

For Development and Localism Committee Meeting Thursday 5th October 2023 – Tennis Courts proposals UDPATE

At the September council meeting, it was resolved to refer the final proposals / financial considerations for the tennis court improvements to this committee to be considered and resolved. The LTA representative has advised their financial funding proposal on this project for Torpoint would be **£40k on the works as detailed below.**

CURRENT COST POSITION

- Currently the total cost for all requested works, and installation of the access control gate totals **£68,705.08**. This includes the additional requested items of the new gate location in the existing fence, and the 'cut' into the bank around the net for wheelchair access. These two additional items make up £14,930.54 of the cost.
- Due to the installation of a new aperture frame and gate in the most 'level' location discussed – the access technology will be retrofitted onto the gate at a cost of £2,500. This cost is also included in the total of **£68,705.08**.
- The costs for court refurbishments are higher than at sites with similar works required - this is due to double handling materials to the site location.
- The LTA has noted from the follow up from the council Extraordinary Meeting (held on Thursday 3rd August 2023) the council can access 10% and contribute towards the accessibility works to factor into meeting the total project cost above.
- The offer of £40,000 is the maximum amount the LTA could have contributed towards these works under the criteria of the LTA / DCMS (Department for Digital, Media and Sport) and current budgetary positions.
- Cost without the cut into the bank – totals **£56,738.70**.

NETS and SOCKET EXTENDERS

- The nets for the courts are sufficiently usable to be retained but there is a small charge to extend the sockets with the new surface being in place:
- The Cost for socket extenders (nets and posts remain as existing): **£755.20**.
However, given the high-quality fencing and the new court surface there is an aesthetic / practical case for replacing the nets, posts and sockets: The Cost for new nets, posts and sockets: **£3,370.08**.

NEXT STEPS

- Total project costs, with no bank cut out + new nets, posts and sockets = **£60,108.78 less £40,000.00 from LTA = £20,108.78 (Council to fund)**
- To date, funding / donations has been secured on this project as follows:

Donator/Funding Secured	Amount (£)
Friends of Thanckes Park	1,894.00
Local Community Markets	1,400.00
The Rame Group Practice	1,420.00
Councillor J Tivnan BEM	1,000.00
TOTAL	5,714.00

Council expenditure on the project would therefore be: -

Overall Council Expenditure (£)
60,108.78
Less 40,000.00
Less 5,714.00
TOTAL 14,394.78

Should the council agree these total project costs – a funding agreement will be issued by way of formalising the offer of finance to the project. With this signed – the council can move forward to a pre-start meeting with the contractor and plan in start dates to court works. The LTA will continue to support with the operational elements of the courts i.e. Clubspark, pricing, coaching, community links from that point on. Landowner permission has been obtained (see below). The photos shared here at the tennis courts, with the wheelchair, to assist with the decision making regarding the cutting out.



A standard sized self-propelling wheelchair width is 68cm. A basic sports wheelchair width is 71cm.

CHARGING FOR USE (CLUBSPARK GATE TECHNOLOGY)/SUSTAINABILITY OF TENNIS COURTS FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS

Once the improvements are installed the council will need to agree whether to implement charges to use the courts. The LTA recommends £3,000.00 per year is required to maintain the courts and suggests an annual payment of £35.00 per year, per family is an 'average charge', or those that choose not to have a 'pass' can choose to make a one-off booking or circa £5, or £6 per court hour. The council will include a concession price and plan for free access to the courts in the timetable.

PERMISSION FROM LANDOWNER

On 24th September 2023, email from Cornwall Council (Catherine Thomson CLO) - Cara has advised: "*I have checked with the senior surveyor and Jon Mitchell in environment and we have no objections to the works, please tell them they can proceed.*"

OTHER REMINDERS

Cleaning of the courts will be undertaken regularly by the Operations Team, particularly during the seasons when leaves fall on the courts. Annual cleaning by a contractor will depend on the final surfacing chosen. Court lines will need repainting in the future at years 5-6 and likely resurfacing 10-12 years depending on level of usage and weathering. Installation of the accessibility path is in addition to this expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

To proceed with: -

1. To delegate to the Town Clerk & RFO to sign the funding agreement with the LTA for and on behalf of the council;
2. To progress the tennis courts improvements, not cut out the bank, to the total value of **£60,108.78**, with funding and donations secured as detailed.
3. Council to fund **£14,394.78** on the project,
4. The council to delegate to the Town Clerk & RFO to work with LTA to agree the implementation of charges, to reflect the charges of similar facilities in the vicinity, as it is likely there could be a backlash if the courts are initially free and then changed to be charged.