

27th January 2017.

To whom it may concern

RE: Tenterden Recreation Ground Tennis Court Project.

I am writing this letter to confirm the LTA's support for the plans to develop the tennis facilities at Tenterden Recreation Ground, through the building of new courts, floodlights and a clubhouse/ pavilion. Given that 42% of the UK's Tennis participation takes place in a park / community environment (ie parks and leisure centres), the LTA realise the importance of supporting plans to develop the tennis facilities in community venues to provide increase opportunities for communities to play.

There are currently no community accessible tennis courts in the area, with the closest Club to the Recreation Ground being Bethersden Tennis Club. Bethersden TC are a well-established club, who are already operating well above the capacity their facilities provide. The Club are unable to develop their facilities beyond their current two floodlit courts, therefore are restricted in their efforts to welcome new members to the club.

The additional facilities, if created, will therefore be a game changer for sports' development in the local area, and provide a significantly higher number of playing hours that are available to the local community. The additional playing hours created as a result of the new facilities would ideally be used to increase the number of local juniors and adults able to enjoy, experience and compete in the game of tennis in line with the LTA's National Participation Strategy.

According to Sport England's Market Segmentation tool there are currently 236 people who play tennis and 236 people who want to play tennis with a 5km radius of the Recreation Ground. When looking at the profiles of those people who want to play there is a high number of people who are classed as "working professionals" who clearly only have the opportunity to play during evening and weekends. This provides further justification that additional floodlights are required in order to allow the club to provide the level of access that these players are likely to demand.

The LTA share the view of Sport England's Specific Areas of Importance for Sport Policy, and look to support the installation of floodlighting of sports facilities where this will lead to a significant increase in opportunities for sport. By extending the hours a facility is available, along with improving its viability, the lighting of outdoor tennis facilities can provide enhanced opportunities for people to participate in tennis. This can help a local area to secure the wider benefits that tennis can provide by improving health and well-being. Floodlighting is essential if these tennis facilities are to be used to their full capacity and justify the level of capital required to provide them. Clearly, without floodlighting, opportunities for tennis in the local community are significantly reduced.

This letter is an indication of support for the development but does not indicate that the project will receive LTA funding. Should an application for funding be submitted to the LTA to support the project, this application will be assessed against the criteria set out in the LTA's Funding Guide.

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully



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