

Project: Fernhill Park & Gardens

Update (March 2019): The development of Fernhill is taking place under a detailed sustainability strategy that has been developed by dlr. The strategy is underpinned by the concept of light touch where the site dictates the design. It also includes for power generation, the development of a community garden and many other exciting sustainable innovations that will happen as the Park develops.

Development works have included the resurfacing of the historic Broadwalk and new fencing surrounding the paddocks. The timber used was sourced in Wicklow and its unique design was inspired by the natural timber posts of the house. The old field gates have been restored and any new gates have been sourced from salvage. Three rare Irish Droimeann cattle have been brought in to graze the paddocks.

New planting has taken place at several points around the park. All the plants are unusual varieties that were chosen for the Bloom 2018 Gold Medal Show Garden to reflect the special character of the park. After Bloom concluded, the plants were brought to Fernhill and planted out at selected locations.

A pedestrian entrance has been built at the Belarmine roundabout, which has been designed to resemble a fern. There is a long history of quarrying and stonemasonry in the local area and the new entrance reflects this character through the random rubble walls and the granite paving. The random rubble walls were built by a local stonemason. The gates also reflect historic field gates in the local area, and were built by a Master Blacksmith using traditional techniques.

The Community Garden is an on-going project. Community engagement, the establishment of a community gardening group and the refurbishment of the kitchen garden are ongoing.

Phase 2 of the project will allow for vehicular access to the park (**later in 2019**) and a sports pavilion and sports field are also being constructed. Other design work that has begun includes an ambitious Natural Woodland Play Area, a new café in the old coach house and a 3 storey tower block which will provide toilet facilities, staff and community facilities. A roof terrace in the tower will provide a stunning view over the coast of Dublin.