



FRAMPTON COTTERELL PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT EVALUATING The Tennis Courts Refurbishment 2024

The Park School Road

With thanks to all the residents who took the time to
respond to the survey as without your help, there

Would be no data for this report.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council has ageing tennis courts that were in a bad state of repair. Both the Tennis Club and Netball Club left the facility. The Council had received complaints about the surface and injury that had been sustained.

The Courts were added to The Park circa 25 years ago. Originally the Courts were £3 and a key was collected from a local resident's porch. Sadly over the years the fencing was damaged on several occasions and repaired several times. An evaluation of income over expenditure found that to maintain the courts was a lot higher than the income received. It was decided to leave the gates open and offer free play due to rising costs.

The group put together a list of stakeholders and devised a survey for distribution to the local community to gain views and opinions on the site. It wanted to know who uses the existing area, what they would or wouldn't like to see there.

Engaging with the community gives the community a voice and contributes to good community governance through clear civic leadership to act in the public's interest and create value for the public.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Council had been successful in gaining Section 106 funding towards the upgrade of all courts at The Park. Cllrs held discussions with the Lawn Tennis Association and were able to successfully gain funding from the LTA.

The Council decided to upgrade these facilities as it was clear from the survey parishioners were in agreement. The upgrade would be 100% funded from external sources meaning that keen tennis players who were willing to pay to use the facility would help to maintain it.

Having the ability to work closely with the Lawn Tennis Association means that the Council can be involved in the latest activities being offered around the country.

The Council realised the importance of encouraging a sport at grass root level but also having the capacity to offer inclusive play to all.

Photos show the existing Tennis Courts



2 Research Method

The Council conducted a survey of the courts and asked how parishioners if they were in favour of a new upgraded facility and if they would be prepared to pay to play in order to continue the upkeep of such a facility.

Two banners linking to the survey details were erected on the Tennis Courts and the Basketball Court. Articles were placed in the Frome Valley Voice, Council website and on Council noticeboards indicating how to get involved in the survey. A total of 378 people contributed to the survey.

Below is an example of the advert placed in the Frome Valley Voice.



Survey results revealed that 33.1% said they would be willing to pay for better facilities and 42.3% said maybe.

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



Post codes were analysed and presented a broad picture indicating users were from all around the village, Winterbourne and areas as far as Filton. This maybe due to families with siblings visiting the area whilst participating in sport.

Various Face Book adverts were placed which fed into the local blog as well as the survey featuring on the Council's website. All hits, comments and views were analysed by the working group ensured that the entire demographic of Frampton Cotterell Parish had been included.

3 The Park, School Road

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council purchased 9.72 acres of land under the Open Spaces Act 1906 for the use of Sports and Recreation. Later it was named The Park.

The land is split by a drainage ditch into two halves, each half contains a covenant on the land preventing any other use than Sports and Recreation and the erection of one sports pavilion.

4 Specification

The specification for the tennis courts was provided by the Lawn Tennis Association who also ran the procurement process nationally. This was due to the Lawn Tennis Association developing many tennis courts up and down the country to the same specification and process.

The specification set out the materials to be used, for the surface and kerbing along with the installation of new nets and a Clubspark pay to play system with electronic gate access. This is powered by battery and therefore is climate friendly in keeping with the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Project Plans and a full Business Case was presented to South Gloucestershire Council to release the necessary top up of funding required from the Section 106 grant available.

5 Chosen Contractor

The Lawn Tennis Association had procured a contractor to upgrade all courts nationally and Blakedown were the chosen contractors.

6 Funding

The Lawn Tennis Association provided all costings for the project and generously donated £41,780.76 Capital toward the refurbishment.

Section 106 funding in the amount of £78,047.82 Capital and £5,492 Revenue

7 Press Release

Neighbouring properties were informed of the work and when it was likely to start along with details of what to expect and for how long. This was also communicated on the Councils website and Notice Board at The Park.

Subsequently when the project was finished it was advertised in the Frome Valley Voice, Council newsletter and the website along with full instructions on how to book.



<https://framptoncotterell-pc.gov.uk/news/>

8 Installation

Contractors arrived in November 2023 and began by removing all existing fencing and drilling drainage holes before applying a new tarmacadam surface. The weather was particularly wet which delayed the process slightly. New fencing and gates were erected and fitted with Clubspark technology.

Photo below shows the new surface being applied



Photo shows the new fencing and gates



Photo shows the new Clubspark technology



Better weather was required for the paint to be applied to the courts and this took place in April 2024. The nets were also erected and once staff had received training on the booking system the Courts were opened on 1st May 2024.

Photo shows both finished refurbished tennis courts



OPEN DAY

The official Open Day took place Saturday 8th June and was opened by the Chair of Council





Fantastic cupcakes made & donated by one of our tea & coffee morning ladies



Pictured below: Cllrs Clark, Lankester, Trollope and Williams



Winner of the Colouring Competition – 1st Prize an annual family membership, set of tennis balls and a Chilli's water bottle

