



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

Planning Design and Access Statement

Introduction: We are proposing to install a single pop-up padel court on one of the existing eight tennis courts at Wargrave Tennis Club. This proposal has garnered overwhelming support from key stakeholders, including 90% of our members, the parish council, and respondents to a non-members survey.

Justification:

1. **Membership Support:** The project has received strong endorsement from our members, who recognize the growing popularity of padel tennis and the potential benefits it offers to our club community.
2. **Community Impact:** Approval from the parish council (our landlords) underscores the positive impact of introducing padel tennis, enhancing the accessibility and diversity of recreational options available within our community.
3. **Public Survey Results:** An online survey with non-members revealed a high level of interest and support for the introduction of padel tennis from the wider community, with 90% expressing favourable opinions towards this initiative.
4. **Support from the LTA:** The introduction of padel is supported by the Lawn Tennis Association, the governing body of both lawn tennis and padel. Along with pickle tennis, padel is seen as a great way of making tennis more accessible to a much wider audience, improving health and fitness for all.

Design Considerations: The proposed pop-up padel court is a temporary structure that does not require foundations or any fixtures that would damage the tarmac surface of the existing tennis court. This will minimize any environmental impact and preserve the aesthetic integrity of our facilities, e.g. we can easily remove the padel court structure at a later date. The design ensures compatibility with the club's existing infrastructure while maximising usage and accessibility for all members of the community.

Accessibility: The proposal is designed to significantly increase access to padel tennis for our members and their guests, with hourly hire charges of between £10-£20 an hour compared to the rates of £40-£60 an hour that are currently charged by commercial padel court operators. It is also anticipated that the proposal will help encourage more members of the community to become involved in tennis, including individuals with disabilities.

Parking and Site Access: The proposal will have no impact on parking as there will be no overall increase in the capacity of the number of people who can play tennis at any one time (currently 32 across 8 courts). There is already ample parking provision in the main car park and the overflow car park to the west of the clubhouse. We also encourage our members to walk or cycle, with 43% of our current membership living within 1 mile of the club.

Ecological Impact: The proposal will have no ecological impact as the pop-up padel court will be placed on an existing sealed tarmac tennis court with existing floodlighting. Existing sealed surfaces such as tarmac are assigned a zero score in the statutory biodiversity metric, meaning that these surfaces are exempt from the 10% net gain requirement. A review of the Planning Policies and Constraints Map shows that the site of the proposed padel court has no restrictions that will affect this development, with no wildlife habitats being impacted.

Floodlighting: The tennis club currently has existing LED floodlighting on all eight courts, with 10m high pylons. The proposed site for the padel court already has lighting provision via 4 x 800 watt LED units. The bespoke lighting for the padel will be provided by 4 x 6m high posts that are integrated into the design of the court, with 4 x 200 watt LED units. The total lighting output is therefore reduced versus the current provision.

Landscaping and Visual Impact: The padel will sit within the boundary of an existing tennis court and will have no impact on the landscape. The visual impact of the court will be minimal due to the predominantly glass structure and a framework that will be painted green to match the green of the existing chain fence that surrounds the current tennis court.

Planning Model: An interactive model of the proposal and plans are available at <https://go.wargravetennis.com/planningmodel>.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the installation of a pop-up padel court at Wargrave Tennis Club represents a significant opportunity to enhance our club's offerings, respond to community demand, and promote active lifestyles. With widespread support from members, the Parish Council, and the wider community, we are confident in the positive impact this project will have on our club and the surrounding area.

Example Image of Proposed Pop-Up Panoramic Padel Court



Location of Proposed Padel Court

