



**OPEN REPORT
GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Governance and Resources Committee – 16 February 2023

CAPITAL PROGRAMME BID – HALL LEYS PARK MATLOCK, TENNIS COURTS RESURFACING

Report of the Director of Community & Environmental Services

Report Author and Contact Details

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Wards Affected

Matlock

Report Summary

This report seeks the Committee's recommendation to the Council to include within the Capital Programme a project to resurface the double tennis courts in Hall Leys Park, Matlock. The Lawn Tennis Association will provide the full funding of circa £45,000 to include resurfacing and a new gated entry.

Recommendation

1. That approval be granted for resurfacing the tennis courts in Hall Leys Park Matlock using external funding of circa £45,000 and that £45,000 for this project be included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme, which is subject to approval by Full Council on 2 March 2023;
2. That approval be given to implement a fee for the hiring of the tennis courts in Hall Leys Parks once the resurfacing works have taken place.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - EIA

Background Papers

None

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

Yes, to be included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme

Exempt from Press or Public

No

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – HALL LEYS PARK MATLOCK TENNIS COURTS RESURFACING

1. Background

- 1.1 The tennis courts in Hall Leys Park Matlock are very well used and are exceptionally busy during the spring and summer months.
- 1.2 The tennis courts are currently free to use for members of the public on a 'turn up and play' basis.
- 1.3 The District Council's Sports Development Team have a weekly 'Rusty Rackets' session on the courts and also use them throughout the year for other sessions.
- 1.4 The tennis courts are currently in a playable condition however they will require resurfacing works in the coming years and relining with paint prior to the spring.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The District Council has been working in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association who are working with a number of Local Authorities to improve the tennis courts in parks.
- 2.2 The Lawn Tennis Association Parks Investment Panel has, in principle, agreed grant funding to support the renovation project at Hall Leys Park. This, therefore, would be fully funded circa. £45,000. Works will include:
 - Small area of root damage that requires full layer reconstruction (approx. 42 sqm)
 - Full resurface layer to both courts (25mm) Porous Asphalt surface
 - It's advised that the old surface is pierced at 450mm centre to improve drainage of the surface
 - Final layer of paint applied with lines (blue and green)
 - New nets and posts x 2 courts
 - LTA Smart access entry gate installed (battery powered and linked to ClubSpark online booking platform to allow access via pin codes).
- 2.3 The District Council will continue to maintain the tennis courts after the resurfacing has taken place.
- 2.4 The courts will be hired out via the Lawn Tennis Association's online booking system. Users will login, book and pay for the court hire. They will be given a code to access the gates onto the courts. This code will automatically change for each booking made online.
- 2.5 This online booking system will also allow the district council to access usage data for the courts to see how well used they are and, when there are quiet periods, our sports development team will develop a programme of activity to increase usage.

- 2.6 The tennis courts are currently free to use on a 'turn up and play' basis but, if approval is given for this project to go ahead, the Lawn Tennis Association has recommended a small fee is implemented upon booking the courts.
- 2.7 This fee has been included in the fees and charges report (elsewhere on the agenda for this committee meeting) as £6 per court per hour, if this project is approved and goes ahead.
- 2.8 The fee for hiring the tennis court has been benchmarked against other areas and local authorities who charge and it is also a recommended fee from the Lawn Tennis Association.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 If this project doesn't go ahead this will have an impact on the future of the courts. Whilst the courts are currently in a playable condition with the exception of the lines needing to be repainted they are deteriorating and the District Council will have to consider resurfacing in future years due to health and safety. This will also have a negative impact on the usage of the courts as a small number of informal complaints have been made about the surface. The funding from the Lawn Tennis Association for the resurfacing is only available for a short period of time.
- 3.2 It is recommended that this project is added to the 2023/24 capital programme to enable to resurfacing works to place at Hall Leys Park.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 This report does seek a decision to make changes to policy as the tennis courts are currently free to access, the intention is to add a charge. Consultation has taken place with a small number of tennis users and the Lawn Tennis Association.
- 4.2 The consultation with the users from the 'Rusty Rackets' sessions has welcomed the resurfacing works and gated access. This will improve the overall condition of the courts and also deter any anti-social behaviour to take place or misuse on the courts.
- 4.3 In relation to the proposed fee to hire the courts this is also welcomed and understandable once the courts have been upgraded to such a high standard. The fee has also been benchmarked against other local authority tennis courts that charge.
- 4.4 Further consultation will be carried out via the website and online panel regarding the fee implementation.

5. Timetable for Implementation

6. If approval is granted to the resurfacing works in Hall Leys Park then the Lawn Tennis Association who are funding the project are keen to start the work before the peak of tennis playing season. The resurfacing works will take place sometime around April time and will mean the courts will be out of action for around 2 weeks whilst works take place.

7. Policy Implications

- 7.1 The Council charges fees to cover the cost of some of the services that are provided to make progress in delivering its Corporate Priorities

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 This capital project is estimated to cost around £45,000 and would be fully funded by grant income. Council approval will need to be obtained (on 2 March 2023) for the project to be added to the capital programme for 2023/24. The financial risk is assessed as low.

9. Legal Advice and Implications

- 9.1 This report seeks the Committee's recommendation to the Council to include within the Capital Programme a project to resurface the double tennis courts in Hall Leys Park, Matlock. The Lawn Tennis Association will provide the full funding of circa £45,000 to include resurfacing and a new gated entry.

- 9.2 The recommended decision making includes approval for resurfacing the tennis courts in Hall Leys Park Matlock using external funding and approval be given to implement a fee for the hiring of the tennis courts. The legal risk connected to these recommended decisions is low.

10. Equalities Implications

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared to consider the impact of charging on residents and potential issues around accessibility if booking online is the only option, see appendix 1.

11. Climate Change Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report.

12. Risk Management

- 12.1 There is a risk that the proposed fee may result in customer complaints. It is hoped that this risk is mitigated by the improvement to the tennis courts. There are currently a few complaints regarding the condition of the courts and by improving these will reduce complaints and make the courts safer to play on. Therefore, this risk is assessed as low.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	07/02/2023
Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Kerry France	08/02/2023
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	02/02/2023