

The Courts Development Working Group Meeting 17th May 2023

Present:

Matt Hemmings (Chair) FCPC
Tim Niblett FCPC
Tristan Clark FCPC
David Goodwin FCPC
Linda Williams FCPC
Martyn James (FCRFC)
Ryan Cater (FCCC)

1. Apologies

Matt Hemmings for lateness

Election of Chair for the meeting

In the absence of Matt Hemmings the group were unanimous that Tristan Clark take the Chair

2. Notes of the meeting 31st January 2023

The notes had been circulated and were accepted

3. Action Tracker

The group noted that there was one action for Tim outstanding which he confirmed was complete and agreed to forward to the project officer

Matt arrived and assumed the Chair.

He reported that the Football Club would be interested in a half size MUGA to hire for training purposes. Tim reported that the Rugby Club would not be interested in hiring a half size MUGA, they currently hire a full size MUGA at the Dings.

4. Post Code analysis

Members were presented with an analysis of the postcodes that had fed into the survey. 65% were from the parish and 32% from Winterbourne, those outside of the parish could be from people playing sport at the site or have moved but come back to visit friends and were not overly concerned about it.

5. Survey Close and Analysis

It was proposed by Matt and seconded by Tim to close the survey which had been running since 26th April 2023.

90% who took the survey were over 25

74% on average use the courts once a week

90% would use the courts if improvements were made

Which facilities would be most important to you?

Tennis – Somewhat important

Muga – Most important

Wheels track – Somewhat important

Which of these facilities would you be most likely to use?

Tennis – Least likely

Muga – Most likely

Wheels track – Somewhat likely

Would you be willing to pay to use these new facilities?

33.6% said they would be willing to pay for new facilities

43% said maybe.

Tim reported briefly on the latest opportunity that the Lawn Tennis Association had proposed. It was agreed to discuss this as item 8 on the agenda.

Matt reported on the time he spends with family at the wheels track in Bradley Stoke and money spent on refreshments which could be incorporated somehow at The Park as a revenue stream. It was agreed that although the wheels track would be a capital outlay there would be a small maintenance programme to rectify defects/damage etc. Matt has previously sought designs for a track and found that predominantly parish & town councils prefer a tarmac surface due to costs. Ryan felt that there would also be an element of work to be thought about with the grasscutting to edges of the track.

6. Locations for MUGA, Wheels Track & Pathways

It was noted that Option One showed the existing pitches and use of the site but doesn't offer any options for proposed siting of the above. Clarification was given to Ryan on the existing 11 aside football pitch, Court Road side, that the Rugby Club had agreed a rent with the Council and would be utilising the area with three mini pitches.

Discussion took place as to possible sites for the MUGA, Wheels track, Cricket Nets and Pathways and were considered in tandem with the courts location analysis presented by Tim.

Due to the conservation plan at the Park, it was agreed that the Cricket Nets could be sited at the western end of the Tennis Courts and the working group agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Parks Committee: That in principle only at this stage, the Cricket Nets be sited as above. This will be confirmed when all court locations have been identified and agreed.

It was agreed to investigate the MUGA, and wheels track being sited where the existing skate ramp and basket ball court is. Tim agreed to measure the area out and report back to the working group. It was suggested that if more room were needed that the group write to the Rugby Club requesting their views on moving the 1st Team pitch down the field toward Court Road and the Cricket square toward School Road. A survey of the ground may also be required.

It was agreed that the working group would work toward building a robust business case for the location of courts, this will be used to release the Section 106 funding as required and should satisfy any questions raised by Council.

ACTION: David Goodwin agreed to plot all measurements onto a map of The Park for the locations agreed and share with Matt Hemmings.

7. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Matt reported that the football club would use a half size muga for training purposes and Tim confirmed that the rugby club would not.

8. Tennis Court Development

Tim had previously shared the LTA's proposals before tonight's meeting. He reported that the proposal was to refurbish both tennis courts, with a contractor already procured. The offer has a short time span attached to ensure the work is completed in June/July to benefit tennis players this summer. The Council's contribution will be for the ClubSpark and Smart Access Technology (Bookings & Payments) and new fencing/gates to the site. The LTA have also provided the Council with a financial model to consider for future maintenance of the site as per the funding stipulations.

Tristan Clark suggested the Council ensures some kind of consultation take place on the financial modelling before being rolled out. The group made several suggestions including one day a week parishioners can play for free to mitigate everyone's needs.

The group agreed that the funding from the LTA and suggestion improvements be accepted.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7pm