in the consultation process reflecting a commitment to youth participation in public planning, aligned with national and EU policy frameworks. This approach responds directly to:

- **The National Strategy on Children and Young People’s Participation in Decision-Making (DCEDIY)**, which mandates that young people be actively involved in decisions that affect them – including those related to community spaces and the built environment
- **THRIVE (Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme)** and the **New European Bauhaus**, both of which emphasise **inclusion, creativity, and citizen-led design** – with particular emphasis on generational inclusion as a pillar of sustainable place making

These sessions were not limited to simple feedback; they were collaborative and creative, with an approach designed to engage youth in a meaningful way. Students pitched, debated, and presented their own proposals for how Lucan House could serve future generations – engaging with the site as storytellers, designers, and community members.

Their inclusion delivered both **practical benefits** and **long-term value**:

- Fresh, imaginative ideas:** From nature-based wellness zones to seasonal events, treehouse cafés to heritage-themed costume trails, young people reimaged the site in unique and colourful ways
- Early civic engagement:** Participation gave students a sense of ownership and belonging, critical to the site’s long-term sustainability and care
- Design relevance:** Their feedback reminded us that youth-friendly design is not an optional add-on, but a vital part of making public spaces feel open, safe, and meaningful to all age groups
- Social cohesion:** Young people envisioned the site not only as a place for fun, but as a space for intergenerational connection, where older and younger residents could share experiences, learn from one another, and build shared traditions

2: The ‘Critical Friends’ group included participants with physical, sensory, cognitive, and neurodiverse access needs, along with carers, advocates, and accessibility professionals. This approach aligns directly with national and international commitments, including:

- **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, which requires the full and effective participation of people with disabilities in public life and design processes
- **Ireland’s National Disability Inclusion Strategy**, which calls for accessible public buildings, inclusive heritage experiences, and meaningful consultation with disabled people and their representative organisations
- **Guidance from the National Disability Authority (NDA)** on universal design and public consultation, which recommends involving those with diverse access needs as co-designers, not just respondents
- **The New European Bauhaus**, which emphasises design for inclusion and equity as a foundational principle of place making across the EU

‘Critical Friends’ is a title we used deliberately to reflect their role as active contributors, central to the values and objectives of this consultation. We would like to highlight that this session offered insight far beyond technical compliance – it reframed accessibility as a catalyst for joy, freedom, and dignity.

Critical Friends contributions enriched the consultation in several key ways:

- i. **Shifting the mindset:** Participants challenged the notion that accessibility is something to be “added on.” Instead, they advocated for universal design from the outset, grounded in real-world usability
- ii. **Providing global benchmarks:** They referenced best-in-class examples, highlighting what “good” looks like in both infrastructure and atmosphere
- iii. **Revealing hidden barriers:** The group explained how seemingly minor design choices can exclude people without intent, especially wheelchair users or neurodivergent visitors
- iv. **Emphasising sensory needs:** Participants urged that accessibility go beyond physical features to include sensory-friendly and emotionally inclusive spaces
- v. **Generating creative, practical ideas:** They proposed innovative and achievable solutions and the thoughtful reuse of spaces like the basement for immersive storytelling
- vi. **Making the ordinary possible:** Most powerfully, they reminded us that their aim is not special treatment, but equal access to simple pleasures

3: Elected representatives were engaged at the outset of the consultation through a series of one-to-one interviews – offering a vital bridge between public voice and policy direction. As frontline advocates, these individuals brought a nuanced understanding of community sentiment, practical governance insight, and a strong commitment to ensuring the process was inclusive, equitable, and locally grounded.

Their early involvement directly informed the stakeholder mapping process – helping to identify gaps, under-represented voices, and shape the engagement strategy in ways that reflected the diverse realities of life in Lucan.

This approach aligns with key policy and governance frameworks, including:

- **The Town Centre First** and **THRIVE** initiatives, which position local political actors as core partners in inclusive, citizen-led regeneration
- **The Aarhus Convention (UNECE)**, which emphasises the role of political leadership in enabling early, meaningful public participation in environmental planning
- **The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (IHREC)**, which encourages local authorities to engage elected representatives in shaping processes that reflect the needs of all community members

The input of elected representatives shaped the consultation in the following ways:

- i. **Championing inclusive outreach:** Representatives played a crucial role in championing priority groups for engagement, such as school-aged children, diverse communities, and our ‘Critical Friends’ group
- ii. **Framing the long-term vision:** Many emphasised the importance of seeing Lucan House not only as a site of heritage, but as a space for ongoing community life. They called for governance models that ensure public accountability, transparency, and active citizen oversight
- iii. **Advocating for accessibility and equity:** Across party lines, representatives were united in their insistence that Lucan House be designed for all. From accessible transport links to inclusive signage and sensory-friendly spaces, their perspectives echoed and reinforced the priorities shared by the ‘Critical Friends’ group and wider community
- iv. **Balancing heritage with community use:** Elected officials articulated a shared vision of Lucan House as both a protected cultural asset and a dynamic public amenity. Their support for mixed-use, low-impact activation underscored the importance of heritage not as a constraint, but as a living backdrop to contemporary community life

v. Leveraging policy and funding alignment: Several representatives highlighted opportunities to align the Masterplan with broader national and EU policy frameworks – ensuring that community priorities could be supported by robust investment, and that public benefit remained the core driver of development

Crucially, these interviews helped shape a consultation process that was rooted not just in best practice, but in political and local reality. Elected representatives served a critical early role in the project – helping to frame a vision for Lucan House that is inclusive, future-facing, and deeply connected to the people it will serve.

Their expertise was essential in ensuring that inclusivity is not an afterthought, but a defining pillar of the Lucan House Masterplan.



Figure 2: Images from engagement process.

3.1.2 Timeline of engagement activities

The consultation process ran over a **5-week period from February 11th to March 18th, 2025**. The timeline was carefully planned to balance the urgency of progressing the Masterplan with the need to ensure quality and depth of engagement.

Activities were sequenced to allow early insights from political representative’s groups to support shaping public consultation as well as to align with calendars – e.g. school holidays.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Local Business Group, Feb 11th in Lucan Library	Critical Friends Group, Feb 19th in Lucan Library	Local Clubs & Organisations, Feb 26th in Lucan Library	4th/5th Class Students, Mar 5th in St. Andrews National School	General Public Workshop #2, Mar 11th in Lucan Library
		Transition Year Students, Feb 26th in Adamstown Secondary School	General Public Workshop #1, Mar 5th in Lucan Library	



3.1.3 Key Stakeholders

The stakeholder engagement strategy was developed to ensure voices were heard across community, governance, culture, youth, and accessibility domains. Key engagements included:

Local Political Representatives (TDs, Councillors)	<p>Online depth interviews x 12</p> <p>Capture broad view of community priorities through local representatives in regular dialogue with the people of Lucan and its surrounds.</p>
Business Community	<p>In-person group x 1</p> <p>Understand commercial needs, opportunities and perspectives.</p>
“Critical Friends” Groups	<p>In-person group x 1</p> <p>Understand priorities and potential challenges as it relates to accessibility by engaging with ‘Critical Friends’ with experiences and needs on this matter.</p>
Schools & Youth Groups	<p>On-site interactive workshops with local Primary and Secondary students x 2</p> <p>Giving young people an active voice in the future of Lucan House, promoting civic engagement and imaginative contribution.</p>
Organisations & Clubs	<p>In-person group x 1</p> <p>Ensure perspectives of subject-matter experts and user groups to directly inform cross-functional use, conservation, and access.</p>
General Public	<p>In-Person Groups x 2 and Online Quantitative Survey</p> <p>Gather public perception on desired use, concerns, and imaginative ideas from those who live and work in Lucan.</p>

4.

Consultation Methodology



4.1 Qualitative Engagement

4.1.1 Outline of qualitative approach, participants, timeline

Group	Date	Location	Attendees	Format
Local Business Group	Tues Feb 11	Library	11	In-Person Workshop
Critical Friends Group	Wed Feb 19	Library	7	In-Person Workshop
Local Clubs & Organisations	Wed Feb 26	Library	11	In-Person Workshop
Schools and Youths #1 = Transition Year Students	Wed Feb 26	Adamstown CC	10	In-Person Workshop – On-Site in School Classroom
Schools and Youths #2 = 4th/5th Class	Wed Mar 5	St Andrews	10	Group setting – On-Site in School Hall
General Public Workshop #1	Wed Mar 5	Library	10	In-Person Workshop
General Public Workshop #2	Tue 11 Mar	Library	13	In-Person Workshop
Political Representatives	4 th – 19 th Feb	Online	12	1:1 depth interviews across all political groups representation Lucan and surrounds

4.1.2 Approach to Outreach

Local Businesses, Critical Friends, Clubs & Organisations, and Schools and Youths were recruited by phone and email with a personalised message (see Appendix 8.2.8).

General Public groups were recruited through messaging relayed on survey promotional assets and also as a prompt on survey conclusion. Political representatives were also recruited by phone and email. Public representatives who took part in the depth interview process are listed below and further detail on outreach approach is included in Appendix 8.2.9.

4.1.3 Public Reps

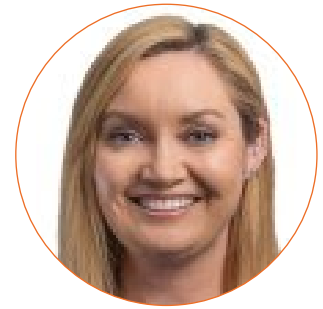
Public Representatives Who Took Part in Depth Interviews



TD Shane Moynihan (FF)



Cllr Caroline Brady (FG)



Cllr Vicki Casserly (FG)



TD Emer Higgins (FG)



Karla Doran, Unelected (GP)



Cllr Helen Farrell (Ind)



TD Paul Gogarty (Ind)



Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind)



Cllr Joanna Tuffy (L)



Cllr Madeleine Johansson (PBP)



Cllr Niamh Fennell (SF)



Derren Ó Brádaigh (SF)

4.1.4 Approach to Workshop Design

At the heart of our consultation strategy was a commitment to creating open, tactile, and engaging workshop environments – spaces where participants felt genuinely welcome, comfortable, and encouraged to share. We approached every session not as a formal presentation or “town hall”, but as a shared conversation, built on mutual respect, curiosity, and creativity.

While we acknowledge that some participants expressed a preference for workshops to be hosted on-site at Lucan House, due to access restrictions during the master planning phase, this was not feasible. Instead, we prioritised creating immersive, place-based engagement experiences using maps, images, and spatial prompts – tools that brought the site to life and allowed participants to explore it imaginatively and interactively.

Rooted in core qualitative research principles, workshops were designed to establish common ground, encourage peer-to-peer exchange, and remove barriers to participation. Topic guides were structured to ensure that every participant – regardless of age, background, or experience – felt their perspective was valid and valued.

Feedback shared from the in-person groups with the Teneo team was very positive and would indicate that this approach worked well in practice (see Appendix 8.2.11).

To support open and creative discourse, we employed a range of participatory tools and techniques, each tailored to make the conversation more dynamic, inclusive, and collaborative:



Thematic Discussions

We structured the sessions around key themes – history, recreation, and culture – allowing participants to explore a range of possibilities for Lucan House in a way that was both focused and imaginative. These themes provided natural entry points into the conversation and helped participants connect their personal experiences with the broader vision for the site.



Participatory Mapping Exercises

Using large-format simplified topography maps of the Lucan House site, along with site images and iconography, we invited participants to place post its, stickers, and other markers onto areas they wished to comment on or reimagine. This spatial method helped root abstract ideas in physical context, deepening engagement, and revealing patterns across groups.



Tactile Idea Sharing

Participants not only shared ideas but were encouraged to explain the rationale behind their suggestions, placing their notes on the map and reflecting on others’ contributions. This iterative process allowed ideas to evolve in real time, with participants building on one another’s thinking, creating a genuine sense of co-creation.



Prioritisation

Finally, participants were asked to prioritise ‘must have’, ‘nice to have’ and ‘dream ideas’ at the end of the workshop, allowing us to gather a final view on top priorities for participants and master planning moving forward.



Figure 3: Images from some of the in-person workshops which took place at Lucan Library.

4.2 Quantitative Engagement



4.2.1 Public Survey Methodology

The survey was developed in collaboration with CiviQ, a platform that powers public engagement for South Dublin County Council (SDCC). Together, we worked to script and design a questionnaire that would be accessible, inclusive, and aligned with the objectives of the consultation. The final survey was hosted on SDCC’s official public consultation website, ensuring transparency and accessibility for all residents.



4.2.2 Sampling and Recruitment Approach

As this was a public consultation rather than a structured market research study, it was not possible to apply representative sampling quotas. However, significant efforts were made throughout the fieldwork period to promote broad participation. The survey was shared and advertised through a variety of digital and community channels to maximise reach and encourage engagement from a diverse cross-section of the public.



4.2.3 Data Collection Methods

Data was collected both online and via hard-copy submissions. To accommodate all preferences and needs, printed versions of the survey were made available in both English and Irish at Lucan Library, located in the local shopping centre. This approach ensured that individuals who may not have had digital access could still participate fully in the consultation process.



4.2.4 Inclusive Survey Design

As outlined earlier, to support accessibility and participation, the survey was scripted using Flesch-Kincaid readability principles. These guidelines helped ensure the language used was clear, approachable, and suitable for a broad audience, enabling as many residents as possible to engage with the consultation confidently and effectively.

4.3 Outreach & Engagement Tactics

4.3.1 Advertising

Flyer Distribution

To support public engagement, bilingual flyers (in English and Irish) were developed featuring QR codes linking directly to the online survey. A total of **2,941 flyers** were distributed door-to-door and in public spaces by **Leaflet Company Ireland** on behalf of South Dublin County Council (SDCC). Further distribution details and geo-tagged map can be found in Appendix 8.2.5.

Social Media & Digital Promotion

A digital asset promoting the survey was posted to SDCC's official social media channels. The asset, available in Appendix 8.2.3, was also shared with local political representatives and community stakeholders, who were encouraged to amplify the message through their own channels. Topline results below and full results available in Appendix 8.2.4.

- Total Impressions: 25,132
- Total Engagements: 792
- Total Reach: 14,503

Newspaper Advertising

To further boost awareness, print advertisements were placed in the Liffey Champion and Lucan Newsletter during the month of February. The ad artwork is available in Appendix 8.2.7.

4.4 In-Group Engagement Design

4.4.1 Consultation of Schools and Youth Groups

Understanding the national and EU policy focus on inclusive planning and youth participation – as championed through initiatives like the New European Bauhaus and underpinned by THRIVE’s core values – our approach placed particular emphasis on involving young people and critical voices in meaningful ways.

- For schools and youth groups, we adapted our format to be age-appropriate, playful, and collaborative. Sessions included creative competitions where students worked in teams to “pitch” their best ideas for how the site could be used. The aim was not only to engage, but to empower younger participants to see themselves as part of Lucan House’s future
- These sessions acknowledged the Government’s broader strategic priority on ensuring that young voices are heard in planning processes and recognised as key stakeholders in the shaping of public spaces
- In line with best practice and guidance on accessibility, we ensured that language was clear and inclusive, activities were tactile and varied, and that all children, regardless of background or ability, had equal opportunity to participate



Figure 4: Selected of images from Schools Groups

4.4.2 Accessibility and Inclusion - Consultation of 'Critical Friends'

Recognising national policy commitments to inclusive design—such as the UNCRPD, the National Disability Inclusion Strategy, and guidance from the National Disability Authority—our consultation placed a strong emphasis on engaging those with lived or professional/supporter experience of accessibility-related needs. The 'Critical Friends' session was designed as a dedicated space for this purpose and provided invaluable insights.

- Participants included individuals with disabilities, carers, support workers, and advocates, offering invaluable insights into how the site could better serve all users. Outreach was conducted via local organisations, inviting those with first-hand experience to help shape a vision for Lucan House that is inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for all
- The session was informal, conversational, and tactile, using site maps, post its and visual prompts to ensure that everyone could contribute comfortably and meaningfully
- This group provided essential consultation input, helping ensure that accessibility is a core pillar—not an afterthought—in the future design of the site



Figure 5: Selected of images from Critical Friends Groups

5.

Consultation Findings



5.1. Survey Outcomes

5.1.1 Participant overview

This section provides an overview of the people who took part in the survey. Respondents were largely based in Lucan and its surrounding areas, including individuals from a range of age groups, family situations, and backgrounds. The following profile offers context on the community voices who shared their views and ideas for the future of Lucan House and Demesne.

337 (336 online & 1 paper) responses were collected over a period of 5 weeks (14th Feb – 18th Mar).

5.1.2 Do you live in Lucan or a nearby area?

Almost all respondents said that they were from Lucan or the surrounding area. People living in Lucan Village represented the highest number of respondents, followed by those living in Esker, Hillcrest Ballyowen and Laraghcon. A number of people selected 'other' when we asked where they lived. Most of the 'other' fields were filled, in order of replies, with Weston/Weston Park (9), Woodview Estate/Heights (3), Griffeen, Dodsborough and Celbridge (2).

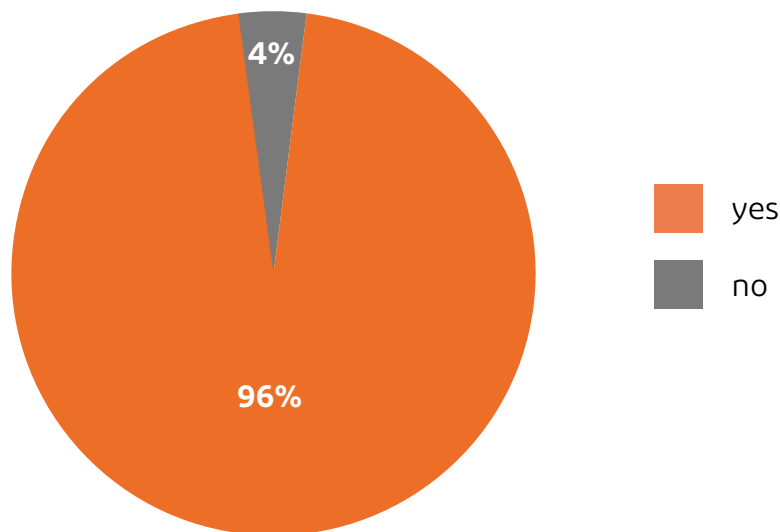


Figure 6: Do you live in Lucan or a nearby area?

5.1.3 What area do you live in?

The majority of respondents were aged between 35 and 54, with 30% in the 45-54 age group and 23% in the 35-44 range. A further 17% were aged 65 and over, while 16% were in the 55-64 range. Only a small proportion of respondents were under 35.

In terms of gender, 55% of respondents identified as female, 42% as male, and small percentages selected non-binary, preferred to self-describe, or preferred not to say.

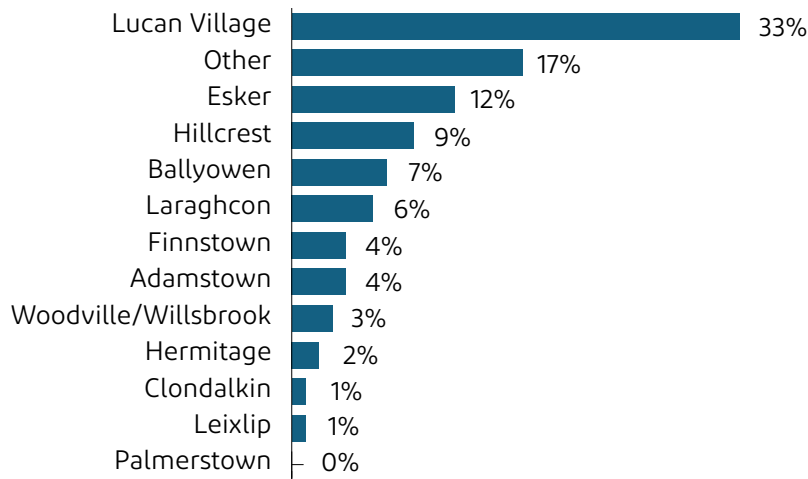


Figure 7: What area do you live in?

5.1.4 What is your age? / What is your gender?

Most respondents identified as parents, with 28% having young children (under 12) and 27% having teenagers. A further 19% were parents whose children have moved out. Smaller proportions of respondents identified as couples without children (11%) or single without children (9%), while 7% preferred not to say.

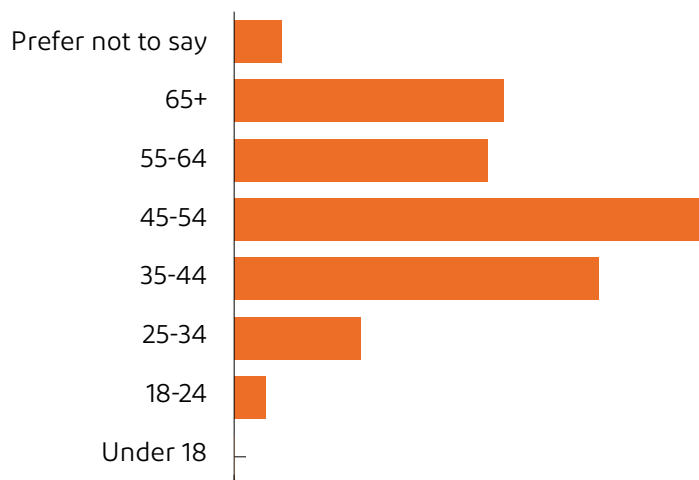


Figure 8: What is your age?

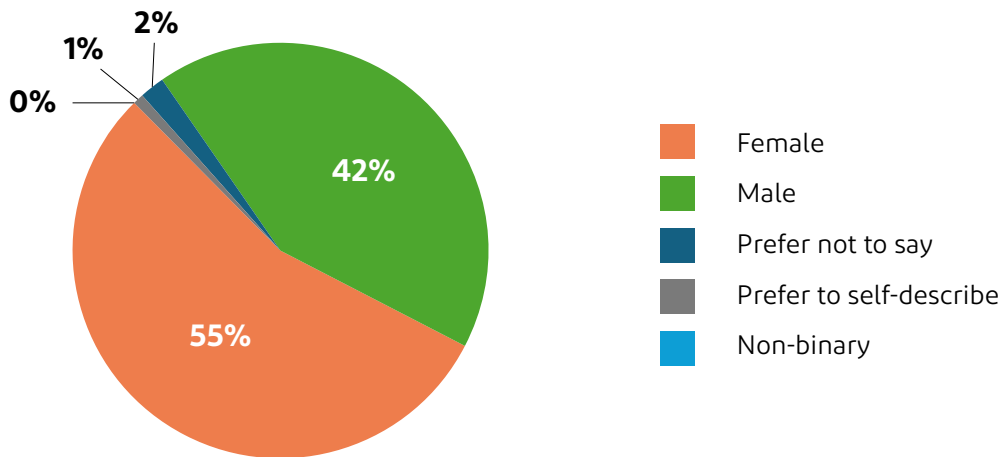


Figure 9: What is your gender?

5.1.5 What is your family status?

Most respondents (90%) indicated that they have lived in Ireland their whole life. A further 8% said they had moved to Ireland from abroad, while 2% preferred not to say. Among those who indicated they had moved to Ireland from abroad, eighteen respondents shared their country of origin. These participants came from a wide range of places, including Brazil, Hungary, Kenya, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Romania, Scotland, South Africa, Lithuania, England, and Poland.

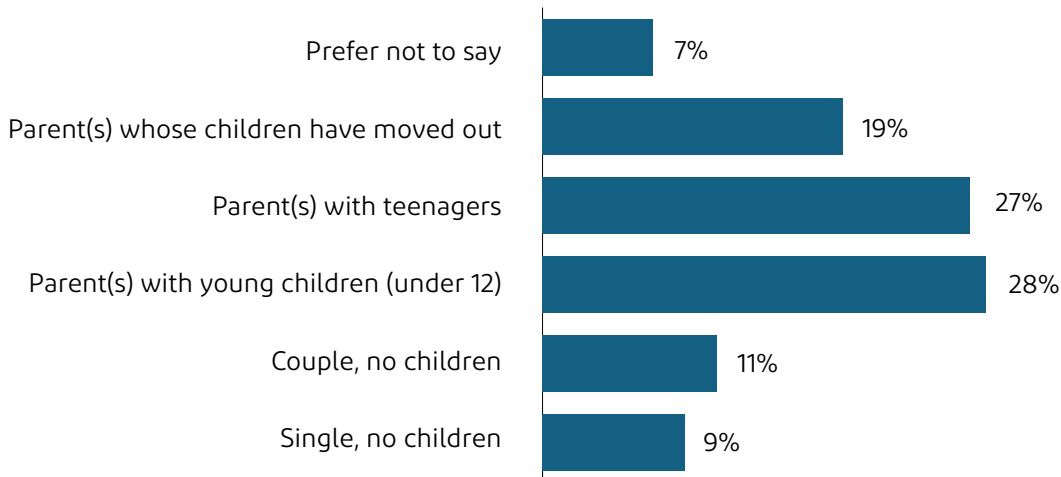


Figure 10: What is your family status?

5.1.6 Are you from Ireland, or have you moved to Ireland from abroad?

Before getting into the main body of the survey questions, we asked participants whether they were familiar with Lucan House and the Demesne. Everyone who took part was familiar with the grounds, and over 70% of respondents had been on the Demesne grounds previously.

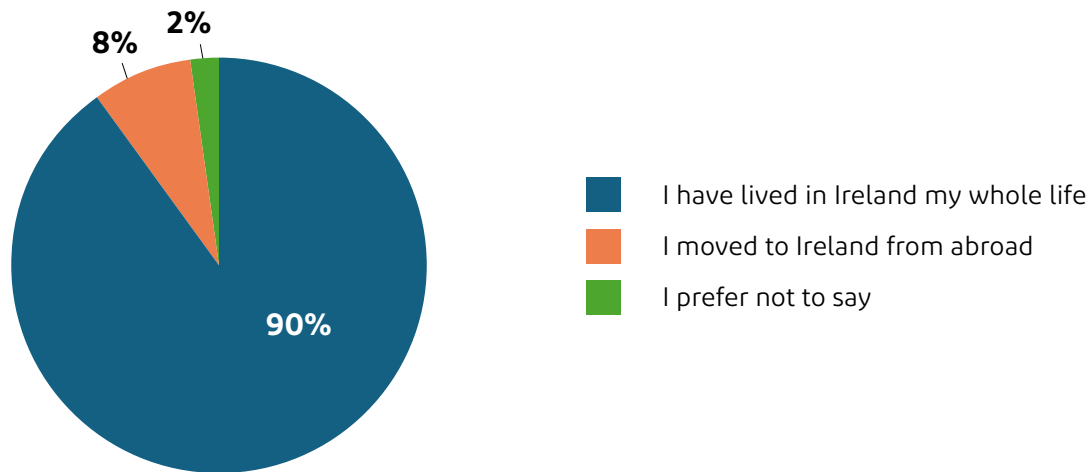


Figure 11: Are you from Ireland, or have you moved to Ireland from abroad?

5.1.7 Are you familiar with Lucan House & Demesne in Lucan Village?

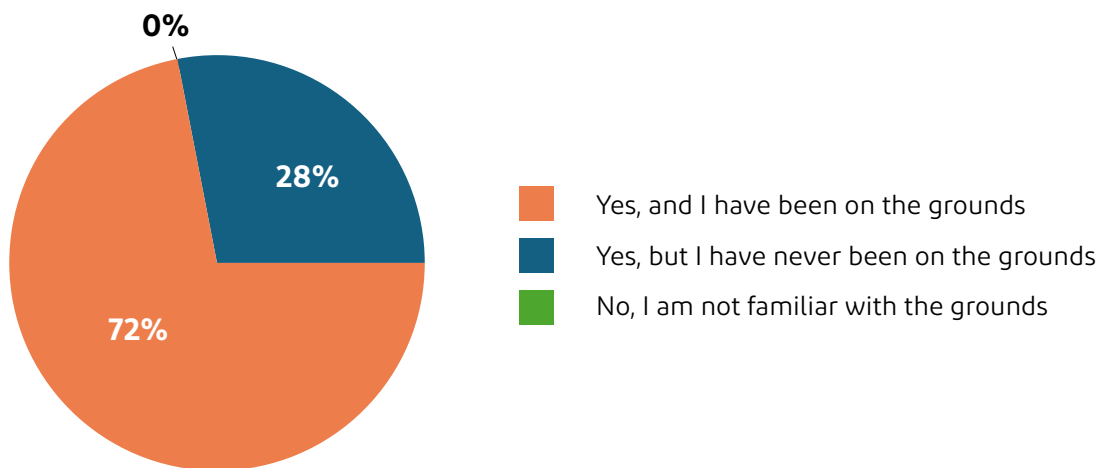


Figure 12: Are you familiar with Lucan House & Demesne in Lucan Village?

5.2 Key Data from the survey

5.2.1 Top Priorities

The first question we asked participants was to identify which two areas do they believe should be the top priority for the development of Lucan House and Demesne. We provided a prompted list in line with the areas of focus for development, and asked respondents to rank their first and second priorities.

The data shows that creating community spaces followed by protecting the environment are top priorities for respondents, with both receiving high levels of first and second priority rankings. Protecting heritage and history was also a significant focus, while encouraging small-scale businesses ranked lower overall in terms of priority. This suggests a strong public preference for community-oriented and environmentally sensitive development of Lucan House and Demesne.

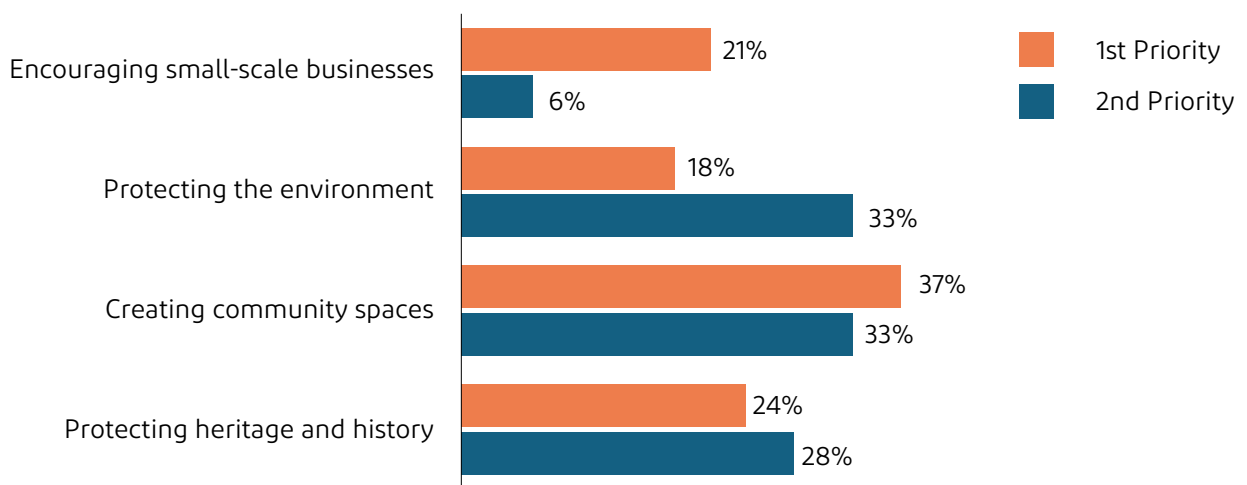


Figure 13: Which two areas do you think should be the top priority for the development of Lucan House and Demesne? Please rank with 1 for your first priority and 2 your second priority.

5.2.2 Which two areas do you think should be the top priority for the development of Lucan House and Demesne? Please rank with 1 for your first priority and 2 your second priority

After this we asked participants what the **top three things they would like to see at Lucan House and Demesne**, this time providing an **open-ended box** within which people could share their ideas freely. We coded the themes of the 1,517 individual ideas shared across all responses to better understand the themes that were emerging. Below is the fully populated table showing the number of respondents who selected each theme as their first, second, or third priority for Lucan House and Demesne.

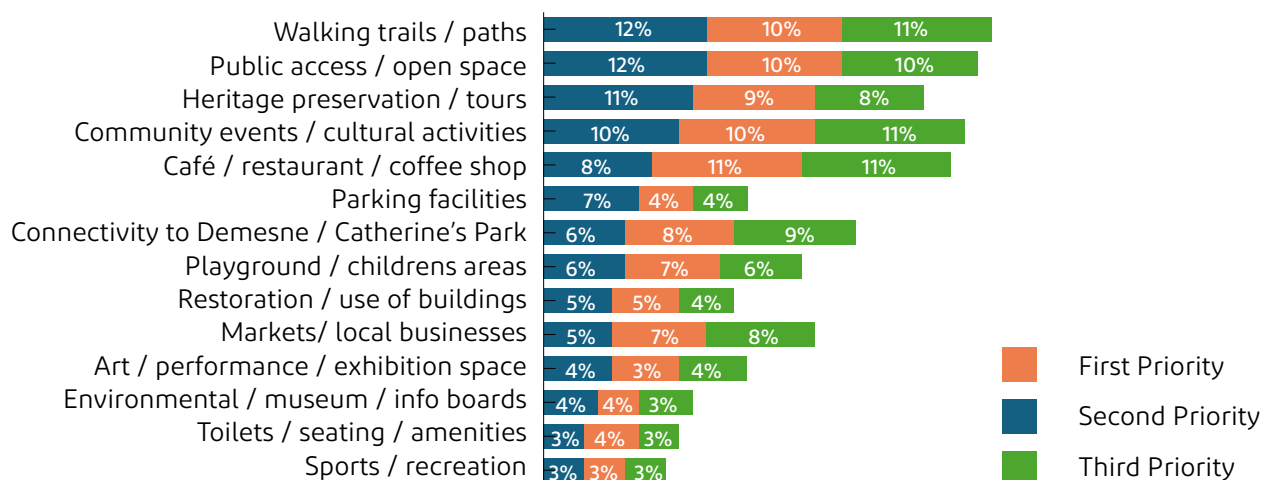


Figure 14: What are the top three things you would like to see at Lucan House? (Write your ideas below)?

5.2.3 What are the top three things you would like to see at Lucan House? (Write your ideas below)?

This more qualitative data reveals a clear and consistent vision from participants for the future of Lucan House and Demesne. The most frequently mentioned priorities – across first, second, and third rankings – are:

Top Priorities Identified:

Walking trails / paths	Public access / open space	Heritage preservation / tours	Community events / cultural activities	Café / restaurant / coffee shop
<i>“Similar to Marlay Park. A safe, large, comfortable park that is easy to access.”</i>	<i>“Everyone in the Lucan community can gather.”</i>	<i>“Lucan House should be the heart of Lucan Village; showcasing our heritage and architecture.”</i>	<i>“An arts, performance, community and cultural space.”</i>	<i>“Warm, inviting atmosphere designed to make visitors feel comfortable and valued.”</i>
<i>“Walking trails, nature paths, and connection to Demesne and St. Catherine’s.”</i>	<i>“An open and well-used green space in the heart of the village.”</i>	<i>“The history of Lucan is told.”</i>	<i>“A vibrant cultural hub offering space for locals and visitors to engage with the arts and heritage.”</i>	<i>“Somewhere we can meet for coffee and enjoy the outdoors.”</i>
<i>“A place where locals can go for walks and visit a café while exploring the grounds.”</i>	<i>“Lucan locals can find escape, connection with nature, and opportunities for community gathering.”</i>	<i>“A space to learn about Lucan’s past and see the house restored and preserved.”</i>	<i>“Lucan House grounds has the potential to host many small scale festivals.”</i>	<i>“Walks, markets, coffee... something like what you’d find at Marlay Park or Farmleigh.”</i>

These top five themes account for most preferences, indicating a strong desire for accessible, welcoming, and walkable green space that is rich in history, socially active, and well-serviced with basic amenities.

Responses suggest that people want Lucan House to feel open, walkable, and well-integrated with the local community.. There is a strong emphasis on preserving its historical and cultural value, while also using the space as a venue for community life and events. Features such as cafés, rest areas, and safe walking trails are seen as important for encouraging regular use by people of all ages, indicating a preference for every day and informal enjoyment.

Diving into the **Walking trails / paths** themes further, we can also see **“Connectivity to St. Catherines Park”** mentioned frequently. Some more comments brought forward in relation to this include;

- “There should also be a link to Catherine’s Park that should be open a lot of the time”
- “Residents and visitors can walk and exercise their dog with access through to Lucan Demesne and a bridge joining it to St. Catherine’s Park”
- “I would walk from St. Catherine’s Park into Lucan House if they were connected or cycle”
- “Walking, cycling and play facilities for families... linked to the Demesne and St. Catherine’s Park”

Other places were often mentioned as benchmarks for what they would like to see achieved at Lucan House and Demesne. Those places included;

Farmleigh	<i>“Something like Farmleigh – a place for walks, markets, coffee and cultural events.”</i>
Castletown House	<i>“A place similar to Castletown House, with access to walks, history and community events.”</i>
Marlay Park	<i>“Similar to Marlay Park. A safe, large, comfortable park that is easy to access.”</i>
Malahide Castle	<i>“A replica of Malahide Castle and grounds – rich in heritage and great for family days out.”</i>
Newbridge House	<i>“On par with Malahide Castle or Newbridge House in terms of visitor experiences and heritage.”</i>

Parking emerged as one of the most frequently discussed and emotionally charged topics in the survey.

While opinions on parking were split, the dominant sentiment leaned toward minimising or carefully managing car access to protect the character of the site and surrounding village. Respondents encouraged solutions that supported accessibility without encouraging an over-reliance on cars – such as peripheral parking, walking/ cycling paths, and better public transport links.

- “The traffic in Lucan village is congested enough. Allowing cars into the grounds would just cause more problems”
- “Lucan House should feel like an extension of the Demesne – not another car park”

Some advocated for remote or peripheral parking options with safe walking/cycling access, rather than encouraging more cars into the heart of the village.

A smaller but notable group of respondents emphasised the need for at least some parking to ensure the site is accessible to everyone, particularly for those with limited mobility or travelling with children.

- “I have mobility difficulties and I’m unable to walk far... parking is essential”
- “There should be enough parking to support families, especially at weekends”
- “I would walk if I could, but when bringing elderly relatives or kids, parking is needed”

These respondents tended to support modest, well-integrated parking solutions that do not dominate the landscape.

5.2.4 More Detail on Preferred Activities and Food/Retail Opportunities

When asked to rank their top three preferred **activities** for Lucan House and Demesne in a prompted question that followed, respondents showed a strong preference for **relaxed, informal, and accessible experiences** once again.

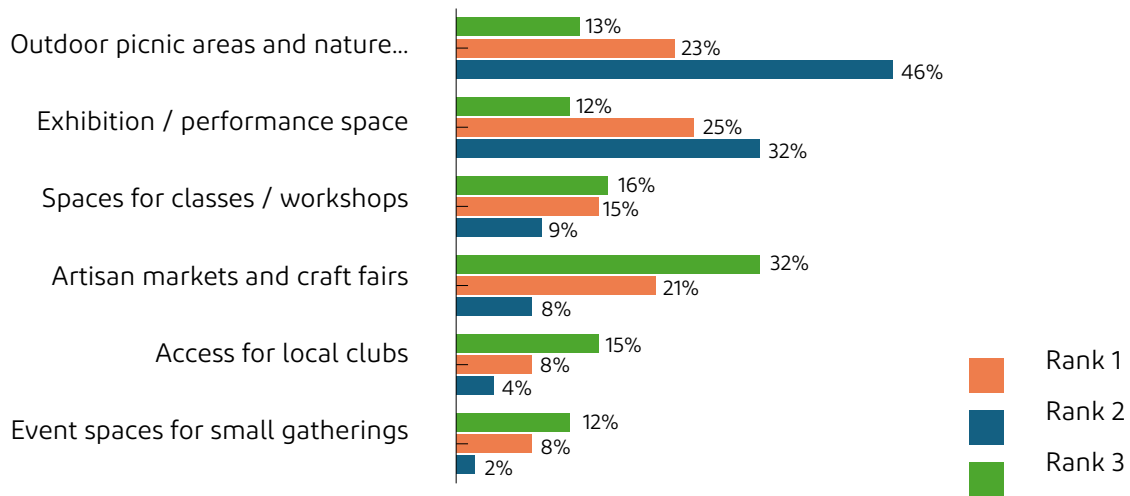


Figure 15: Activities - Please rank the top three activities that you would like to see in Lucan House (with 1 being your first preference and 2 being your second, etc)

- 1. Top Activity: Outdoor Picnic Areas and Nature Trails:** 46% of respondents selected ‘Outdoor Picnic Areas and Nature Trails’ as their first choice, with an additional 36% selecting it as their second or third. This aligns closely with earlier findings from both open- and closed-ended questions, where walking trails, open space, and green connectivity were the most common priorities. It also reinforces the vision that many respondents shared for Lucan House as a tranquil, natural retreat — “a place to breathe” — often compared to Marlay Park, Farmleigh, and Castletown House
- 2. Exhibition and Performance Space:** Chosen by 32% as a top priority and by 37% overall as a second or third choice, this reflects a consistent call across the survey for cultural and community programming. In earlier thematic questions, arts, events, and community gathering spaces were frequently highlighted as vital to making Lucan House a living, social space, rather than just a historical site
- 3. Workshops and Artisan Markets:** Spaces for classes/workshops (e.g., art, heritage, yoga) and artisan markets/craft fairs also feature prominently across all three rankings. These reflect a strong community desire for interactive, creative experiences, and are supported by frequent mentions of cultural hubs and community spaces in the open-text responses
- 4. Access for Local Clubs and Event Hire:** Access for local clubs and event spaces for small gatherings were less frequently prioritised, though still meaningful to a smaller portion of respondents. These may serve more niche or group-specific needs rather than the broad, everyday appeal of walking, picnics, or performances

When asked to rank the top three **food and retail options** they'd like to see at Lucan House and Demesne, respondents showed a strong preference for simple, high-quality amenities that enhance the everyday experience of visiting the space — particularly cafés and local food offerings.

This aligns closely with earlier responses, where café/restaurant spaces consistently appeared in the top five priorities across open-ended and ranked questions. It also supports the broader public vision of Lucan House as a social, community-focused environment — a place to gather with family and friends, take part in informal events, and enjoy the grounds at a relaxed pace.

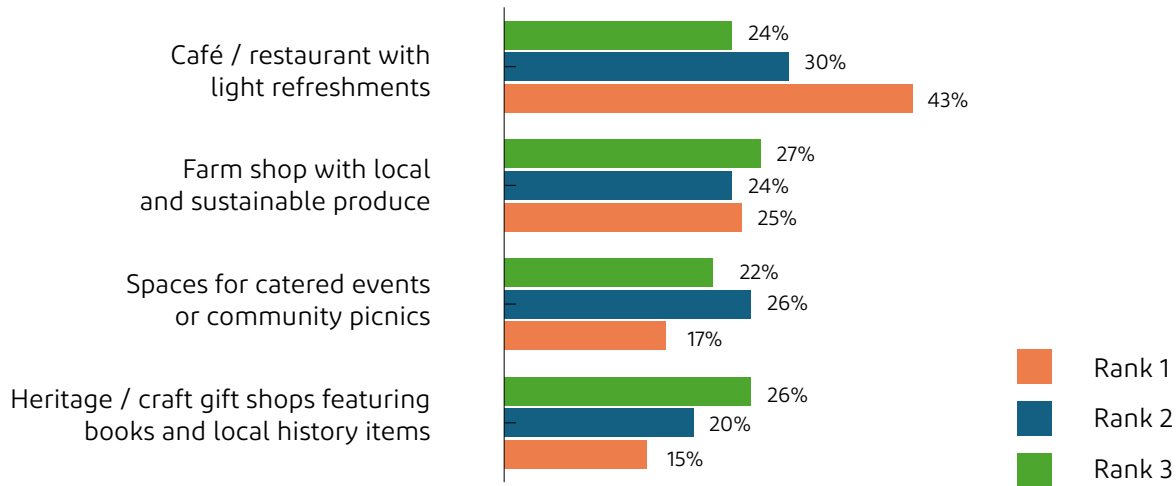






Figure 16: Food and Retail Sector - Please rank the top three food/retail spaces that you would like to see in Lucan House (with 1 being your first preference and 2 being your second, etc)

	<p>1. Top Choice: Café/Restaurant with Light Refreshments</p> <p>The most popular option by far, chosen as the first preference by 43% of respondents and included in the top three by nearly 100%.</p>
	<p>2. Farm Shop with Local and Sustainable Produce</p> <p>A well-supported second priority overall, with balanced mentions across all ranks (25–27%). This reflects the public’s interest in local, sustainable food and a desire to support small producers or artisan-style offerings, as seen in other open-text comments about markets and weekend events.</p>
	<p>3. Spaces for Catered Events or Community Picnics</p> <p>Chosen as second or third priority by many (26% and 22%), but less commonly picked as a first choice (17%).</p> <p>Chosen as second or third priority by many (26% and 22%), but less commonly picked as a first choice (17%).</p>
	<p>4. Heritage/Craft Gift Shop</p> <p>Ranked lowest overall, with only 15% choosing it as a top priority.</p> <p>While heritage and culture are highly valued in general, this result suggests that respondents are less focused on retail-style experiences, and more on shared space, activity, and ambiance.</p>

5.2.5 Getting to Lucan House and Demesne

We asked participants “How would you get to Lucan House?” Responses show that walking (40%) is the most common mode of travel identified, followed by car (33%), bicycle or scooter (15%), and public transport (13%).

Interestingly, even though 33% of respondents live in Lucan Village — the area closest to Lucan House — a significant portion still say they would most likely travel by car. This suggests that proximity alone may not guarantee active travel, particularly for those with children, mobility needs, or practical concerns. It reinforces wider feedback about the importance of safe pedestrian access, reduced traffic congestion, and better-connected routes to encourage more sustainable and inclusive access to the Demesne.

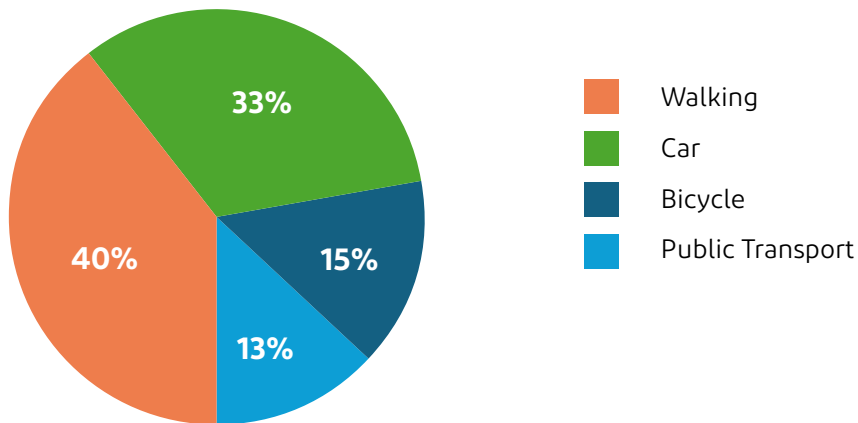


Figure 17: How would you get to Lucan House?

5.2.6 How would you get to Lucan House?

To get a deeper understanding of travel preferences we asked participants to share **why you would choose this way to get there**. What we hear is that while respondents show a strong willingness to walk or cycle if the infrastructure is safe, accessible, and weather permits.

However, respondents cite lack of safe cycling routes, hilly terrain, and poor public transport links as major obstacles. Many respondents want to avoid driving, but realistic life circumstances – like caring for children or elderly relatives or lacking nearby buses – push them to choose the car. Overall, there is a strong desire to embrace active and sustainable travel, but the issues mean that driving remains a necessity for many, especially families and older people.

Respondents suggest more investment in safe greenways, cycling routes, and direct public transport links to reduce reliance on cars and make Lucan House more equitably accessible.

Transport Mode	Theme	Illustrative Quote
Car	Mobility and accessibility challenges	<i>"Some of us are less mobile and would need a car, others can walk. Public Transport is not suitable at present for those living in Lucan but with mobility issues."</i>
	Convenience for families/ children	<i>"We would normally walk but with small children or older grandparents it is not always easy to get them down into the village on foot."</i>
	Lack of suitable transport alternatives	<i>"No direct public transport... too far to walk. Would use public transport if the links were better."</i>
Walking	Close proximity / walking distance	<i>"I live close by. It's a 10-minute walk and I do it daily."</i>
	Environmental and health motivations	<i>"Good exercise, carbon neutral, traffic/parking in the village is ridiculous."</i>
	Avoiding village traffic and parking issues	<i>"Parking in Lucan village is a nightmare... easier to walk."</i>
Bicycle/ Scooter	Cycling proximity and health	<i>"I often cycle from Adamstown myself and walk down with them."</i>
	Preference but barriers (hills, infrastructure)	<i>"I'd like to cycle but the hills coming home stop me."</i>
	Environmental values	<i>"Because it's sustainable... I live close by and prefer to walk or cycle."</i>
Public Transport	No direct links / Infrequent service	<i>"No direct buses from Griffeen area to Lucan village." "There is no bus route which passes my door... the car journey would take less than 10 minutes, but I would not want to waste time waiting on buses."</i>
	Second choice or mixed-mode	<i>"I could use all three... the car is convenient, but I would prefer to walk." "I could walk from work or I could park there, or take the bus depending on the day."</i>
	Mobility-inclusive alternative	<i>"Public transport not suitable but it's a better alternative than driving for some."</i>
	Willingness – If Infrastructure Improved	<i>"If public transport were more accessible, I would absolutely choose that."</i>

5.2.7 Looking Ahead: Imagining the Future of Lucan House and Demesne

Before closing, we asked participants to look forward and imagine what Lucan House and its grounds could become in ten years' time. Hundreds of thoughtful responses gave us insight into the vision for the future — some personal, some visionary, but nearly all rooted in a strong sense of place, community, and care for Lucan House and Demesne and the community around it.

This final section brings those ideas to life. Below is a **composite vision**, drawn from recurring themes in the data, followed by a summary of the **core elements** that appeared most often in people's imagined futures — and the voices that helped shape them.

5.2.8 Composite Vision: A Virtual Tour of Lucan House in 10 Years

As you pass through the gates of Lucan House, you're welcomed by open green space, gently winding paths, and the soft murmur of the Liffey nearby. The imposing yet elegant house sits proudly in the centre — restored, well-maintained, and respectfully modernised to support community use.

Families stroll the walking trails, children explore nature trails and sculpture walks, and older residents rest on shaded benches with views of the river. The air smells of coffee and fresh pastries from the café nestled in the old stables, where neighbours chat and weekend markets are setting up for the day.

To the left, a small performance area – an open-air amphitheatre – hosts community theatre, music recitals, and school plays. Inside the house, an exhibition on Lucan's heritage and river culture is underway. Volunteers from the local history group offer walking tours of the grounds, sharing stories of the Demesne's past.

Lucan House is no longer a mystery behind walls – it's a living, open public space, woven into the everyday lives of residents. People come here to walk, to rest, to gather, to celebrate – and to take pride in a place that feels like the very heart of Lucan.

5.2.9 Word Cloud: Adjectives Used to Depict the Desired Future

Using word cloud formats to express the sentiment around the future of the demesne by extracting most used adjectives can also help us to understand how respondents feel:



Figure 18: Word cloud of adjectives used in responses to the question "In 10 years, what do you want Lucan House to be?"

5.2.10 Core Elements Most Frequently Depicted:

1. A Welcoming, Natural Public Space	2. A Hub for Community Life and Events	3. Celebrating Heritage and Local Identity
<p>Respondents overwhelmingly described Lucan House as a peaceful, open green space where people can unwind, walk, and enjoy nature close to home.</p> <p><i>“A beautiful oasis for the residents of Lucan and surrounding areas to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.”</i></p>	<p>Markets, picnics, concerts, exhibitions, and family gatherings were repeatedly mentioned — Lucan House is envisioned as a place that brings people together.</p> <p><i>“A well-loved community space that is the beating heart of Lucan, used by people of all ages.”</i></p>	<p>Many want the house preserved and used to tell the story of Lucan’s past — through exhibitions, guided tours, or a small museum. It’s not just a building; it’s part of Lucan’s story.</p> <p><i>“The house itself as an exhibition space and interpretative centre for Lucan and the nature of the Liffey Valley would be wonderful.”</i></p>

5.3. Qualitative Research Insights

As outlined in the consultation approach, we ran several in-person groups but also conducted in-depth interviews with political representatives. These in-depth interviews were run prior to the quantitative survey launch with a view to adding any additional insight gleaned from representative conversations into survey design. Then, in parallel with the online survey, seven in-person qualitative workshops were held with key community stakeholder groups. These groups were identified through a strategic mapping process to ensure representation across age, ability, cultural background, and role within the Lucan community.

Each group was invited to bring its own expertise, lived experience, or vision to the table. Workshops were tactile and conversational by design, offering a welcome alternative to more transactional forms of engagement.

5.3.1 Groups convened included:

1. **Political Representatives** – offering oversight on community priorities and key contingencies based on their engagement with constituents
2. **Critical Friends** – bringing lived and professional insight into accessibility, inclusion, and universal design
3. **Businesses** – reflecting local economic needs, tourism potential, and town-centre integration
4. **Organisations and Clubs** – representing future site users across sport, arts, heritage, and youth
5. **Primary and Secondary School Students** – engaging young people on recreation, education, and ownership of place
6. **General Public (two groups)** – capturing everyday perspectives on access, amenity, and community

These groups provided a rich, multi-faceted view of what Lucan House could and should become – from the functional practicalities to the playful, emotional, and imaginative potential of this site.

5.3.2 Common Themes: Where Qualitative and Quantitative Findings Align

What emerged most strongly across the workshops were the clear points of alignment with the online survey data, reinforcing key community priorities with added layers of motivation and context

i. Access to Nature and Green Spaces

Across every group – whether parents, politicians, schoolchildren, or Critical Friends – the call for open access to green space was universal. In the words of one political representative, “The main thing people want is access.”

This reinforces the top survey themes of walking trails, public access, and open space – but the workshops revealed why this mattered so deeply: for mental wellbeing, daily routines, family time, and connection with nature. A recurring phrase in group sessions was the desire for “peace and quiet,” described as an “oasis in the heart of Lucan.”

ii. Heritage Preservation

The survey ranked heritage preservation as a top priority, and in workshops, this became even more pronounced. From guided history tours suggested by heritage groups to young people’s fascination with the medieval basement, the house and demesne are seen as integral to Lucan’s identity. Political representatives called for interactive trails, museum spaces, and restored historical features – a living history, not static display.

iii. Community and Cultural Use

Both survey and sessions placed high value on community spaces, cultural events, and arts facilities. This came to life in suggestions for open-air theatre, community art exhibitions, music performances, and seasonal events. Groups referenced Farmleigh, Marlay Park and Castletown House as comparators – not for scale, but for atmosphere and use. Importantly, these uses were never framed as “nice extras” – they were central to how people envisioned a vibrant, inclusive space.

iv. Connectivity and Active Travel

In both quantitative and qualitative strands, linking Lucan House to surrounding parks (especially St. Catherine’s) was seen as critical. People want to move through the site – to cycle, walk, and explore. Many flagged this as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to stitch together green corridors. Stakeholders repeatedly cited the need for safe, accessible paths, especially those with mobility concerns. This citation was not limited to ‘Critical Friends’ conversation but was mentioned in every group that was run.

v. Amenities and Everyday Use

Cafés, picnic areas, and informal gathering spaces were popular across all engagement methods. But in workshops, participants gave colour to these amenities – wanting not just any café, but one that served locally sourced food, was affordable, and felt part of the community. Similarly, public toilets, seating, and maps were discussed not as logistics, but as enablers of access, dignity, and comfort – especially for families and older people.

5.3.3 Group-Specific Insights and Priorities

While there was much consensus, each group brought unique and important perspectives. These nuances are vital in ensuring the masterplan reflects both common values and diverse needs and meets the needs of critical stakeholder groups and future users, not just visitors to, the Demesne.

5.3.4 Political Representatives

These depth interviews offered a strategic and long-term lens on the site. They consistently advocated for:

- Public management and governance transparency
- Balanced development – heritage + community + tourism
- Connectivity with the Liffey and wider green infrastructure
- Inclusive design as a non-negotiable

Their insights provide essential scaffolding for ensuring that community-led ideas are underpinned by viable policy, funding, and oversight frameworks. Representatives are keen to be involved in ongoing conversation regarding progress on these matters and the master planning process so that they can both contribute to the conversation and relay progress milestones to their constituents as the project progresses. An interim report, available in appendix 8.2.12, goes into more detail on key priorities outlined during the political representative consultation process specifically .

The in-person engagements gave voice to stakeholders in ways that surveys alone could not. They:

- Offered depth and emotional context to quantitative trends
- Surface practical, often overlooked needs (e.g. secure kayak storage, walkable surfaces)
- Empowered under-represented voices to shape the future of a site that belongs to all

Crucially, they showed that the community doesn't want perfection – they want **authenticity, openness, and care.**

5.3.5 Critical Friends Group

This group was a critical and useful conversation in terms of shaping how we think about accessibility. Their message was clear: this is not about accommodation – this is about design from the outset. Participants in this group urged us to:

- Avoid “fake accessibility” (e.g. poorly designed toilets, single handrails)
- Incorporate Changing Places standards as best in class approach to new restroom accessibility
- Include sensory areas, quiet zones, and multi-modal entry points
- Think creatively to ensure everyone can enjoy the full experience of Lucan House and Demesne, whatever that may be – e.g. VR for inaccessible areas, 3D-printed Braille, ramps over lifts where possible

This group reminded us that accessibility enables joy – from ice swims at the bathhouse to family picnics with dignity and independence. The goal must be for a ‘curb to curb’ accessible experience enabling everyone to either enjoy the full experience with family, friends, or as independent solo visitors.

Not seeking any accessibility specific dispensation, Critical Friends highlighted that the ask is for a more universal design approach that when solved for one, makes for a better experience for everyone.

During this conversation, participants outlined what good design looks like in practice – and crucially, why it matters.

Example	Why It Mattered	Expressed Applications for Lucan House
Avondale Treetop Walk, Co. Wicklow	Described as the only ‘friction-free’ end-to-end experience from parking to play. Staff supported transitions, paths were wide, flat, and continuous.	Ensure seamless experience from arrival to exit. Flat surfaces, wide pathways, and staff training were key to its success.
Changing Places Toilets	Participants highlighted these as the gold standard- not just accessible but truly inclusive.	Standard accessible toilets often do not meet real needs. Changing Places facilities (adult-sized changing benches, hoists, space for carers) must be included.
Queen Elizabeth Line, London	Platform-level access, no steps, wide clear paths.	Shows how low-tech, smart design can outperform complex solutions like stairlifts. Avoid tech-first thinking where simplicity works better.
Mansion House, Dublin	A positive example of older people accessing a heritage space comfortably, with supportive staff and appropriate adaptations.	Staff attitude, atmosphere, and respectful welcome were as important as the physical adaptations.
New York Ground Zero and UN	Highlighted as emotionally inclusive spaces - quiet, respected, dignified. Signage was clear and expectations of behaviour were set.	Lucan House can aim to create emotionally accessible spaces too - places of peace and reflection, not just activity.
Grow Café Waterford	Café where all produce is grown on site - inclusive, sustainable, and community-focused.	Suggested as a model for Lucan’s café - food with a story and a function. Links with wellness, nature and learning.
Donadea Forest Park	“No pressure, no queues” - Accessible walkways in nature.	Natural, unhurried settings matter. Avoid over-programming spaces. Create gentle, self-guided experiences.

From this group, some key principles participants recommend we follow can be summarised as below:

Universal Design	Avoid Fake Accessible Places	Don’t Over Rely On Technology
Not ‘accessibility upgrade’ but embedded from the outset. Wayfinding, door handles, pathway textures, surface, and height of signage all matter.	Doors that “just about” open, toilets that technically meet code but don’t function. Gravel paths that wheelchairs can’t navigate.	Lifts break. Ramps are often better. Keep it low-tech, reliable, and user-first.
Nature as a Wellness Resource	Creative Accessibility	No Segregation
Getting into nature matters - and not just for able-bodied users. Forest trails, river walks, sensory gardens, and quiet zones were seen as mental health assets.	VR tours of the upstairs of the house. 3D-printed Braille for interpretive signs. Moveable ramps instead of fixed solutions.	Avoid creating “special” areas off to the side. Picnic benches, restrooms, and pathways should be equally usable by all - not marked as “for disabled use only.”

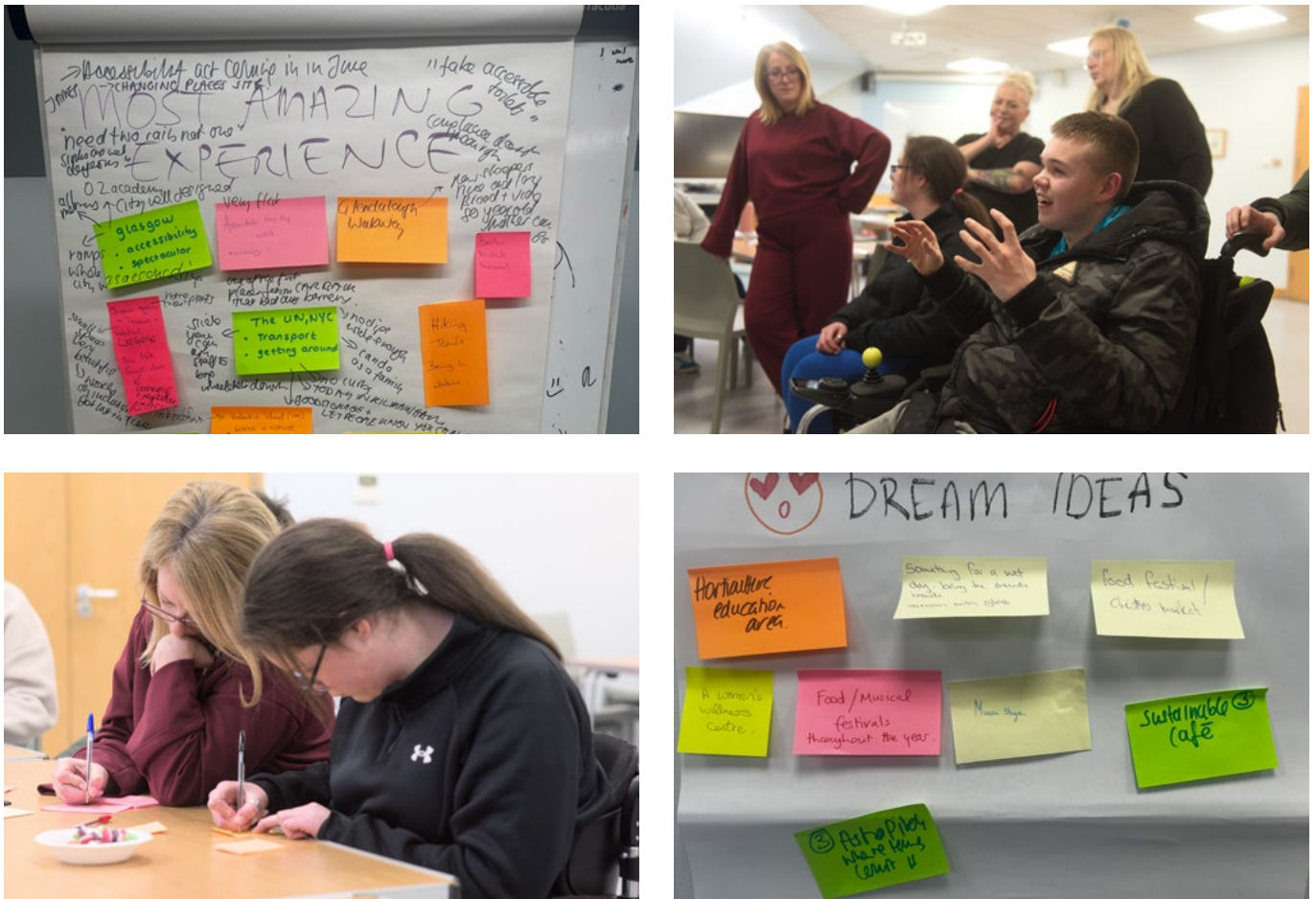


Figure 19: Selection of Images from the Critical Friends Group

5.3.6 Local Businesses

Local businesses see Lucan House not as an isolated attraction but a potential heartbeat of the town centre. They want:

- Controlled access that avoids congestion
- Artisan markets, walk-and-talk therapies, cultural programming
- Investment in infrastructure that draws people in without displacing the village

Business representatives emphasised that economic vibrancy and community value must go hand in hand – a Farmleigh-style café is welcome, but not at the cost of local identity.

Beyond the specific logistical and operational issues raised, some deeper concerns emerged within the business group conversation. Chief among them was a fear that Lucan House could evolve into a standalone destination that bypasses the town centre, drawing footfall away from the village rather than enriching it. There was also a degree of anxiety that decisions around site activation and commercial strategy might be taken elsewhere, with local business voices marginalised or overlooked. This risk of externalisation – where commercial operations are managed by outside entities without embedded understanding of Lucan – was seen as a threat to authenticity and long-term economic benefit, too.

Finally, there was concern that unless public transport links and access infrastructure are carefully planned and implemented, Lucan House could become a source of community frustration rather than opportunity –

particularly in relation to parking overspill and increased traffic congestion in an already strained village core.

Despite these concerns, the overall tone of the workshop was hopeful and constructive. Business owners expressed genuine optimism about the potential of Lucan House to become an anchor of economic and cultural vitality for the town. One participant described it as:

“the first big opportunity Lucan House has had,” noting that “if we get this right, it could be the heart of the village.”

Rather than opposing development, the group leaned into creative, locally rooted ideas for how the demesne could support economic resilience. These included proposals for a wellness centre operated by social enterprises, artisan food markets located in the stables, walk-and-talk therapy trails drawing on nature-based wellbeing, and community-grown produce cafés offering both sustenance and story. The vision was clear: Lucan House should not compete with the village but complement it – becoming a shared resource that sustains both community identity and local prosperity.

The conversation was open and honest, but constructive with solutions offered throughout. Some more detail on some of the themes explored above is presented in more detail below.

Theme	Concern Raised	Suggested Solutions or Considerations
Traffic Congestion	Businesses already affected by congestion in Lucan Village. Opening without mitigation could exacerbate bottlenecks, especially as town is already used as a ‘toll-dodging’ route.	<i>Suggested traffic management plan - one idea was staggered access points (e.g. back gate entry, front gate exit). Promote active travel with proper cycleways (but with realism around current habits).</i>
Parking Pressure	If parking isn’t well planned, it could spill into village and undermine local businesses / public goodwill.	<i>Supported on-site, well-integrated parking (e.g. grasscrete or hidden parking like at Farmleigh). Peripheral car parks connected by greenways also proposed.</i>
Over-commercialisation vs. local value	Concern introducing franchise-style cafés or tourist retail could displace rather than support local business.	<i>Encouraged a ‘local-first’ ethos: artisan markets, locally sourced food, and co-ownership models. Café or restaurant welcome – but not that undercuts or disconnects from village.</i>
Disconnected development	Participants cited Dundrum Town Centre as cautionary tale – well-funded but disconnected.	<i>Called for integration with the village centre, not isolation. Suggested connective pathways, cross-promotion, and co-programming with Lucan events.</i>
Failure to meet basic needs	If Lucan House doesn’t “get the basics right” (e.g. toilets, signage, seating, bins), we will miss the local economic benefit.	<i>Highlighted doing the basics well as just as important as high-end features. Recommended that small businesses be involved early in co-designing services like weekend stalls, markets, or food festivals.</i>
Lack of ongoing engagement	Businesses want to be kept in the loop and consulted continuously, not just at the start.	<i>Requested regular check-ins or a business liaison group, potentially coordinated via the Lucan Traders Association or similar local business network.</i>



Figure 20: Selection of images from the Business Group

5.3.7 Organisations and Clubs

This group offered a rich and practical vision of Lucan House as a multi-functional, community-serving asset. Their insights centred on how the site could solve real limitations they currently face and unlock new forms of collaboration, expression, and access. Participants made the case for:

The group was made up of a diverse mix of community groups and clubs including sports organisations, drama groups, heritage advocates, arts organisations, and scouts/guides. What united them was a belief that Lucan House should serve as a shared platform for their activities – not just a space to visit, but a place to belong.

They imagine using Lucan House and its demesne for:

- Rehearsals, performances, and exhibitions (e.g. permanent space; affordable studios; interpretative exhibits)
- Club meetings and AGMs in accessible, bookable rooms
- Wellness and education programmes (e.g. yoga, nature walks, meditation sessions, orienteering)
- Outdoor events and seasonal gatherings (e.g. Holi festivals, campfire nights, environmental workshops)
- Storage space for equipment and materials (e.g. Men’s Shed, scouts, stage props, pioneering poles)
- Water-based activity hubs – including kayak launch areas, training, and a riverside centre for changing and equipment
- Shared infrastructure like allotments, community gardens, and informal gathering points

Participants all emphasised the potential for year-round use, particularly if safe access routes and facilities (like toilets, changing rooms, and storage) are made available.

Nearly every participant spoke of a lack of accessible, affordable, and appropriate space in Lucan to meet, store, rehearse, or collaborate. Key pain points included:

- **Loss of premises:** Lucan Men's Shed, for example, was recently evicted and now has no permanent home for their tools or members – many of whom are older and need central, accessible locations
- **Unsuitable venues:** Some groups are being forced into spaces that don't work acoustically or practically. Sports clubs mentioned poor fit for purpose in their existing facilities
- **Over-reliance on churches or schools** for activities that need independent space or multi-faith event access
- **Isolation across groups:** There was a shared frustration that many groups exist in silos, missing opportunities to collaborate (e.g. Men's Shed building props for theatre groups; chess club making large outdoor pieces) – feedback indicated that coming to the group to just meet with other groups was in and of itself a beneficial experience
- **Storage and safety concerns:** Groups cited needing secure, weather-safe spaces

These limitations mean that community potential is capped. Several groups noted that if Lucan House can offer even a basic, well-managed space with a fair booking system, it would dramatically improve their capacity to operate and grow.

The group saw Lucan House as the missing piece in a jigsaw: a unique site that could offer shared, flexible space across clubs and interests. Key problem-solvers they identified included:

- **Space security** – ending the precarity of being “moved on”
- **Better visibility** – being based at Lucan House would allow clubs to recruit, connect, and grow
- **Cross-pollination of ideas** – a single, central hub means more chance for collaboration between groups
- **Year-round access** – many activities are limited by weather or lack of indoor alternatives
- **Revival of Lucan's cultural identity** – many groups (SOL, Lucan Harriers, kayak club) referenced the site's historic centrality to village life, and the opportunity now to revive that civic role

The energy in the room was tangible when the conversation turned to future vision. What excited them most was the chance to embed their work into the very fabric of Lucan House, rather than feel like afterthoughts. Specific ideas, some of which overlap with broader themes, included:

Above all, they see Lucan House as a site where community life can be visible, celebrated, and supported – not hidden or squeezed into ill-suited corners of the town.



Figure 21: Selection of images from the Organisations and Clubs Group

5.3.8 General Public

These workshops were pivotal in deepening our understanding of survey responses. While the survey showed us what people wanted, these group discussions helped uncover the why – deepening our understanding of the insights gathered in the survey.

1. The Depth of Emotional Connection to the Site

In the survey, respondents frequently selected walking trails, nature access, and green space as top priorities. In workshops, however, participants articulated this as an emotional or spiritual need – Lucan House was described as:

- “A peaceful, healing space”
- “A sanctuary from the noise”
- “An oasis in the heart of the village”

The site is not just valued as a park – it’s seen as a place of calm and restoration, especially in contrast to growing urbanisation in the area.

2. Fears of Over-Development and Loss of Character

While survey responses leaned heavily toward positive aspirations, the in-person groups revealed an important undercurrent of caution. People expressed genuine concern that Lucan House could become:

- “Too busy, too commercialised”
- “Another overrun attraction with parking problems and queues”
- “Something that doesn’t feel like it belongs to us anymore”

Participants feared that if overdeveloped, the site could lose its tranquillity, identity, and character. This concern didn’t come to the fore through closed survey questions but was clearly articulated when members of the public attended in-person consultation.

3. Governance and Trust

In both of the general public sessions, people raised questions about who was going to manage the site, and how they would be held accountable:

- “We’ve seen places start well and then decline — who’s going to keep this maintained?”
- “Will there be local oversight?”
- “What’s the long-term plan for operations?”

These comments suggest a need for transparency and communication that the survey could not capture directly. There is a trust gap that must be addressed for long-term public buy-in.

4. A Desire for Collective Ownership

This theme was threaded throughout the workshops but didn’t appear in survey responses. People repeatedly said:

- “It has to feel like it’s ours”
- “Not just for tourists or event-goers — for locals too”
- “Let us be part of the process”

This reveals a desire for co-governance, not just consultation. Participants want Lucan House to be managed in a way that gives voice, visibility, and agency to the community – from local groups running tours to school choirs performing on the grounds.

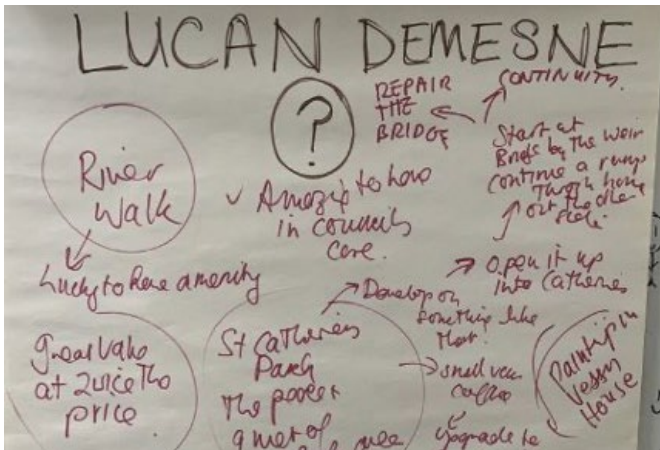


Figure 22: Selection of images from the General Public Groups

5.3.9 Schools: 4th Class Primary School and Transition Year Students

Engagements with Lucan’s schools were joyful, creative, and revealing. Aligned with state guidance on youth participation in planning, workshops gave students free rein to imagine.

Primary School Students

The younger group – a class of 9/10 year-olds – approached the project with unfiltered joy and boundless creative ambition. Their ideas included:

- Zip-lines through the trees
- Pirate ships docked at river islands
- Fairy cafés and magical walkways
- Water parks, treehouses, and medieval costume tours
- Seasonal spectacles like Halloween light shows or Easter egg hunts

While these may seem fantastical on the surface, these ideas speak volumes about how children experience place: they want wonder, interaction, and discovery. Many of their ideas reflected:

- i. A strong connection to nature (animals, tree trails, forest play)
- ii. A desire to learn through doing (interactive history, museum role-play)
- iii. A need for imaginative immersion – environments that invite fantasy, storytelling, and transformation

They also made repeated reference to inclusive experiences – many of their suggestions were intergenerational (e.g. picnic areas, light shows), suggesting an instinct for community-centred space.

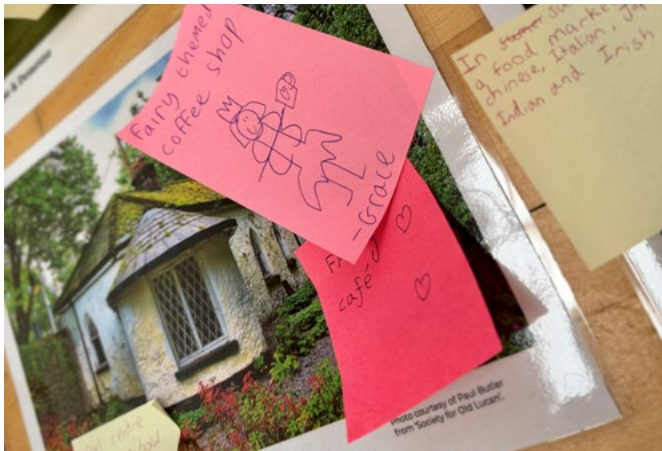


Figure 23: Selection of Images from the Primary School Group

Transition Year Students

The TY workshop offered a grounded, socially aware perspective. Students balanced playful ideas (like a “rave cave” in the house’s basement) with nuanced proposals for long-term, youth-oriented infrastructure:

- Multi-use youth centres and wellness hubs
- Arts galleries and performance spaces
- Outdoor cinemas, food markets, and affordable cafés
- Safe zones for kayaking, sports, and nature walks
- A desire for “somewhere to just hang out that isn’t the shopping centre”

They also raised critical issues that did not surface in adult-centred planning:

- Lucan’s distance from the city centre leaves many teens cut off from mainstream activities unless driven by parents
- A lack of youth-specific, walkable destinations in the area means free time often equals screen time or loitering
- Public transport was described as unreliable, costly, or unsafe, limiting spontaneous access to sport, social spaces, or creative engagement

These insights position Lucan House as a missing middle – a place that could give teenagers autonomy, identity, and safe, meaningful engagement outside school.

Youth feedback also brought urgency to discussions of informal, everyday use – from a safe place to meet friends to accessible, affordable food options. These aren’t niche needs: they’re signals of how belonging and access are shaped early in life, and how public spaces have the ability to support or, indeed, exclude. From zip-lines to wellness hubs, their ideas illuminate not only what Lucan House could be, but who it should serve, and how it can bridge the gap between historic preservation and vibrant, living community space.

Tying youth feedback to the bigger picture, the insights from both age groups reinforce and extend core themes heard across the broader consultation:

Wider Theme	Youth Contribution
Access to nature and wellbeing	Tree walks, quiet zones, nature learning spaces, sensory play.
Celebration of culture and heritage	Historical interpretation through immersive experience (costumes, storytelling, music).
Year-round activation	Seasonal events, outdoor cinemas, festive markets.
Inclusion and community use	Intergenerational play, family gathering spots, teen-friendly areas.
Connectivity and transport	First-hand evidence of barriers due to distance, safety concerns and low public transport trust among youth.

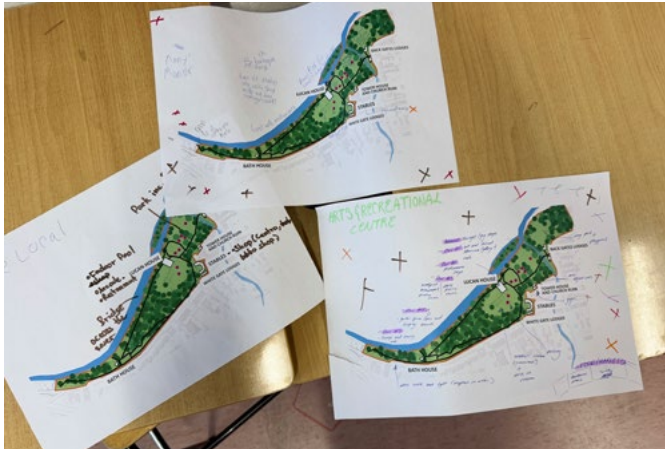


Figure 24: Selection of Images from the Transition Year Student Group

5.4 Final Summary of Broad Themes from Engagements

The consultation revealed a strong and unified community vision for Lucan House and Demesne. When combining the quantitative survey results with rich qualitative insights, four broad and recurring themes emerged across all stakeholder groups:

Connectivity and Integration	Public Accessibility and Heritage Conservation	Community-Centric Development	Environmental Sustainability and Biodiversity
<p>There is widespread support for connecting Lucan House with the surrounding parks – particularly St. Catherine’s – and integrating it into the broader green infrastructure of Lucan.</p> <p>Participants view this as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a continuous, accessible, and walkable natural corridor through the town.</p>	<p>The demand to open Lucan House to the public was near-universal.</p> <p>This desire is matched by a shared commitment to protecting and celebrating the site’s unique architectural and historical features, including its Georgian heritage, river-based identity, and layered narratives of past ownership.</p>	<p>There was a consistent emphasis on the need for the space to serve local people first.</p> <p>The site is envisioned as a venue for cultural events, youth engagement, local clubs, and day-to-day community use.</p> <p>Respondents want Lucan House to feel like a civic hub – not a commercial attraction that bypasses the community.</p>	<p>Across all groups, there was strong alignment around nature-based use of the grounds – preserving green space, protecting existing flora and fauna, promoting biodiversity, and embedding sustainable practices.</p> <p>The site’s natural beauty is regarded not only as its greatest asset, but also its most delicate.</p>

6.

Key Observations and Emerging Issues

6.1 Key Observations and Emerging Issues

The consultation process also highlighted several key issues that must be carefully considered as the Masterplan evolves:

- **Public Accessibility as the Core Demand:** Above all, people want the gates of Lucan House opened. Access to nature, culture, and heritage – free and equitable – is seen as both symbolic and practical. This was not just a theme, but a mandate across all engagements
- **Balanced Development vs. Over-Commercialisation:** There is support for small-scale, sensitive commercial uses (such as cafés, artisan markets, or guided tours), but a strong resistance to over-development. Participants stressed that Lucan House should not become a standalone tourist destination or a high-traffic retail zone. Community benefit must come first
- **Parking and Transport Debate:** Parking emerged as a complex and sometimes divisive issue. While many favour limited, hidden, or peripheral parking solutions (e.g. shuttle buses, cycleways, park-and-ride), others – particularly those with mobility needs – emphasised the importance of accessible on-site options. Solutions must balance environmental protection with real-world accessibility needs
- **Cultural and Recreational Uses:** There is overwhelming appetite for Lucan House to become a vibrant space for arts, music, history, and nature-based recreation. Suggestions include outdoor performances, nature trails, kayaking, and seasonal events – all designed to be inclusive, creative, and community-led
- **Site Management and Governance Concerns:** A recurring concern – especially among political representatives, local businesses, and the public – was the future governance of the site. Many expressed a preference for a community-driven model with transparency, local input, and public oversight. Fears of mismanagement or privatisation were raised as potential threats to long-term community trust

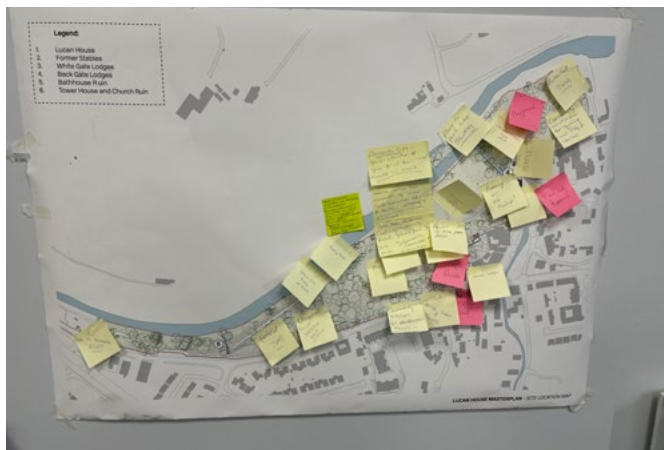


Figure 25: Selection of Images of outputs from the groups.

7.

Recommendations

7.1 Recommendations

7.1. Community Feedback Integration Plan

The following section outlines how the consultation findings will be embedded into the design of the Lucan House Masterplan. These recommendations translate public feedback into practical commitments that will shape the site's infrastructure, programming, and day-to-day usability. They ensure that the demesne is not just a preserved heritage asset, but a living, accessible space for community life, just as public feedback suggests it should.

7.1.2 Practical Ways Community Feedback has influenced the Masterplan

Designing for everyday use, not just event

The Masterplan is explicitly designed for everyday public use, not just for special events.

Several key strategies reflect this intention:

1. Everyday Amenities

A Local Food Café-Restaurant is intended as a regular meeting spot, not just an event concession. Picnic Areas and Seating are scattered across the demesne for informal use, ideal for family outings or quiet relaxation. Access to Public Toilets, Changing Places, Accessible WCs are everyday necessities, emphasising inclusivity and usability for all ages and abilities.

2. Accessibility and Active Travel

Extensive network of pedestrian and cycling paths, with level and gently sloped access routes that comply with accessibility regulations have been developed as part of the masterplan. There are multiple entry points, including pedestrian and bicycle gates, making it easy to integrate the demesne into daily walking or cycling routines. Lucan House located in immediate proximity to bus stops, supporting sustainable transport and regular visits.

3. Green and Recreational Infrastructure

Exercise and Calisthenics Park and Kids Playground: Everyday fitness and play, not just occasional use. Fishing, water entry points, and scenic viewpoints: Encourage casual recreation and interaction with nature.

4. Integration with Surroundings

The demesne connects directly to St. Catherine's Park, the Royal Canal, and other local green spaces, allowing for daily walks, hikes, or cycles through a "stitched-together" green corridor.

5. Community Engagement and Cultural Use

While it includes event-oriented spaces like the amphitheatre and performance areas, these are balanced with community spaces, children's library, music/media lad, art spaces, farm shop, and workshops, which can operate on a regular basis.

6. Wayfinding and Safety

There are plans at the next phase of development for maps and interpretive panels to enhance the visitor experience day-to-day, not just for large gatherings.

In summary, the masterplan supports a vibrant, multifunctional public space tailored for daily life—exercise, relaxation, nature connection, family time, and community interaction—while being flexible enough to host events. This masterplan ensures that Lucan House serves as a vibrant, inclusive space for daily activities, fostering community engagement, recreation, and cultural appreciation.

Strategic placement of key Amenities for inclusion & flow

The masterplan carefully positions key amenities—such as cafés, toilets, and seating—to promote flow, inclusion, and equitable access across the demesne. Here's how the masterplan supports a broad and diverse range of everyday users:

1. Cafés and Community Food Spaces

Main Café/Restaurant is located near a public entrance and paths, serving as a central hub for casual visits and adjacent to the stables plaza and open-air market/performance space, encouraging lingering and social engagement before/after events. Positioned to be accessible via level or gently sloped paths, making it easy to reach for all mobility levels.

2. Toilets and Changing Facilities

Public toilets are clustered with high-activity zones such as the café, amphitheatre, and play areas—ensuring availability where people gather most. Accessible toilets, showers, and Changing Places facilities are clearly mapped and compliant with accessibility standards (TGD Part M), supporting families, older adults, and those with mobility impairments. The facilities are located near entrances and active travel hubs, allowing users arriving on foot, bike, or bus to access facilities early in their visit.

3. Seating and Rest Areas

Seating and rest areas are distributed along main walking and cycling routes, allowing users to rest at intervals—especially important for older adults, children, and visitors with limited mobility. These areas have been strategically located in picnic areas and scenic viewpoints, integrating comfort with opportunities to relax and enjoy the landscape. They also present around performance spaces, providing informal audience seating and inclusivity in cultural experiences.

4. Integrated Design for Movement & Pause

Pedestrian and cycle paths are designed to pass by these amenities, maintaining steady flow while offering opportunities to stop, rest, or engage with the environment. The network of entrances (including bus-linked, pedestrian, and cycle access points) ensures visitors from all areas and abilities can enter near key amenities, avoiding long walks just to find basics. All routes to these facilities are either level or gently sloped ($\leq 1:50$ or $1:20-1:50$), compliant with universal access standards.

5. Designed for a Broad User Base

The mix of formal (e.g. café, amphitheatre, cultural and community hub) and informal (e.g. picnic areas, playgrounds) amenities supports a diverse range of users—from families to solo walkers to eventgoers. Amenities are not clustered in a single “event zone” but distributed across the demesne, ensuring year-round, everyday functionality.

Connectivity in design

The masterplan places connectivity at the heart of its design, ensuring it is physically and functionally integrated in a regional and local context.

1. Link to St. Catherine's Park

A new upgraded bridge is proposed across the River Liffey from Lucan House Demesne, creating a direct, dedicated link between Lucan House and St. Catherine's Park. This bridge will be designed for pedestrians and cyclists, forming part of a larger strategy to unify both green spaces into one extended, accessible environment.

2. Integration with the Liffey Green Corridor

Lucan House lies within the Liffey Valley Green Corridor, and the masterplan includes trails, biodiversity zones, and water access points that reinforce this environmental link. Water entry points, fishing spots, and riverfront seating are included, making the Liffey a usable, everyday feature and not a boundary.

3. Connection to Other Local Parks and Destinations

The masterplan outlines routes to Lucan Demesne Park, the Royal Canal, and other parks and greenways, enhancing access to broader recreational networks. These routes are marked for safe, non-motorised access, with distinct pathways for walking and cycling.

4. Avoiding Fragmentation: A Unified Green Space Vision

The entire masterplan supports a “stitched-together” landscape, reinforcing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a continuous green corridor through Lucan. The design avoids fences or major vehicle roads that would isolate sections of the demesne, keeping paths, amenities, and heritage features visually and physically connected.

In essence, the masterplan isn’t a stand-alone destination—it’s a connective tissue in a broader green infrastructure network, making nature, recreation, and community life more accessible for everyone.

Preserving and interpreting conservation features

The public consultation showed conservation was a top priority, especially among local groups and young people fascinated by the demesnes layered history. As such, the masterplan makes conservation preservation and public storytelling a central pillar of its design, balancing conservation with public engagement. The masterplan retains, restores, and reactivates key historical structures.

Main Lucan House: Adaptive reuse as a public, event and cultural venue. Includes possibilities like exhibitions, cultural offices, community spaces etc

Boat House, Gate Lodges, and Stables: All planned for adaptive reuse—not just conserved as relics but given new life for community, retail, and cultural uses. The Stables may host workshops or interpretive installations

Bath House: Designated for architectural restoration with limited public use, retaining authenticity while providing access

Church Ruin and Stone Bridges: Preserved as consolidated ruins, minimal conservation or no-intervention monuments, integrated into the heritage trail system for storytelling

Public Interpretation & Heritage Trails: The masterplan envisions interactive and educational experiences rooted in local knowledge and community voices. Interpretive installations, signage, and maps (to be developed in the next design phase) will share historical narratives, local legends, and architectural significance

In summary, the masterplan doesn’t just preserve conservation—it brings it to life, weaving it into daily use and creating opportunities for learning, reflection, and cultural pride.

Embedding accessibility and inclusivity from the outset

The Masterplan has embedded accessibility from the outset, demonstrating a commitment to universal design that goes beyond compliance to create a genuinely inclusive public space. Core Universal Design Features included in the masterplan are:

Accessible Pathways: Smooth, continuous paths are planned throughout the demesne with gentle gradients ($\leq 1:50$ or $1:20-1:50$), complying with TGD Part M standards. Ramped routes are included where needed, with appropriate handrails and rest zones

Inclusive Demesne Entrances: Multiple access gates are designed for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, with an accessible route from each main entrance. Entrances are linked to public transport stops and safe pedestrian and cycle routes, improving access for all ages and abilities

Changing Places Toilets: Specifically included in the plan, these are fully accessible, large restrooms with hoists, adult changing benches, and privacy screens. Designed to meet the needs of individuals with complex mobility requirements. Located at the main entrance gate and in the main house

Accessible Toilets and Showers: Located near key destinations (e.g., café, performance areas), ensuring equitable access to core amenities

Designated Parking: Accessible car parking spaces are distributed near primary access points and facilities, reducing travel distance and improving dignity in arrival

Wayfinding and Sensory Design (Planned in Next Phase): Detailed design stage will incorporate designing tactile surfaces and visual contrast markings on paths and edges and clear, high-contrast signage positioned at accessible heights. Interpretive and directional signage will be designed for all with consideration for cognitive and sensory differences

Inclusive Outdoor Amenities: Accessible picnic areas and seating placed along walking paths, enabling. Play and exercise equipment designed for a range of physical abilities

Community-Led, Not Retroactive: The masterplan responds directly to public consultations, where accessibility wasn't seen as an afterthought but as a core demand across age groups and mobility levels. All infrastructure is being designed from the start to meet or exceed national accessibility regulations, avoiding the need for costly retrofitting

Overall Lucan House is being designed not just to allow access, but to welcome it with best-in-class inclusive features that support mobility, dignity, and full participation

Programming spaces for community life

The Masterplan directly responds to the community's call for vibrant, inclusive programming spaces that support arts, wellness, intergenerational activity, and informal gathering. Rather than treating programming as an add-on, the design weaves community life into the physical and social fabric of the demesne.

Spaces for Arts and Culture:

- Amphitheatre and Front Lawn Events Areas: Are designed for open-air theatre, music, dance, and festivals, supporting both scheduled events and casual performances
- Bath House Pavilion: A restored conservation structure repurposed for creative workshops, art installations, or talks in a unique historical setting
- Graffiti Wall: Explore the feasibility of a designated space for youth expression and street art, encouraging creativity and ownership
- Farm/ Local Produce Shop & Exhibition Space: Intended for temporary exhibitions, pop-ups, and seasonal community arts, rooted in local culture

Wellness and Physical Activity

- Exercise and Calisthenics Park: Open to all ages and fitness levels, supporting everyday health. Trails and pathways throughout the demesne are ideal for walking, cycling, and mindful nature experiences. Spaces are designed to foster peaceful, reflective moments, aligning with community desires for "an oasis in the heart of Lucan"

Youth and Intergenerational Programming

- Kids Playground: A vital anchor for young families, located near toilets, seating, and food areas for convenience
- Rest Zones and Viewpoints: Provide areas for older adults to gather, watch performances, or simply enjoy nature. Workshops and pop-ups envisioned in the farm shop, stables, and other adaptively reused buildings allow for cross-generational skills sharing and learning
- Layout supports family visits, with amenities grouped to ease movement and comfort for all ages
- Informal Gathering and Social Life
- Public Plaza & Market Space: A central node for community gathering, performances, and weekend markets.
- Picnic Areas & Café: Encourage day-to-day social use. Strategically located seating and shade support lingering, resting, and unstructured interaction

Community-Led Vision

The design is a direct response to public consultation, which emphasised that arts, culture, community and wellness spaces are not “nice extras” but central to how people envision using the demesne. It draws inspiration from places like Marlay Park and Farmleigh, not in scale, but in spirit - places where public life thrives through diverse, welcoming programming.

The masterplan creates a living, adaptable public space that can host everything from quiet picnics to vibrant community festivals always with equity, creativity, and connection at its core.

Parking and Transport solutions with balance

The Masterplan approaches parking and transport solutions with balance, aiming to provide convenient access without compromising the landscape, ecology, or inclusive use of the demesne. It achieves this thoughtful integration through:

Balanced, Low-Impact Parking Strategy

- Peripheral Parking: Car parking is placed at the demesne’s edges, reducing visual and environmental intrusion on the core green areas. This masterplan supports walkability while still allowing vehicular access for those who need it. Locations are chosen through careful siting and to align with main entrances and accessible routes, minimising walking distance for mobility-impaired users
- Designated Accessible Parking: Accessible parking bays are provided near key access points and facilities such as toilets, cafés, and performance areas. Designed in compliance with TGD Part M, they include level access to footpaths and nearby amenities, supporting users with limited mobility or caregiving needs
- Public Transport and Shuttle Integration: The demesne is well-served by multiple nearby bus stops, which are linked to entrances via safe, accessible walking and cycling routes. The masterplan supports potential for a future shuttle or drop-off service, particularly for: Older adults or visitors with mobility challenges; Families with young children; and Event access without overloading parking. This approach reduces private car dependency while still ensuring access for those who need it most

Active Travel Prioritisation

- Integrated cycling infrastructure: Dedicated cycle paths will connect Lucan House to St. Catherine’s Park, the Royal Canal, and Lucan Demesne Park. Bicycle-friendly entrances (e.g., West Gate, White Gate) encourage healthy, sustainable travel. Future design stages will include bike parking at strategic access points and the café area

Family-Friendly and Inclusive Design

- Amenities such as toilets, changing facilities, and picnic areas are all located within short distance of parking and public transport nodes, making the demesne highly navigable for families. Level paths and shaded seating along the way make it easy for mixed-age groups to move through the demesne at their own pace

Environmentally Sensitive Design

- By emphasising peripheral parking, cycling links, and public transport, the masterplan helps preserve green space, reduce pollution, and minimise visual clutter from vehicles. Combined with green infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens and permeable paving), parking areas are designed to be sustainable and unobtrusive

The masterplan avoids a car-dominated model while meeting the real mobility needs of all visitors. It supports a calm, accessible, and ecologically respectful public realm.

The masterplan is a direct response to community vision. It delivers a space that is welcoming and accessible; rich with everyday amenities; rooted in local culture and nature and balanced between conservation, recreation, and inclusion. The masterplan is a blueprint for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable public realm that places people at its heart. By prioritising everyday use over occasional spectacle, the masterplan redefines how public conservation spaces can serve contemporary life—supporting walking and cycling, hosting family outings and community events, preserving history while creating new cultural experiences. It balances environmental stewardship with modern accessibility, ensuring all visitors, regardless of age, ability, or background, can enjoy its offerings comfortably and with dignity.

It stands as a living framework that adapts to local life, promoting wellbeing, creativity, and connection every day of the year. Lucan House is not just being preserved—it is being reimagined as a cornerstone of public life in Lucan for generations to come.

Collectively, these design strategies respond to the community’s vision for Lucan House as a place of everyday use, cultural vitality, and ecological respect. They reflect a commitment to long-term stewardship, not just short-term delivery, and will guide the project through each stage of development with clarity and accountability.

7.1.3 How Community Input Will Continue to Shape Project Direction

The Masterplan has been developed through extensive community consultation and reflects strong public support for a multifunctional, inclusive, and everyday use of public space. To uphold this commitment and ensure the long-term success of the project, this proposal outlines a framework for continued community engagement across the design, development, and operational phases.

Publishing engagement milestones and design responses

To maintain transparency and foster trust, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) propose implementing a public engagement strategy, with regular updates including:

- A dedicated website displaying current progress, upcoming works, and opportunities for feedback
- Periodic exhibitions or events in the demesne highlighting design refinements and inviting further input

These mechanisms will ensure the community sees the tangible impact of their contributions and remains informed.

Commitment to youth and minority inclusion

Building on the inclusive foundations of the masterplan, this project must sustain targeted outreach to ensure underrepresented voices remain central. As such, SDCC proposes:

- Ongoing collaboration with local schools for learning and arts-based engagement;
- Design workshops and youth advisory roles tied to elements such as the graffiti wall or performance spaces
- Partnership with disability groups to test and co-design signage, pathways, and sensory features; and
- Outreach via social care organisations to support participation from minority communities and non-native speakers

The project team shall commit to an equity-first approach where inclusivity is embedded at every level.

Transparent decision-making on commercial uses

To address concerns around the impact of commercial activities, the following policies will be adopted:

- All commercial vendors and concessions must demonstrate social value, such as local hiring, support for local produce, or community pricing as part of a public procurement process
- Annual review of commercial activities to ensure they align with the public-use ethos of the demesne
- Clear communication to the public about how income generated supports demesne maintenance programming, and community benefits

These safeguards ensure that commercial use enhances rather than detracts from community access.

Inclusive communications strategy

Effective communication is vital to participation. We propose to develop a multi-format, communication strategy and plan as part of the next design phase that will include for:

- Plain language project summaries and updates
- Translated materials in Irish
- Digital updates via a project website and local social media
- Outreach through community methods and local newspapers

This ensures that all community members, regardless of age, language, digital access, or ability, remain connected to the project.

The masterplan is a flagship project for inclusive amenity space development in Ireland. This approach outlines a practical, scalable approach to ensure community voice remains central not just in planning, but in implementation and stewardship. SDCC will adopt these measures in upcoming phases and welcome collaboration from all stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

8.

Appendices

8.1. Ideas Bank – Community Suggestions Categorized by Theme

No.	Idea
A	Heritage & History
1.	You could have a costume area where you dress up in medieval costumes and take photos.
2.	I would like to see school nature walks/history talks as frequent occurrences on the demesne.
3.	The library in the main house should get used as a small library or reading room.
4.	Tours of Lucan House and its surrounds should be regular occurrences, highlighting the historical aspects of the house itself, the various features on the grounds and the people who have lived there.
5.	The house should be open to the public with an area dedicated to the history of Lucan. There could be a small charge for access to the house. The grounds should be open to the public on a free of charge basis. A small area of the grounds should be used to create a small car park (30 to 40 spaces) for both visitors and users of the village. A war memorial to remember Lucan people killed in all wars should be included somewhere on the grounds. The buildings near the AIB should be developed as community spaces for markets/exhibitions/workshops.
6.	There could be a tasteful notice board explaining points of historical and cultural interest.
7.	Lucan House should be restored with period appropriate furnishings and artwork which reflect the original interior design while complementing the house.
8.	There needs to be proper use of the Georgian House, maybe it should be turned into an education centre.
9.	The site should be open for historical or heritage tours.
10.	What about a memorial for anyone from Lucan that died in war/conflict?
11.	This is an opportunity to make a feature out of the black stove that was one of the original, and rare, artifacts on the first floor of the house.
12.	The site should feature a Lucan museum focused on the history + development of the area.
13.	It could become the Lucan Heritage centre - a hub for showcasing the history of Lucan.
14.	There needs to be some nod towards the long history of kayaking/canoeing in the area - dating all the way back to the 60s-70s.
15.	A Local War Memorial would be a great learning opportunity.
16.	If you can't go up and down the steps you could bring people into the house via the basement and up from there around the side – the basement is also very cool so would be nice to start from the Medieval times and work your way up from the 'older' to the 'newer' history of the place.
17.	I'd love to see a heritage property on par with Castletown House with fun, educational and authentic interiors and grounds, information about the history and people who lived in the estate and Lucan too. The history and archaeology are so rich.

18.	I would like to see the House protected and opened to the public over the summer months. Turning the stables into a venue to house art exhibition for local artists and craft stall working with the Festival team to put on various family events during the summer months and with the possibility of hosting a Christmas Fair, opening the grounds to local clubs - Heritage Tours with the local Historical team (Viking Festival).
19.	The House is protected and so it can't be fully accessible but there's an opportunity to create a VR experience for areas that people can't access.
20.	Historical preservation should be emphasised. A focus on community use and local use. Drama crafts cafes nature and river studies. Volunteer projects. A lovely house that needs to be used for local groups.
21.	There should be a dedicated heritage trail.
22.	There needs to be a Georgian Museum – connecting the local history with the houses history of the Sarsfields and the Veseys.
23.	There should be a themed element where you can enter in cottage restored to how it was during the Victorian or Georgian period.
24.	There could be a horse cart on site that brings people around the estate on a themed tour.
25.	There could be a small cafe on site, called 'The Bathhouse Café' and connect it with the historical elements of the site.
26.	Lucan House could become a museum of art like IMMA at Kilmainham.
28.	We need to bring the bathhouse back to its former glory.
29.	The site should have space dedicated towards an Arts, Irish language and Heritage centre.

No.	Idea
B. Environment & Sustainability	
30.	It would be great to grow produce on the grounds if there's somewhere suitable.
31.	There should be winter light displays along the nature walk (like in Dublin Zoo or some Dublin parks).
32.	Emphasis needs to be placed on walking, dog friendly areas in a protected environment.
33.	Prioritise tree protection, rewilding.
34.	What about community tree houses where you can learn about trees and squirrels?
35.	The bathhouse could be turned into a nature research center.
36.	We have to protect the natural landscape and the plants and animals here.
37.	Additional green walkways and cycleways.
38.	No trees or nature to be removed. The village has been destroyed with the new development at the village green and I would hate to see any more mindless destruction of nature.
39.	A series of developed nature walks.
40.	Time should be spent mapping existing Flora to act as reference in order to prioritise the protection of species at Lucan House.
41.	We could install loads of ziplines on the island and even a couple of ziplines going across from the island to the main green.

42.	Linking Lucan Demesne, St.Catherines Park/Lucan village for walks and nature trails is the second biggest opportunity here after opening the gates.
43.	A kitchen garden or an orchard would be welcome additions.
44.	Just being in nature and going on walks can be an amazing experience – this opportunity doesn't have to be something completely spectacular.
45.	I envision the House becoming a space for people from multiple cultures and religions so that they don't have to rely on churches as spaces – a multifaith facility that could be used for lots of ceremonies.
46.	Essential to create a cycle lane along the river connected with the wider Greenway.
47.	The green space offers a good opportunity to show kids about gardening/growing.
48.	It needs Glendalough Walkway/sleepers: Nice and long, broad and wide so that even your 80 year old granny could enjoy being in nature without worrying about safety.
49.	There could be community beehives like in Airfield.
50.	By far the most important thing is to build a road through this area to alleviate traffic through the village. There are already many green areas in Lucan, its not necessary to have another one. More parking for the village too please.
51.	There could be a dedicated artisan market in one of the green areas.
52.	I'd like to see a night time walk to look for animals and nature.
53.	A garden or even a rose garden would be nice.
54.	I'd like to see preservation of the current character of the house and grounds, emphasizing biodiversity and sustainability. The existing wide variety of flora should be listed for reference for preservation as appropriate. Planting of native trees and shrubs to encourage pollinators, and a large wildflower meadow.

No.	Idea
C. Recreation & Community Wellbeing	
55.	Ziplining in the green areas would be really cool.
56.	I'd like to see a yoga/meditation room in the house.
57.	Space should be allocated to essential services like a womens centre.
58.	There needs to be dedicated wellbeing spaces.
59.	I want to see a walkway along the Liffey. It would be amazing to walk from the weir to leixlip.
60.	Two words: Treehouse Café.
61.	There could be a canoe on the river and someone could be paid to row people down the river along the forest walk.
62.	The house should be a new location for Lucan library with Education and research centre with rooms for educational and recreational purposes/classes/gathering.
63.	The house could be used for different functions, AGMs, tearooms with tablecloths (her mum used to talk about it – that the gates were always open back in the day).
64.	The bathhouse could be a 'grandad booth' where they can read their papers.

65.	The stables should be kept for Equestrian use.
66.	There needs to be sports courts (Tennis, Football, Basketball).
67.	The addition of a sensory garden would support accessibility.
68.	There needs to be a pool table in the house.
69.	There is beautiful space for photography displays.
70.	Peace & Tranquility seating - nice flowers & nice walks away from the hustle & bustle of traffic.
71.	Part of the demesne needs a dedicated quiet room where people can have some peace.
72.	Create a natural playground, a place for kids to play while pushing away from plastics.
73.	The main house could be a great venue for wellness retreats.
74.	Create a local outdoor gym for residents.
75.	Space for the Kayak Club and their activities.
76.	There should be an indoor sport court (Badminton, cricket).
77.	I would like to see the formation of local walking groups of differing levels to enjoy the new green space.
78.	The forest walk should connect to everything else – eg. St Catherines Park.
79.	It is essential that there are appropriate family areas/playgrounds.
80.	There should be space for the local cycling club.
81.	The river should be used, there should be some area that is safe for swimming – like Hyde Park.
82.	There could be an astro pitch for football for wheelchair users as it's hard to do that on grass with wheels.
83.	The stables could host pony clubs.
84.	Space for local groups like the Chess Club.
85.	Lucan House could become canoeing Ireland's regional training centre.
86.	The whole area is a perfect camping spot.
87.	Creating and cultivating beautiful Botanic Gardens like Powerscourt would be wonderful.
88.	River recreations like boat paddling.
89.	What about space to do archery.
90.	There should be a BBQ area with picnic seating.
91.	The bath house could be somewhere people go for an ice swim or a sauna up the river.
92.	Turn Lucan House into an Arts & Recreational Centre.
93.	The stables could become an art studio with classes for kids.
94.	Create an underwater river view!
95.	Implement an Owl Center where you can hold the owls.
96.	A dog/pet park would be great to open the space up to animals too.
97.	This is an opportunity to connect – creating integrated cycle lanes will connect the whole area.
98.	Lucan House should have a fountain.
99.	We could make a fish pond.

No.	Idea
D. Public Space & Tourism	
100.	You could put lights on the house and, at night, the house would light up and it would be really cool.
101.	I would like to see an open cinema our outdoor concert facility at Lucan House.
102.	The stables should be restored to become Working Stables.
103.	There needs to be a vision for greater connectivity here – St. Catherines Park is technically Lucan Park.
104.	The summer festival is a highlight than needs to be maintained.
105.	Some of the rooms on the site could be converted into a study space.
106.	In the winter, there could be a drive-in cinema.
107.	I want to see the House restored in the manner of Farmleigh or Castletown.
108.	We need to refurbish the Bath house and allow the public to use it.
109.	Public toilet facilities either in the house or the outbuildings are essential.
110.	There needs to be a dedicated place to park bikes.
111.	There should be a performance area/participation area for a band/stage like Stephens Green or Clasack on the Alfie Byrne Road.
112.	There has to be parking for up to 150 cars.
113.	Space should be reserved for outdoor boules.
114.	The opportunity for outdoor education is really good here and the education piece should be implemented on the site.
115.	On nice evenings, Lucan House would be a great area for open air plays/classical concerts - but in smaller groups rather than longer groups like Malahide Castle – it doesn't need to be that big here.
116.	The creation of a multifunctional outdoor space is essential.
117.	Parts of the house should be used as meeting rooms.
118.	The unique Medieval Basement needs to be highlighted.
119.	This is a rare opportunity to create space for art/arts and crafts/exhibitions.
120.	I would like to see it used for community events eg. Christmas markets. I would also like to see walking trails with native plants. Seating areas would be an asset. A pond/lake to encourage wildlife. I would love to see a sensory area for children / adults with additional needs. Toilets would be welcome. Plenty of bins. An outdoor bandstand that could be used for community events.
121.	The House needs to be opened to the public.
122.	The House could be rented out as a location for filming.
123.	The site could play host to a Lucan Holi festival.
124.	There should be a theatre hall for local artists to perform in.
125.	I like the idea of there being Food Trucks on the weekends as well as community events and a clean area for picnics.
126.	There should be exhibitions in the main House.

127.	Every season you could make the house look like the season – at Halloween, you can make it spooky and at easter, you can do a big easter egg hunt!
128.	The House should have event space available for local hire.
129.	I think there should be an emphasis on the number of peripheral parking links which could be connected to Lucan House with green infrastructure to prevent car parking on site.
130.	There should be drama group storage space for props, costumes, sets, scripts; rehearsal space (preferably sound-proof, good acoustics) and a decent size stage with space for an audience of 100-150.
131.	Lucan House needs a dog area.
132.	The site should be developed as interesting public parkland.
133.	I want there to be a designated bird watching hut.
134.	A Craft Area would be really cool.
135.	Lucan house could become a co-working space.
136.	We could have space there, like at Farmleigh, where they sell jams and breads made by local people.
137.	There should be a walled garden where people could learn and be educated about gardening.
138.	What about a small farm/petting zoo?
139.	There needs to be an emphasis on Community Events & Markets – Lucan House should host cultural events, farmers’ markets and seasonal fairs to engage the local community.
140.	Community Centre for use by locals.
141.	Car parking must be made available. You cannot have a large leisure site with no accommodation for the infirm or elderly (like my ageing parents) people who must be driven to amenities like Lucan defense. Please please consider this.
142.	The bridge should be brought back up to standard.
143.	There needs to be a big improvement in public transport links. At present, Lucan village buses primarily serve Leixlip and Celbridge and the village needs its own route.
144.	There should be a blanket ban on the commodification of this public space e.g food trucks, knick knack stalls, horse box coffee.
145.	We should install a bandstand big enough to host the national symphony orchestra – a full 84 piece band.
146.	At Christmas, the whole demesne could be lit up in a Christmas lights show like the one at Dublin zoo.
147.	Lucan House should allow for fishing on the site.
148.	There needs to be adequate bins on the site to preserve the areas natural beauty, ideally they should be integrated into the landscape.
149.	This is an opportunity to create an active space for teenagers (skate park, pump track, basketball, canoeing jetty).
150.	We should install a beautiful statue garden with lots of roses and flowers.

151.	A Cultural Centre for Lucan. As it is, cultural events here fall mainly across denominational lines, from photography clubs, to music, to theology. There is nowhere outside of the churches and their centres for locals, particularly non-school age, to engage with small festivals (e.g., TradFest), poetry readings, screenings, book launches, small drama, music or dance events. St Patrick's Day parade is a one-day bash. We shouldn't have to rely on pubs! We deny our local artists any visibility and are as subjugated as we were 200 yrs ago!
152.	There could be an annual fancy dress party, like a masquerade ball, in the big house!
153.	There should be a shared "Community Kitchen" – here, the diversity of the Lucan area can be celebrated with access to a wide variety of multicultural tastes.
154.	There needs to be dedicated community space for red cross, men shed and other community organisations.

No.	Idea
E. Economic & Business Opportunities	
155.	The House could be turned into an Art Gallery with a high end coffee shop inside.
156.	Think back to the food that Lucan was originally famous for – Ice cream strawberries – how do we bring that back into the delivery of services on the demesne?
157.	There should be tea rooms in the main house or in the stables.
158.	People could be boated up and down the liffey by someone contracted to do it/all dressed up like the old Tram conductors were.
159.	Lucan House would make an ideal multifaith wedding venue.
160.	There needs to be commercial activity in the area whether its markets or shops .
161.	Weekly markets or dedicated market space would be perfect.
162.	Lodges could be used for the craft community/artists in residence etc.
163.	Having allotments would allow for there to be locally grown food.
164.	Having artists in residence there.
165.	There should be a gift shop in the main house.
166.	There should be a shop beside the river.
167.	Nothing would attract people to Lucan House like a nice, high-quality restaurant.
168.	I'd like to see food vans and an Italian food market with the best of Italian food in Ireland, honouring the history of the Italian embassy in Lucan.
169.	There should be food markets based in the Stables, with the addition of a BBQ area.
170.	There could be a weekly selection of food trucks serving local businesses during their lunch break.
171.	Coffee shop – turn the old stables into a coffee shop with outdoor seating and a canopy.
172.	Talented local artists could avail of the space and have their own dedicated artists' studios.
173.	Around the side entrance would be a nice place to have a coffee shop. It could be called 'The Basement' or something like that, it would make it a bit different.

8.2 Supporting Materials and Documentation

8.2.1 Survey Material

(Outreach flyers, promotional assets, screenshots of the printed survey we gave to the library in both Irish and English)

- Surveys – Sample of front page of printed surveys in both English and Irish

Cuidigh linn an Máistirphlean do Theach & Diméin Leamhcáin a Mhúnú Suirbhé Comhairliúcháin Phoiblí



Go raibh maith agat as am a ghhlacadh chun do chuid smaointe faoi Theach agus Diméin Leamhcáin a chur in iúl.

Tá Máistirphlean á chruthú ag Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath chun spás poiblí agus ionad cuairteoirí a dhéanamh den láthreán seo.

Is plean fadléarmach é Máistirphlean a chuidíonn le trocír a thabhairt maidir leis an gcaoi a bhforbróidh áit amach anseo. Ag tús an phróisis seo atáimid faoi léihair. Anois an t-am ceart mar sin ag muintir na háite chun na rudaí a theastaíonn uathu a chur in iúl.


- Bain úsáid as TEACHTAIREACHTA SOILEIR
- Cuir líc (☑) sna boscaí do cheisteanna ilroghnacha
- Tabhairt an suirbhé ordochnaithe ar ais chug LEABHARLANN LUCAN nó OIFIG AN PHOIST LUCAN

1



Help Shape the Masterplan for Lucan House & Demesne

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY




This survey invites you to share your thoughts on Lucan House and Demesne.

South Dublin County Council is developing a Masterplan to guide the future of Lucan House and Demesne as a public space and visitor centre. This survey will help us understand community priorities.

HOW TO COMPLETE

- ✓ Please use **CLEAR TEXT** so that we can read your reply easily
- ✓ Tick (☑) the boxes for multiple-choice questions.
- ✓ Return the completed survey to **LUCAN LIBRARY** or **LUCAN POST OFFICE** to ensure that it is collected and your responses are recorded.

1



8.2.2 Promotional Poster:

Have your say

South Dublin County Council is inviting the public to help shape the Masterplan for Lucan House through our **online consultation form** and our **upcoming in-person consultation sessions**.

South Dublin County Council wants you to shape the future of Lucan House.

Scan the QR code and **have your say**.

A series of in-person events will be held in February and March and if you are interested in attending in-person consultation, please email LucanHousePublicConsult@teneo.com.

Photo courtesy of Paul Butler from 'Society for Old Lucan'.

Cuir do chuid tuairimí in iúl

Tá Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas ag tabhairt cuireadh don phobal an Máistirphlean do Theach Leamhcáin a mhúnlú tríd an bhfoirm chomhairliúcháin ar líne agus trí sheisiúin chomhairliúcháin ar an láthair a bheidh ar siúl go luath.

Tá Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas ag iarraidh ort cuidiú leo todhchaí Theach Leamhcáin a mhúnlú.

Scan an Cód QR thíos chun do chuid tuairimí a chur in iúl.

Beidh sraith d'imeachtaí ar an láthair ar siúl i mí Feabhra agus i mí an Mhárta. Má tá spéis agat a bheith ag ceann de na himeachtaí chomhairliúcháin sin, seol ríomhphost chuig LucanHousePublicConsult@Teneo.com.

Grianghraf le caoinchead Paul Butler ó 'Society for Old Lucan'.






8.2.3 Social Media Post on SDCC Page:

Have your say

South Dublin County Council is inviting the public to help shape the Masterplan for Lucan House through our **online consultation form** and our **upcoming in-person consultation sessions**.



Photo courtesy of Paul Butler from 'Society for Old Lucan'.






sdublincoco • Follow

sdublincoco The Update to 'Have your say' is extended until 18th March at 10am.

South Dublin County Council is inviting the public to help shape the Masterplan for Lucan House through our **online consultation form** and **upcoming in-person consultation sessions**.

Help us shape the future of Lucan House by following the link <https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/content/help-shape-masterplan-lucan-house-demesne-public-consultation-survey> and completing our short survey before the 18th March!

2w

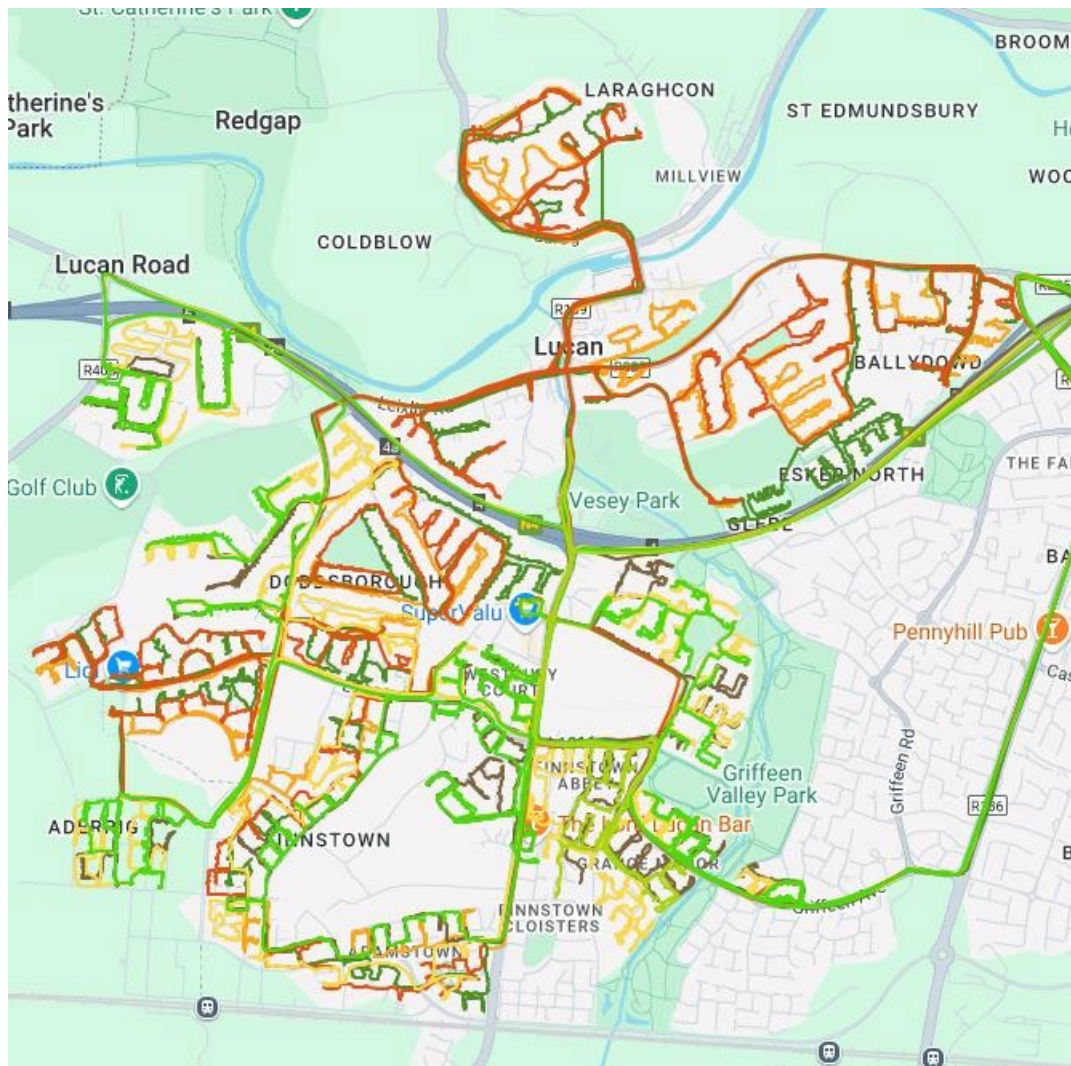
1 like
17 March

Add a comment...

8.2.4 Social Media Results from SDCC Page:

Total English and Irish Posts	Posts	Impressions	Engagements	Reach
Facebook	18	9,774	309	9,413
Twitter	18	5,682	29	-
Instagram	16	6,071	54	5,090
LinkedIn	15	3,605	400	-

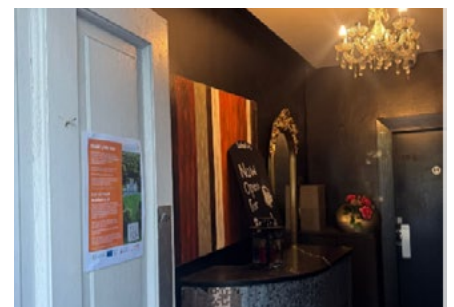
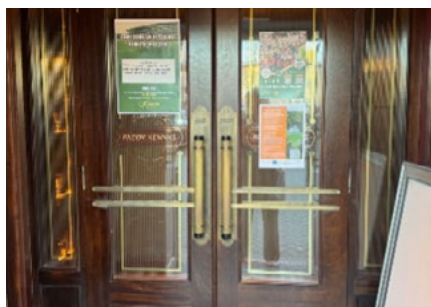
8.2.5 Geotagging & Distribution Records



8.2.6 Additional Distribution by Teneo:

- Poster drop-off, Lucan Village, 11/03/2025
- List of venues and placements below in addition to some supporting images

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision – poster left for their manager to display • Nail and beauty - poster left for their manager to display • Lucan village barber - poster left for their manager to display • Vincents – put on a noticeboard • Kenny's - display on the door • Weir interiors mailbox – dropped into their mailbox • Sabatini restaurant - display on the door • Delhi Darbar Indian – poster left for their manager to display | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salon Anu Boutique – left on the table in the waiting area • Dublin Formal Wear – poster left for their manager to display • Hale vape – displayed on the counter • Centra – poster left for their manager to display • An Post (in Centra) – poster left for their manager to display • Nessa busted pharmacy – poster left for their manager to display | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The After School Hub – dropped into their mailbox • Circle K boss – poster left for their manager to display • Courtney's – poster left for their manager to display • Charlie's barbers – displayed in the window • Carrols ok – poster left for their manager to display • Coffee Works – left with Carrols to pass on the next morning |
|--|--|--|



8.2.7 Liffey Champion:

10 | FEATURES
Liffey Champion • 22 February 2025

Have your say

South Dublin County Council is inviting the public to help shape the Masterplan for Lucan House through our online consultation form and our upcoming in-person consultation events.

South Dublin County Council wants you to shape the future of Lucan House.

Scan the QR code and have your say.

A series of in-person events will be held in February and March and if you are interested in attending an in-person consultation, please email lucanhouse@publicconsultation.southdublin.ie

Photo courtesy of Paul Butler from 'Society For 2016'.



Cuir do chuid tuairimí in iúl

Tá Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Thosa ag tabhairt cuimhne don phobal an Mhóir a bfuil sí ag iarraidh a bheith ina bpartaí sa bheithín chomhairleachán ar líne agus ar fáil le h-athair a bheith ar aiseolaíocht.

Tá Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Thosa ag iarraidh ort cuimhne a bheith ina bpartaí sa bheithín chomhairleachán ar líne agus ar fáil le h-athair a bheith ar aiseolaíocht.

Scan an QR code agus cuir do chuid tuairimí a bheithín in iúl.

Worth your say? Scan the QR code and have your say. A series of in-person events will be held in February and March and if you are interested in attending an in-person consultation, please email lucanhouse@publicconsultation.southdublin.ie

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Irish Cancer Society urges women to get any worrying signs or symptoms checked out

by Aileen Soltan

THE Irish Cancer Society's Your Health Matters roadshows visited 26 locations across the country last year, engaging with over 27,000 people about the signs and symptoms of cancer.

This year the charity is urging the public to continue to get any signs or symptoms of concern checked out.

The Your Health Matters roadshow initiative offers free health checks from Cancer Nurses in community centres across Ireland. Over 1,000 health consultations took place at the roadshows, and the Irish Cancer Society's Cancer Nurses and volunteers are looking forward to getting out on the road again in 2025 and engaging with even more members of the public.

Neville O'Mahony, the Irish Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Manager, said the roadshows play an important role in the early detection of cancer, and he urged the public to seek medical advice if they notice any worrying changes in their body.

"We were delighted to be able to bring our Your Health Matters roadshow to 26 locations nationwide in 2024 with over 27,000 people engaging with our nurses, and we are looking forward to continuing to bring the roadshow to communities across the country in 2025. The roadshows are an important tool for helping with the early detection of cancer," she said.

Concerns

"People attending the roadshows had a wide range of concerns ranging from risks of cancer, diagnosis, treatment and support after diagnosis.

"Feedback" from the nurses at the roadshows indicated that 70% of people who attended were concerned about signs and symptoms of cancer, and 24% had a family member or loved one with cancer.

"Many people reported that they had not been to their GP for some time. For 38%, it was more than a year since they last saw their GP, 40% up to a year, and 2% did not have a GP so they were very grateful for the opportunity to speak with a Cancer Nurse.

"We are urging people with any worrying symptoms to go to their GP and get them checked out. "If you've noticed any unexplained weight loss, a new lump or a persistent cough, make a year. Now that's a reason to get it addressed and find out what's causing it," she added.

"We know that the early detection of cancer is vital and more lives, and health care services are there for you and will help you to overcome what is causing your symptoms.

"Screening programmes, like BreastCheck, CervixCheck, and BowelScreen are another valuable tool that help to pick up cancer early in people who may be showing no other symptoms, so it is vital that those who are eligible attend for screening when they are invited."

• Join us with a cancer nurse or query about cancer can contact the Irish Cancer Society's Freephone Support Line at 1800 206 786 or email support@irishcancer.ie

ENFIELD CREDIT UNION TABLE QUIZ

Teams that took part in the Enfield Credit Union table quiz last for primary schools held in the Hamlet Court Hotel, Johnstownbridge on 10th February.



-Aoife with Seanan, Cormac and Chill from St Mary's NS Enfield.



Gian with Noah, Joseph and Jayden from Broadford NS.

8.2.8 Workshop Documentation

(Participant lists, thematic analysis, photos of outputs)

Participation List:

Group	Date	Location	Outreach	Attendees
Local Business Group	Tues Feb 11	Library	20	11
Critical Friends Group	Wed Feb 19	Library	21	7
Local Clubs & Organisations	Wed Feb 26	Library	31	11
Schools and Youths #1 = Transition Year Students	Weds Feb 26	Adamstown CC	6	10
Schools and Youths #2 = 4th/5th Class	Wed Mar 5	St Andrews	10	10
Gen Pub Workshop #1	Wed Mar 5	Library	9	10
Gen Pub Workshop #2	Tue 11 Mar	Library	18	13

Outreach mails samples: Clubs and Organisations, Primary Schools and Follow-Up to General Public who expressed interest in coming to the in-person groups via survey promotion

Subject: Confirmation of Interest – Lucan House & Demesne Public Consultation

Dear [First Name],

Thank you for expressing your interest in participating in the General Public in-person consultation groups for the Masterplan of Lucan House & Demesne.

These small-group idea sessions will bring together approximately 16 participants to explore how Lucan House & Demesne can best serve the community. To ensure a diverse and representative mix of participants, we kindly ask you to respond to a few short questions below:

Your responses will help us ensure the consultation is fair, equitable, and inclusive. Please note that participants must be aged 18 or over.

1. **Do you live in Lucan or a nearby area?** Yes or No (please specify)
2. **What area do you live in?**
3. **What is your age?**
 18–24 25–34 35–44
 45–54 55–64 65+ Prefer not to say
4. **What is your gender?**
 Male Female Non-Binary
 Prefer not to say Prefer to self-describe: _____
5. **What is your family status?**
 Single, no children Couple, no children
 Parent(e) with young children (under 12)
 Parent(s) with teenagers (12–18)
 Parents whose children have moved out of home
 Prefer not to say
6. **How long have you lived in Ireland?**
 I have lived in Ireland my whole life
 I moved to Ireland from abroad
 Prefer not to say
 If moved from abroad, **which country?** _____ (Optional)

To ensure the **focus remains on general public perspectives**, please confirm if you belong to any of the following groups:

- **Are you currently working for a county council or other state organisation involved in this process?**
- **Are you a business owner?**
- **Are you an elected representative?**
- **Have you already registered for another in-person group?** (We want to ensure as many different voices as possible are heard.)

Thank you in advance for your responses.

Clubs & Orgs:

Email Title: Help to Shape the Masterplan for Lucan House & Demesne: Public Consultation

Dear XXX,

I hope you are well?

My name is XXX and I work with Teneo, a consultancy business here in Dublin who have been appointed by Foley Architects and South Dublin County Council to support the independent facilitation of public consultation on the development of a Masterplan for Lucan House.

We're reaching out to clubs and organisations in Lucan and the surrounding areas to help shape the masterplan for Lucan House & Demesne. We would like to extend an invite to you to a session on **February 26th from 10am-12pm in Lucan Library.**

We would be delighted if a representative from your club/organisation could attend.

Please RSVP letting us know if you, or someone else representing your organisation, can join us on the day. We're looking for one representative from each group and are hoping to run a small, workshop style session.

Looking forward to hearing from you and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out.

XXX

Schools - PRIMARY

Subject: Invitation for 5th & 6th Class Students to Shape the Masterplan for Lucan House & Demesne

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you on behalf of Teneo, a communications agency based in Dublin who have been appointed by Foley Architects and South Dublin County Council to conduct a public consultation on the future of Lucan House and Demesne.

As you may be aware, South Dublin County Council recently acquired the property and as part of the masterplan process, we are inviting 5th and 6th class students to take part in a creative workshop to share their ideas on what the re-opened Lucan House and Demesne could look like and what they would like to see there.

The involvement of young people in shaping public spaces is so important and we want to ensure that their voices are heard in the development of Lucan House and Demesne.

Workshop Details

Date: We would like to run this session on Wednesday, 5th March

Time: Morning session (90 minutes)

Location: We are looking for one primary school to provide the space in order for us to host this workshop, and will be sharing this email with all other schools in the area – please let us know if you think your school would be available to do this (if more than one school offer to host, we will give first preference to first response in the interest of fairness).

Participants: We would like your help to recruit 14-16 students

We are keen to ensure a diverse and representative group of students contribute to this important conversation.

Photo Permissions & Parental Consent

As part of the workshop, we will be taking photos to capture the session. We will provide photo release forms in advance for schools to share with parents to ensure all necessary permissions are in place.

8.2.9 Political Consultation Summaries (Unattributed insights from key representatives)

Public Reps	Outreach	Response
Cllr Jacqueline Sheehy (FF)	28.01.25	
TD Shane Moynihan (FF)	30.01.25	IDI – 05.02.25
Cllr Caroline Brady (FG)	28.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
Cllr Vicki Casserly (FG)	30.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
TD Emer Higgins (FG)	30.01.25	IDI – 07.02.25
Karla Doran, Unelected (GP)	30.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
Jithin Ram, Unelected (GP)	30.01.25	
Cllr Helen Farrell (Ind)	14.02.25	IDI – 19.02.25
Cllr Alan Hayes (Ind)	30.01.25	
TD Paul Gogarty (Ind)	30.01.25	IDI - 05.02.25
Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind)	30.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
Cllr Glen Moore (IFP)	28.01.25	
Cllr Joanna Tuffy (L)	28.01.25	IDI – 29.01.25
Umar Al-Qadri, Unelected (L)	10.02.25	IDI unattended
Cllr Madeleine Johansson (PBP)	29.01.25	IDI – 07.02.25
Cllr Niamh Fennell (SF)	28.01.25	IDI – 10.02.25
TD Mark Ward (SF)	30.01.25	
Stephen Nolan, Unelected (SD)	30.01.25	

8.2.10 Images & Visual Aids

Map used for interactive ideation in the workshop, provided by Foley Architects to highlight key features



8.2.11 Feedback Forms:

Group	Date	Rating/ 5	Rating Explained	Good	Room for Improvement
Business Group	11th Feb	Good		Interactive	More pics, site video
Business Group	11th Feb	Good		Full of ideas!	
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good		Lots of good ideas	
Business Group	11th Feb	Good		great to be asked our opinion on an important project	Quick introduction of attendees
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good		Variety of views	Stick to one or two of the ideas raised
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good		Variety of ideas	Video of house internally
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good		Openness - agenda wasn't too direct, people not led in any one direction	On site workshop
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good	Well conducted	Seeing the maps and buildings and then discussing	Having it on site
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good			
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good		Ideas up on the map	Start with showing the site because 99% of us have never been there
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good	Lots of diverse inputs so hard to open ideas	Open conversation - very open and friendly, Kim was so positive	Suggest drone video
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good	I feel we didn't know the site well enough to maximise our own contribution	Nice interactive presentation	A video would have been really helpful. We need another consultation after we see the video and then we would have more to contribute
Business Group	11th Feb	Good	Very engaging and interactive presentation	Interaction between all members in attendance	Video of the grounds as part of the presentation
Business Group	11th Feb	Very Good	Further consultation should be given to stakeholder groups - not enough knowledge of the site and its potential given that it has been closed for so long	Good conversation steering	Too short given scope of the project

Group	Date	Rating/ 5	Rating Explained	Good	Room for Improvement
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Excellent	Facilitators were brilliant very inclusive and interactive	Diverse group of people	Video of inside the house
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Very Good			
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Very Good			
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Very Good	Good opportunity to share ideas about what could be included	Approachable facilitators	Video showing the house & grounds
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Very Good	Very welcoming, lovely atmosphere, very open to chat	Lovely mixture of talk and activity, excellent selection of sweets :)	No improvement needed
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Very Good		Friendly hosts, made it a fun activity	No
Critical Friends Group	19th Feb	Excellent	Interactive, good vibe, nice tasks and understood the tasks and could do them		Have a scribe if required

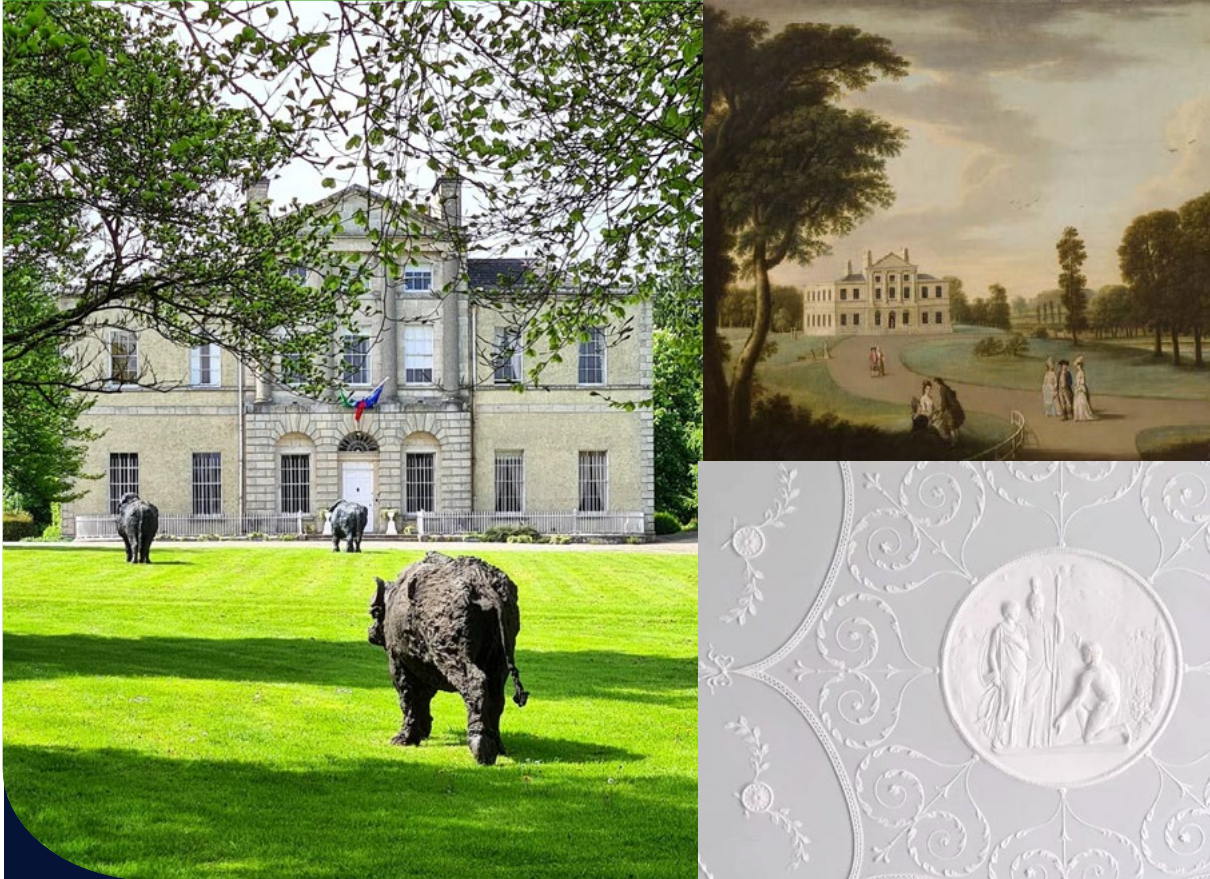
Group	Date	Rating/ 5	Rating Explained	Good	Room for Improvement
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Very good	It was great to hear all the various groups ideas	Finding out more about the house and demesne	If it was possible to have photos of the various rooms to be able to visualise where facilities could go
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Excellent		Well organised, open and on time	
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Excellent	Great Facilitators :)	Interactive, sharing of ideas, being able to put our ideas forward	
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Very good		Positive engagement and good knowledge of the site	Could be longer, but there will never be enough time to plan every possibility
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Very good	Interaction on point	The people, the ideas	Keep doing what you do Kim!
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Very good	Good explanation of all the topics	Talking to other people in the group and learning so much	
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Very good		Great intro from facilitators and also to other participants	Of course if the workshop had been IN Lucan House
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Excellent		Opportunity to meet other community group and hear their input	
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Excellent	very well structured and ideas were well drawn out by Kim and Karolina	Informal and interactive nature, well facilitated	If we had access to the grounds before or during the workshop it would have been much better
Orgs and Clubs	26th Feb	Excellent	It was well organised but there is always room for improvement	I really enjoyed the interactive discussions and the opportunity to hear other points of view from the community about the facilities	Would have liked more time for Q&A

Group	Date	Rating/ 5	Rating Explained	Good	Room for Improvement
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent		The ideas	There is nothing else
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent		sweets	More sweets :)
Transition Years	26th Feb	Good	No thanks	Understanding Lucan House	More
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent	Very kind and good learning	Ideas	More sweets
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent		The group discussion and the competition	More time for the presentation
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent			
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent			
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent		That there are more spaces for people to hang out	Being more specific
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent		Everything	Gym and cinema
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent	The girls did really well in their presentation	Doing the project/ competition	Creating the new ideas
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent	Nah	It was really interactive	It was perfect in every way
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent	I liked interacting	Being creative	Nothing :)
Transition Years	26th Feb	Excellent	It was interesting and fun to listen to	The production/ competition	NA

Group	Date	Rating/ 5	Rating Explained	Good	Room for Improvement
General Public 1	5th March	Good		Opportunity to voice views	
General Public 1	5th March	Excellent	Excellent	Kim listened to us	Not really
General Public 1	5th March	Excellent	Really engaging	Kim was super!	You couldn't!
General Public 1	5th March	Excellent		Very good information, excellent presentation	
General Public 1	5th March	Very Good	No	Chance to give view point	Satisfactory the way it is, encourage more participation from attendees
General Public 1	5th March	Excellent	Kim kept the pace going avoiding getting bogged down in negative topics	Everyone participated	A later time, say 7pm, to allow more people to come
General Public 1	5th March	Very good	It would appear some decisions have already been made. This should be a blank page entirely i.e. there should be no indications about car parking at this stage	Open and frank discussion	A rep from SDCC would be good also
General Public 1	5th March	Excellent	It's fantastic to be involved at this early stage of this very exciting project, thank you	Presenters and good flow of ideas	Show a video of the house and grounds as they are now. 5 mins would suffice

Group	Date	Rating/ 5	Rating Explained	Good	Room for Improvement
General Public 2	11th March	Good	Well facilitated	Relatively relaxed & constructive (...) - <i>see image</i>	N/A
General Public 2	11th March	Excellent	Very well managed / friendly & knowledgeable guys	Everyone was given time to give their views	More visuals of inside of house
General Public 2	11th March	Excellent	Facilitators were welcoming, informative, inclusive, encouraging of ideas	Non bias facilitators. How welcoming and encouraging they were of ideas	Great as is
General Public 2	11th March	Very Good	Easy going		Just keep a bit of control over speaking in turns :-)
General Public 2	11th March	Excellent	Well presented	Flow of ideas from participants	No
General Public 2	11th March	Excellent	Very pleasant easy friendly presenters	Friendly atmosphere. Inclusive. Challenging	-
General Public 2	11th March	Very Good	Both leaders were very good facilitators	How everyone was given the opportunity to voice their views	
General Public 2	11th March	Excellent		All the sharing & expertise of the 2 facilitators	
General Public 2	11th March	Good	People had enough time to give their ideas. Early stage, more data is needed for participants to engage further	The map of the proposed area was visible	There was no representation of people from ethnic communities, while I am a person with a hidden disability I would like to ensure representation ongoing
General Public 2	11th March	Good	Listening to different ideas Plenty of suggestions		

8.2.12 Interim Elected Representatives Report



Lucan House Public Consultation | Interim Insights from Political Representative Interviews

18 March 2025



ABOUT THIS REPORT

As part of overall project delivery, Teneo has committed to delivering interim research updates as each phase of research, in-depth interviews, public workshops and quantitative research, closes.

This report presents interim highlights from our conversations with 10 political representatives from Lucan and the surrounding areas.

In-Depth-Interviews (IDI's) with the below representatives took place between 4th -10th February 2025 in the format of 30–60-minute Teams calls.

Name	Party	Role
Shane Moynihan	Fianna Fail	TD
Caroline Brady	Fine Gael	Councillor
Vicki Casserly	Fine Gael	Councillor
Emer Higgins	Fine Gael	TD
Karla Doran	Green Party	Unelected Representative
Paul Gogarty	Independent	TD
Liona O'Toole	Independent	Councillor
Joanna Tuffy	Labour	Councillor
Madeleine Johansson	People Before Profit	Councillor
Niamh Fennell & Derren Ó Brádaigh	Sinn Fein	Councillor/ Unelected Representative
Helen Farrell	Independent	Councillor

SUMMARY

Highlights from these conversations are outlined below. Quotes have been paraphrased and as agreed, not attributed to any individual nor party.

In broad summary, feedback to date is that Lucan House should be an open, accessible space that balances culture, history, and recreation, integrating green space preservation, heritage interpretation, and modern event programming to galvanise what is already a vibrant and talented community. One interviewee specifically highlighted the importance of ensuring that Lucan House does not 'turn its back' on Lucan Village but rather reconnects with the community by restoring its role as a cultural and historical focal point.

Interviewees emphasised the need for public management to ensure long-term community benefit and to prevent over-commercialisation and maintain fairness and accessibility for all. In addition, all noted the complexities associated with this and the caution with which this must be approached.





Interviewees, no matter what their political background, were constructive, positive and excited about the potential for Lucan House & Demesne and were enthused by the robust and representative plan for consultation. They were also forthcoming in offering their own contacts and recommendations for other groups and individuals to be included, further enhancing this process. All of these recommendations have been born in mind as the subsequent research engagements progress.

MAIN CONVERSATION THEMES

There were 6 recurring themes in conversation:

- i. **#1 Priority is Public Accessibility:** Strong consensus that Lucan House should be opened to the public as soon as possible. This alone would be reason to celebrate.
 - *"The main thing that people want is access. Access to the grounds and the building itself. It hasn't been publicly accessible for so long, and this is the key thing that people want."*
 - *"There needs to be a well-thought-out traffic and parking plan to ensure accessibility - car access must be considered even as active travel is encouraged. Maybe there could be a one-way system using the back lodges for entry and the original gates for exit?"*
- ii. **Recreational Use & Family-Friendly Facilities:** Keen for practical and family friendly approach in terms of the need for green spaces, playgrounds, walking trails, and picnic areas.
- iii. **Ensuring Local Community Access:** Ensuring heritage groups, cultural organisations, and local businesses have priority over commercial ventures. Reference was made to Round Towers Visitor Centre in Clondalkin:
 - *"The coffee shop closed, and the whole centre followed. I'd be concerned if this model was introduced here."*
- iv. **Diverse Cultural Uses:** Strong cross-party support for exhibitions, heritage events, and music performances and great desire and energy around this conversation—ensuring Lucan House becomes a cultural hub, not just a passive park.
 - *"Potential for music concerts, not just classical groups but something for younger people—make it a cultural venue, not just a recreational one."*
 - *"The stables could be transformed into a beautiful restaurant, and the smaller houses on the site could be used for artists-in-residence, contemporary museum spaces, and art workshops"*
- v. **Balanced Approach to Development:** A mix of heritage preservation, community facilities, and tourism potential is needed to balance preservation of the site with making it a great space for locals and visitors.

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- *"It should be a public park first and foremost while ensuring we protect the natural environment."*
- *"We must open up St. Catherine's Park and integrate it with Lucan House, it was traditionally part of the Lucan Demesne anyway"*

vi. **The Challenge of Parking:** Mixed views on where and how parking should be accommodated. Some advocate for hidden parking like Farmleigh, while others express concern about over-prioritising parking. By and large, it is accepted that there is a need for parking both in terms of accessibility and increase in inbound traffic once opened to the public. Several contributors pointed out that serious parking restrictions in Lucan impact local businesses and that any new plans for Lucan House must consider adequate parking solutions.

- *"Parking is a major concern. We need to ensure there's adequate space without compromising the site's natural beauty."*
- *"It's essential to balance the need for parking with the preservation of green spaces."*
- *"There could be a second exit closer to the former schoolhouse in Lucan Village as a potential access alternative"*

CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, & HISTORICAL THEMES

Below we outline, under the site's main areas for development, the themes of ideas shared:

Culture

- **Arts & Performance Space:**
 - Strong interest in using the Demesne and House as a cultural venue for exhibitions, live music, and local heritage displays.
 - *"Lucan is a brilliant central spot for talent—could support a live arts program similar to Marley Park."*
- **Heritage Interpretation:**
 - Tourism potential by integrating Lucan's history into the site, including Lord Lucan, Sarsfield, and the Italian Ambassador's residency
 - **Interactive history trails** to bring the past to life.
 - *"Could weave all the stories of Lucan together—like a heritage site circuit."*

Recreation

- **Green Space Protection:**
 - Calls to preserve existing green areas, with some suggesting adding seating, walking loops, and picnic spaces.
- **Water Sports & Outdoor Activities:**

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- Interest in kayaking and water activities using the Liffey and the island near the site – this was tied to the wider Liffey connectivity conversation as the water access and Liffey conversation was as much about connecting Lucan back to the Liffey and the wider opportunity there as anything else
 - *"There's a good entrance point for water sports here—scope to make it more user-friendly."*
 - *"We could revive traditional activities such as boating and canoeing on the Liffey, reintegrating Lucan House's connection to the river and restoring it as a key part of the town's identity"*
- **Connectivity & Walking Trails:**
 - Strong support for linking Lucan House to St. Catherine's Park and other greenways
 - *"Everyone would love to see connectivity between the grounds and St. Catherine's Park – would be a missed opportunity there if that wasn't made."*

History

- **Conservation of Architectural Heritage:**
 - Impressed that heritage groups and archaeologists be consulted on best practices and adamant that they are.
 - *"This is a large archaeological heritage site—we need to use local ownership of these issues to inform the overall plan."*
 - Suggested to spotlight unique features like the existence of 'Code Stone', a unique architectural feature produced by a pioneering female-run business, which has historical significance.
- **Dedicated Historical Spaces:**
 - Ideas for memorial gardens, storytelling spaces, and restored historical features
- **Revival of Old Stories:**
 - *"Elizabeth Vesey and the Blue Stocking Society's contributions should be acknowledged and integrated into the historical narrative"*

INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Without the need for prompting, inclusion and accessibility were top of mind for all interviewees.

- **Ensuring Lucan House is for Everyone:**
 - All interviewees mentioned is the importance of creating a space for everyone
 - Inclusive, multi-use spaces that cater to families, young people, older residents, and new communities as well as those with visible and non-visible additional accessibility needs

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➤ *"There should be something for everyone—not just young people or older people, but all ages, all abilities."*

- **Accessible Infrastructure:**

- **Wheelchair-friendly paths, accessible toilets, and transport links** are key considerations – while active travel is favoured, there cannot be an overreliance on this or assumption that most people will be in a position to be active travellers
- The conversation on wheelchair friendly accessibility limitations has broadened – there are even more progressive opportunities for inclusion here
 - *"Look up the Changing Places website—these facilities are fully inclusive"*
 - *"There are benches and picnic tables that accommodate wheelchairs without having to have them off to the side"*

- **Community Representation:**

- Emphasis on ensuring all voices are heard in decision-making, including disability advocacy groups and migrant communities. Strong support for the inclusive conversations already outlined in the research approach
 - *"Call the underrepresented groups 'critical friends' groups", so they're part of the conversation and so that this articulates the value they add to it, too."*

CONSULTATION APPROACH FEEDBACK

We used these conversations as an opportunity to share and receive feedback on the proposed consultation approach and have made iterative builds where possible based on the feedback below.

- **Overall Feedback was Positive:**

- **Interviewees appreciated the transparency and community-driven approach.**
 - *"Love the approach, very inclusive, great optics."*

- **More Engagement Opportunities:**

- Some suggest additional public workshops beyond the planned two.
 - *"Might need more than two general public workshops to get meaningful input."*
- Another interviewee pointed out the need for cross-council collaboration for longer term consultation and planning processes, warning that without cooperation between SDCC, Fingal, Kildare, and Dublin City, the full potential of Lucan House may not be realised.

- **Need for Clearer Communication:**

- Requests for simple, easy-to-complete surveys and better public awareness.

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Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt
Southern Regional
Assembly



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



➤ "Make sure the surveys are easy and specific."

IDEAS BANK

Here is a full list of specific ideas gathered under each of the key areas of focus during the political representative conversations:

CULTURE	HISTORY	RECREATION
<p>Arts & Theatre: Support for drama performances and arts events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Lucan has a strong history of drama—this should be incorporated." "Using the smaller houses for artists-in-residence, contemporary museum spaces, and art workshops to ensure a dynamic and evolving cultural offering" <p>Music & Concerts: Interest in live music events, including youth-oriented performances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Make it a cultural venue, not just a recreational one." <p>Library & Learning Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A small library or cultural hub could be beneficial." "Elizabeth Vesey and the Blue Stocking Society's contributions should be acknowledged and integrated into the historical narrative" <p>Tourism & Heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Weave all the stories of Lucan together—Lord Lucan, Sarsfield, and the Italian heritage." <p>Wellness & Holistic Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Lucan has a history of wellness—this should be a focus." <p>Cultural Representation for New Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "New communities need spaces to run events, especially non-Catholic cultural gatherings." <p>Interactive History Trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Design a route that loops through the grounds, guiding visitors through different heritage markers." <p>Integration with the Liffey Descent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Tie the Demesne into the Liffey Descent event to 	<p>Preservation of Archaeological Heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "This is a large archaeological heritage site—local ownership should guide its conservation." "Highlight the existence of Code Stone at Lucan House, a unique architectural feature produced by a pioneering female-run business, which has historical significance" "Conservation of the servants' quarters, including original architectural features like the safe and the buttery, to tell the story of working lives within the house" <p>Memorial Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A heritage garden or memorial space could honour Lucan's history." "Incorporation of historical figures associated with Lucan House, including the contested narratives around the so-called Sarsfield Monument" <p>Heritage Interpretation & Guided Tours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Spaces should allow for history talks and heritage-themed house tours." <p>Collaboration with Heritage Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Society of Old Lucan should be engaged in shaping the historical narrative." <p>Concerns Over Management Models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Clondalkin Round Tower was privatized, and when the coffee shop closed, the whole centre struggled. We don't want that here." <p>Revival of old Traditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Revival of traditional events such as strawberry fairs to reconnect Lucan House with its historical role as a focal point of the community" 	<p>Public Park & Green Space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "It should be a public park first and foremost—preserve the natural environment." <p>Food & Drinks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Development of a designated restaurant space within the stables, preserving the architectural character while offering a high-quality dining experience" <p>Playground & Family-Friendly Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A playground would bring families in and create a lively atmosphere." <p>Water Sports & River Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "There's a good entry point for kayaking and water-based activities—let's make it more user-friendly." "Canoeing & Boating: Bring back water-based activities to reconnect Lucan House with the Liffey, reinforcing the town's historical relationship with the river" <p>Walking & Trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A 5k hiking trail linking Lucan House with other parks could be a big attraction." <p>Connectivity with St. Catherine's Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "We must link Lucan House to St. Catherine's Park—missing that opportunity would be a mistake." <p>Sustainable & Hidden Parking Solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Farmleigh's hidden parking model could work here—maintaining greenery while providing space." <p>Inclusive & Accessible Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Wheelchair-accessible paths and inclusive picnic areas should be built into the plan."

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<p><i>highlight Lucan's connection to the river."</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Entry via the back lodges and exit through the original gates to facilitate smooth traffic flow" <p>Educational Initiatives (Park Rangers & Ecology Talks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Park rangers could offer school talks and environmental education."
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Public Representative Outreach

Finally, we outline all those who were invited to participate in this political representative process.

PUBLIC REPS	OUTREACH	RESPONSE
Cllr Jacqueline Sheehy (FF)	28.01.25	No Response
TD Shane Moynihan (FF)	30.01.25	IDI – 05.02.25
Cllr Caroline Brady (FG)	28.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
Cllr Vicki Casserly (FG)	30.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
TD Emer Higgins (FG)	30.01.25	IDI – 07.02.25
Karla Doran, Unelected (GP)	30.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
Jithin Ram, Unelected (GP)	30.01.25	No Response
Cllr Helen Farrell (Ind)	14.02.25	IDI – 19.02.25
Cllr Alan Hayes (Ind)	30.01.25	No Response
TD Paul Gogarty (Ind)	30.01.25	IDI - 05.02.25
Cllr Liona O'Toole (Ind)	30.01.25	IDI – 04.02.25
Cllr Glen Moore (IFP)	28.01.25	No Response
Cllr Joanna Tuffy (L)	28.01.25	IDI – 29.01.25
Umar Al-Qadri, Unelected (L)	10.02.25	IDI unattended
Cllr Madeleine Johansson (PBP)	29.01.25	IDI – 07.02.25
Cllr Niamh Fennell (SF)	28.01.25	IDI – 10.02.25
TD Mark Ward (SF)	30.01.25	No Response
Stephen Nolan, Unelected (SD)	30.01.25	No Response







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