



Wargrave Tennis Club
Recreation Ground
Wargrave, Berkshire, RG10 8BG
5th February 2025

Planning Statement for Installation of a Pop-Up Padel Court at Wargrave Tennis Club

Applicant: Michael Simpson, Chairman

Site Address: Wargrave Tennis Club, Recreation Ground, Wargrave, Berkshire RG10 8EP

1. Introduction

This Planning Statement has been prepared in support of the proposed installation of a single pop-up padel court on one of the existing eight tennis courts at Wargrave Tennis Club. The proposal aims to introduce padel tennis as an additional sporting opportunity for club members, while maintaining the integrity of the existing facilities.

The installation will require no foundation works and is fully reversible, ensuring minimal impact on the site. The proposal has the backing of Wargrave Parish Council, 89% of club members, and strong support from the local community.

2. Vision and Goals

The goals and objective of Wargrave Tennis Club is to advance the game of tennis, to encourage and support players, of all ages and abilities, to play better competitive or social tennis; in an environment that is fun, safe and inclusive. Our vision is to encourage more people to play tennis by introducing different and easy-to-learn formats of tennis including both Pickleball and Padel. By introducing padel tennis, we aim to:

- Expand sporting opportunities for all age groups and abilities.
- Enhance participation in racket sports and promote an active lifestyle.
- Attract new members and retain existing ones by offering a diverse range of activities.
- Support community cohesion by creating an inclusive and welcoming environment.

The installation of a pop-up padel court aligns with our strategic goal of modernizing and future-proofing our club to meet contemporary sporting demands while preserving our core tennis offering.

3. Proposal Details

- **Location:** The pop-up padel court will be installed on one of the existing eight tennis courts, ensuring the continued availability of multiple tennis courts for use.
- **Design and Installation:** The court is a self-contained modular structure that does not require any permanent foundation works, meaning it can be removed or relocated without any lasting impact on the site.
- **Club and Community Support:** Extensive consultation with members, Wargrave Parish Council, and the local community has demonstrated overwhelming support for this initiative, with 89% of club members in favor.

4. Compliance with Local Planning Policies

The proposal is fully aligned with Wokingham Borough Council's planning policies, particularly in the following areas:

4.1 Sustainable Development and Community Wellbeing

- The installation of a padel court supports the Council's commitment to promoting health and well-being by increasing opportunities for sports and recreation (aligned with Local Plan policies on community facilities and leisure).
- The project contributes to sustainable use of existing sports facilities, ensuring that the club adapts to modern recreational trends without requiring additional land use.

4.2 Protection and Enhancement of Recreational Spaces

- The proposal preserves the existing use of the site as a sports facility while diversifying its offerings, in line with policies that support the enhancement of leisure infrastructure.
- The non-permanent nature of the court ensures there is no long-term alteration to the site, thus maintaining the existing character and appearance of the club.

4.3 Minimal Environmental and Visual Impact

- The padel court will be installed within an already developed sports facility, avoiding any impact on greenfield sites or sensitive areas.
- No excavation or foundation work is required, ensuring there is no disruption to the natural environment.

5. Community Benefits

The installation of a pop-up padel court will bring several benefits to Wargrave and the wider Wokingham Borough:

- **Increased Sports Participation:** Padel tennis is a fast-growing sport that is accessible to players of all abilities, helping to encourage a more active community.
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** The court will be available for use by club members and non-members alike, promoting inclusivity.
- **Enhanced Club Facilities:** By introducing an additional racket sport, Wargrave Tennis Club can attract new members, ensuring long-term sustainability.

6. Conclusion

This proposal represents a forward-thinking enhancement to Wargrave Tennis Club's facilities, aligning with both the club's strategic vision and local planning policies. Given the strong community support, the minimal environmental impact, and the clear benefits to local sports provision, we respectfully request that Wokingham Council approve this application.

Contact Information:

For further inquiries or additional information, please contact Michael Simpson on 07813 800134.

Example Image of Proposed Pop-Up Panoramic Padel Court



Location of Proposed Padel Court

