



*Equality - Inclusiveness - Tennis for Everyone!*

## **Club Development Project: Proposal to Construct an Additional Tennis Court**



**CLUB OF THE YEAR 2019**





## 1. Introduction.

Billingshurst tennis club is very much an inclusive community facility which actively promotes tennis through encouraging participation regardless of experience, ability or age. The club is equipped and provides access to its playing facilities for disabled players.

The club is extremely well managed by a voluntary committee of 7 members with strong governance in place to ensure safety and compliance to LTA guidelines. The committee has worked hard to significantly develop its social and playing facilities over the past 10 years. The club is financially stable and has developed and manages a 10-year financial plan to ensure maintenance is carried out when required and further improvements made when funds are available.

Billingshurst Tennis Club offers a full programme of tennis to its members at an extremely reasonable cost. The programme covers both social and competitive sessions for everyone throughout each week of the year. For those wishing to develop their tennis skills, a full coaching programme is run throughout the year for both adults and youngsters. The club has an active junior session with several performance juniors included within the Sussex county training squad/team.

You don't have to be a member to play tennis at Billingshurst tennis club. Beginners or returners to tennis can take advantage of regular group coaching sessions. These sessions help integrate players, build confidence resulting in good levels of player retention.

One of our courts is also available for public booking 365 days of the year. The cost is extremely reasonable, and the process of booking/payment and access could not be easier via the clubs on-line booking system.

As a result of all the hard work through development and success from the club's tennis programme, Billingshurst Tennis club was awarded the much-coveted Sussex Club of the year at the most recent awards. The club was nominated by its members and other users of the facility. The award was decided and made by Tennis Sussex in February 2020.





## **2. New Court Proposal.**

Despite the challenges presented this year by covid 19 there is strong evidence that Billingshurst Tennis Club continues to flourish both in retaining and in attracting new participants. Membership continues to grow, and the tennis programme ensures that members are engaged by playing regularly. The coaching programme also continues to grow with additional sessions being added to meet demand.

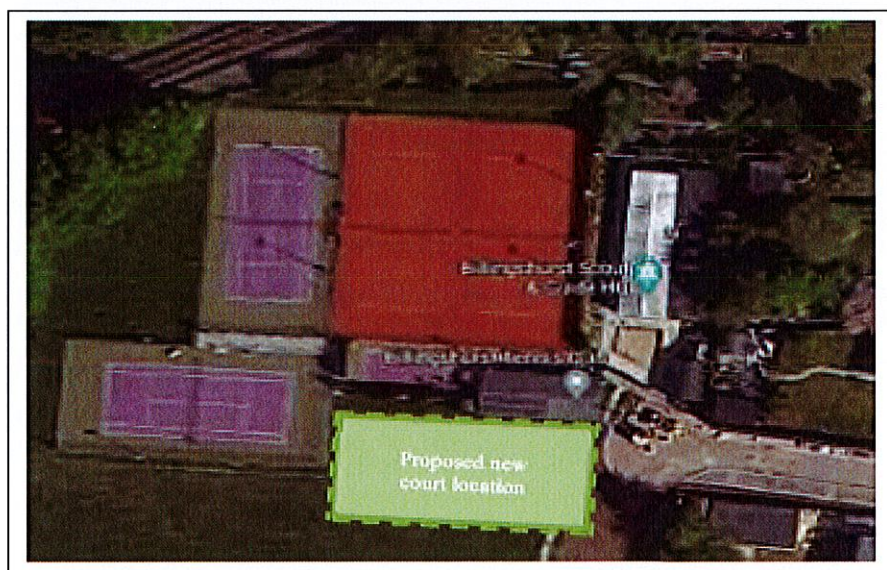
Public court bookings continue to rise. Between May and October over 200 hours of public court bookings were made. Public bookings are still being made well into the winter months.

In view of the club's success it is recognised that during peak playing times there is already high demand for access to the clubs 4 courts. The LTA recommend that the member per court ratio should be no more than 50 in total. Currently we have a membership of around 250 plus additional demand from public bookings. This situation is well managed via the clubs established tennis programme, however with a projected further increase in the Billingshurst parish population, the demand for court use-age will become unsustainable.

Benefits of an Additional Court.

1. To meet future demand from an increasing local population
2. To enable multiple club activities to occur simultaneously during peak playing times i.e. group coaching, team practice, social tennis and public booking.
3. To enable disabled wheelchair access for public court bookers. This currently cannot be achieved using the current public court.
4. To enable easy access from hard standing to public bookers. Public bookers currently only have access by walking across an unpathed recreation ground.
5. The court could be used for hard standing during the Billingshurst Show.

## **3. Suggested Location of the Additional Court.**

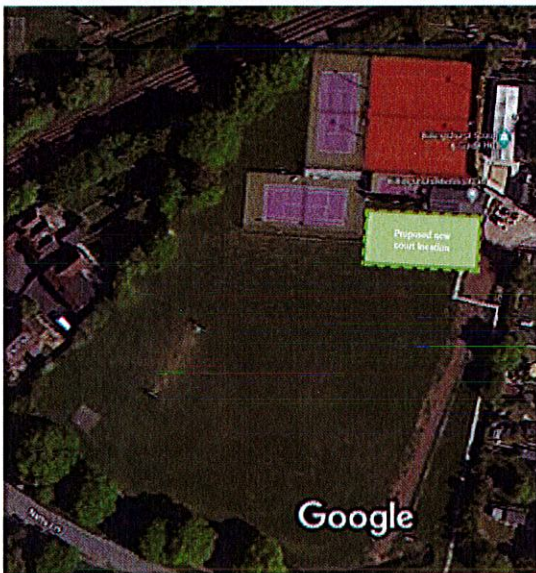




The proposed location that might suit all concerned parties is to locate the court directly behind the clubhouse (see location Picture). We would propose to transfer public court booking to this court.

Reasons for this location:

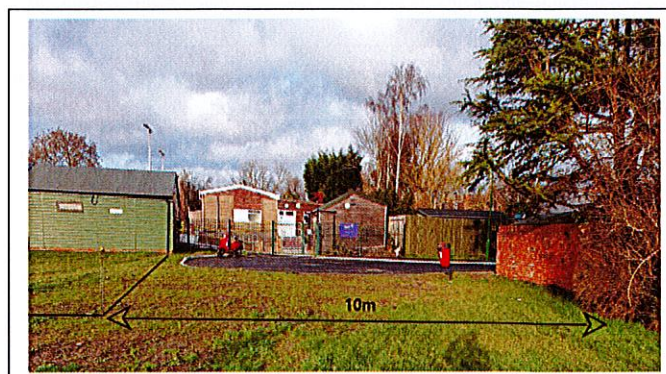
1. Keeps the court close to other club facilities
2. Easy access to and from clubhouse
3. Does not encroach into the recreation ground as other locations would.
4. Provides easy access for public bookers including wheelchair users.
5. Maintains a good size footprint for the Billingshurst show and other park activities.
6. Easy access for court construction plant. Significantly reduces damage to recreation ground surface.
7. Easy access to utilities for future court maintenance. i.e. power, water etc



Proposed Location from side of turning circle

Court location showing best considered positioning which maximizes remaining recreation ground footprint.

Note. Access into the recreation ground can still be gained for large vehicles via the entrance road into the field at the back of the proposed court. The minimum access width behind the court would be approximately 10m.



#### 4. Project Costs.

Court Specification	Cost (Inc VAT)
Removal and disposal of excavated soil from site	5k
Geo-textile membrane, 150mm depth of type 1 quarried limestone aggregate, court edgings, 40mm thickness of 20mm open textured base course macadam, Surface layer of 40mm macadam. Acrylic colour coated paint (purple & green)	32k
9ft weldmesh fence & box section posts	5k
Sleeper retaining wall with slabbed viewing area to ½ one side of court	3k
<b>Total (GBP)</b>	<b>45k</b>

Note:

All costs are subject to final site survey

Floodlighting will not be required for this court.

**Additional Costs** (to be paid by Billingshurst Tennis Club)

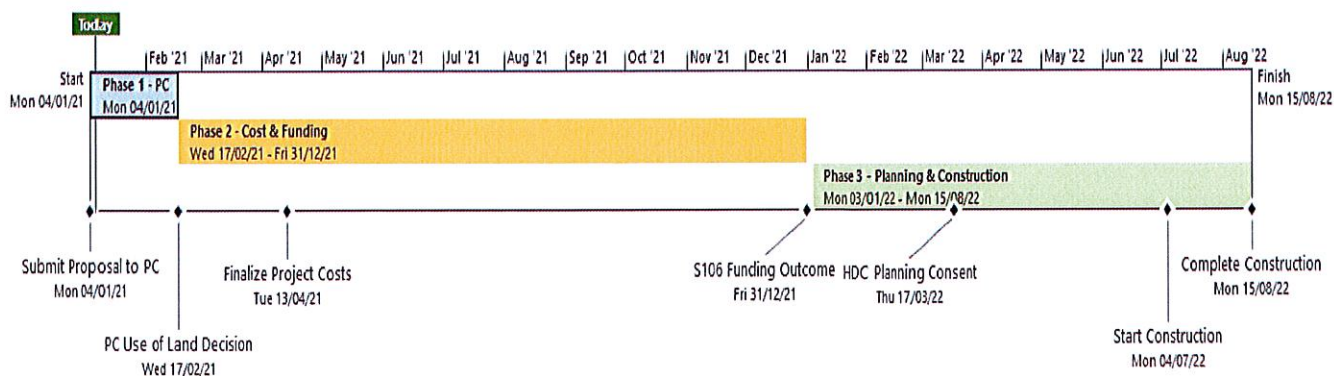
Planning application and consent (including drawings) 500 GBP

Breaking out of existing kerb stones and fitting drop kerbs 500 GBP

#### 5. Proposed Project Funding.

Source of Funds	Cost
Main Funding Source (S106)	30K
Existing Club Funds	16k
<b>Total (GBP)</b>	<b>46K</b>

#### 6. Project Timeline.





## 7. Project Compliance with CIL Regulations & S106 Funding Eligibility.

We intend to request for Section 106 funding towards approximately 50% of the project costs. Section 106 funding may provide capital funds towards general community and leisure facilities, to be used for the provision, extension, adaptation or enhancement of the facilities.

Our project will also need to comply with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations as follows.

<b>CIL Compliance Regulations</b>		
<b>Area of Compliance</b>	<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The project must be directly related to the development	Yes	This is a community infrastructure project to ensure we have sufficient leisure facilities
The project is required to mitigate the impact of the development	Yes	This project is required to meet increased and future demand due to increasing local population
The project is reasonable in scale and in kind	TBC	Development officer to advise

<b>S106 Eligibility</b>		
<b>Area of Compliance</b>	<b>Compliant</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Retrospective funding is not allowed	Yes	Future planned project
Organisation must be based in the Horsham district or provide activities that benefit district residents	Yes	Located in Billingshurst Parish
Applying organisation must be a voluntary not for profit organisation that is properly constituted with its own bank account	Yes	BLTC is voluntary not for profit club
Annual subscriptions, joining fees and session charges should be affordable to all	Yes	Our yearly charges being extremely reasonable and affordable. No joining fees. Lower cost compared to most other clubs
HDC will not support projects that promote political or religious views	Yes	
Organisations must have a safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults, equal opportunities,	Yes	Full safeguarding policies in place. BLTC also has a junior liaison officer.

insurance and health and safety policies in place where appropriate		
Applications for building works must be made by owners of the land or building or formal permission must be provided	TBC	In the process of discussing land use with BPC
Applicants must establish if planning permission required before applying for S106 funds	Yes	Planning permission will be required, and all costs will be covered by BLTC
Applicants are also requested to submit 3 quotes for work	Yes	Budget quotes have been received and final site visits/survey's will be carried out.
Applicants must show a cash contribution from their own funds/fundraising. This should be around 10-20%	Yes	BLTC intend to cover between 40 to 50% of the project costs.

## 8. Project Summary

- Construct 1 tennis Court in Lower Station Rd
- Court would be tarmacadam surface and not floodlit
- Excavated soil to be removed from site
- Public and disabled access to new court
- Estimated project cost 46K
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding required 30K
- Preferred construction start July 2022

## 9. Project Contact

Project Manager: Rob Falkner

