

MEMORANDUM

From:	Brigitte Crafer Landscape Architect		
Service	WBC Landscape and Trees	App No:	242913
Address:	Berks County Sports Club, Sonning Lane, Sonning, Wokingham, RG4 6ST.		
Proposal:	Full application for proposed erection of 3no. covered padel tennis courts and 3no. outdoor tennis courts with associated flood lighting, parking and club huts.		
Type of Development:	Minor All other developments		
Site Visit Made:	Yes/No		

Summary Of Recommendations

- ☐ No comment
- ☐ No objection
- ☒ No objection subject to conditions (and reasons) **stated below**
- ☐ Request further information before determination as **stated below**
- ☐ Objection due to the reason(s) **stated below**

Comments On Proposal

The northern boundary of the site is adjacent to 'Sonning Conservation Area', the SE boundary is adjacent to Bath Road, a Green Route. The area of development is located on the northern boundary tennis courts located east of the sports club building.

There are no protected trees on the site although there is a historic area TPO to the west of the site along Sonning Lane 2/1951. There is a hedge that stretches around almost the whole of the tennis courts providing screening.

There are currently 3 outdoor courts and 1 padel court. The proposal is to develop 3 covered padel courts and 3 new uncovered tennis courts in place of the 2 existing which also have floodlighting. The development will be over the existing surface which will receive a coating of acrylic on top of the existing asphalt.

The additional covered courts will enable year round use. The development will include a seating area comprising of 2 small huts, one of which includes a refreshments.

The padel courts are in glass with a canvas roof, and it is said the design will not be out of context with the immediate surroundings. The floodlighting columns to the

uncovered tennis courts will be 8m in height,. and are integrated within the court design with 2 located to the north and 2 to the south.

The padel court canopy is 9m high at the tallest point and is a similar height to the clubhouse and contained within an area of development along the northern boundary.

To the NE of the site are 7 new parking bays for users of the padel courts, and the tennis courts are served by an existing area of parking. An existing asphalt path 3m wide extends south of the club house to the south of the courts to link to other facilities to the SE.

An existing hedge to the west of the courts needs to be removed, but it is proposed to replace this with a new hedgerow that lines the asphalt path and the southern edge of the courts which created an area of grass with new fruit trees. The type of hedge proposed has not been stipulated – but the existing hedge around the courts looks native. I propose the infill hedging around the courts to match that of the existing – that refers to the infilling of the main gaps, but also to enhance the existing hedge to bulk it up. The rest of the new hedging should be a native mix that contains species which will knit together to create a dense structure that is easy to maintain. I suggest the following species be included; Native Privet, Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Blakckthorn, Cherry Plum, Crab Apple. I suggest the number of fruit trees increase to 5 .

The hedges will need to be protected during demolition and construction with a fence against the hedges such as Hera fencing, which should remain in situ until the project is complete.

As a condition and to comply with Policy CC03d) and e) I require the following;

Please provide a Landscape Plan showing the extent of development, the retained hedge (and confirm species), the proposed hedge including species, size and numbers, and 5 fruit trees, The plan should also include any new surfacing proposed and the detail of the manufacturer included on the plan.

Conditions & Reasons (if required)			
CL5 – See above.			
Date:	30.1.25	Signed:	B. Crafer