

12th September 2026

England Netball

To whom it may concern,

Change of use of courts at Loddon Leisure Centre

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding the proposed change of use at Loddon Leisure Centre, from netball courts to padel courts. I want to start by saying that we are genuinely supportive of the continued growth of netball, both at Loddon and across the wider district and this decision has not been taken lightly.

Having reviewed usage data and site utilisation across the contract, the netball courts at Loddon have not been used for over 7 years. The last booking we received from England Netball for this site was in 2019 and the courts were subsequently condemned in 2021. There is currently no demonstrated demand for netball at this specific site and the courts have remained inactive throughout that period.

To put this in context, netball currently has a strong and active presence elsewhere across our district. We hold several block bookings with local netball clubs, alongside occasional one off bookings from further clubs and we run Back to Netball sessions twice a week across two of our centres. This reflects our continued commitment to supporting netball where there is genuine demand and is why we believe the district as a whole, rather than the Loddon site specifically, is the right lens through which to consider netball provision.

Importantly, this is not a case of removing netball provision from the district. Across the wider contract there is available space, both within sports hall facilities and on outdoor pitches, that is not currently being utilised and could support netball activity. We would welcome the opportunity to work with England Netball to identify and develop these alternative sites, where there is genuine capacity and appetite for the sport to grow.

There is also a wider opportunity here. Padel is a fast growing, sociable sport that is proving popular with age groups and communities who may not previously have engaged in physical activity and converting these courts will allow more of our local community to get involved and be active in a new way. Padel also supports usage across the full week, both peak and off peak, which helps us continue to invest in and sustain sport and physical activity provision across the wider estate, including future support for netball elsewhere in the district.

We would be very happy to discuss this further and to explore, together, where within the district we can focus support to help netball grow.

Yours sincerely,



Nikki La Niece-Linton
Sports Product Manager (National)