



# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

To the Mayor and Members of the Council,

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to attend a Meeting of the Council to be held at the Council Offices, Farnborough on ***Thursday, 7th December, 2023 at 7.00 pm*** for the transaction of the business set out on the Agenda given below.

## A G E N D A

1. **MINUTES –** (Pages 1 - 8)

To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council and the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5th October, 2023 (copies attached).

2. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

3. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS –**

To receive any questions by Members submitted in pursuance of Standing Order 8 (3).

#### 4. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL –**

The Leader of the Council, Cllr David Clifford, has indicated his intention to resign as Leader on 7th December, 2023.

To consider nominations and appoint a new Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024. The Council to note any appointments made by the new Leader at the meeting in respect of their Deputy and Cabinet, or following the meeting when those appointments are confirmed.

#### 5. **NOTICES OF MOTION –**

##### (1) **Defibrillators and Bleed Kits –**

To consider the following Notice of Motion which has been submitted by Cllr D.B. Bedford pursuant to Standing Order 9 (1):

“This Council recognises the importance of having defibrillators and bleed kits accessible across Rushmoor – especially in public spaces and sports grounds.

To date, this Council has funded several defibrillators through ward grants, and would like to build on this provision across our Borough by working in collaboration with the voluntary and community sector, businesses and partner organisations.

This Council also acknowledges the benefits of the roll-out of defibrillators by the Government to all state-funded schools this year, and notes that they will be installed at Aldershot and Farnborough train stations.

Going forward, this Council commits to working with the local community to find suitable places for defibrillators and bleed kits.

Therefore, this Council asks the Policy and Projects Advisory Board to:

- Produce a report into the current accessibility and maintenance of defibrillators and bleed kits in Rushmoor
- Assess the cost commitments in expanding provision of defibrillators and bleed kits in Rushmoor
- Make recommendations for expanding the provision of defibrillators and bleed kits across Rushmoor.”

##### (2) **Housing Policy –**

To consider the following Notice of Motion which has been submitted by Cllr Gareth Williams pursuant to Standing Order 9 (1):

“This Council notes increasing demands to provide accommodation for those who are homeless, caused by the cost-of-living crisis, the high level of refugees and others who have legitimately moved to the UK in recent years, coupled with historically low house-building rates.

RBC's Housing and Homelessness policy states that:

- as of October 2022, there were 1,680 households waiting for affordable housing in Rushmoor;
- families are typically waiting up to 8 years to secure 3-bedroom homes for affordable rent;
- partners and housing teams are receiving an increasing number of reports of housing cases.

Despite positive measures in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement such as restoring the LHA to its previous level of 30%, it offered far too little support for local government to address the growing deficits in council budgets or provide the affordable homes that are needed.

Given the pressures on the Council's budget for 2024/25, this Council calls on the RBC Chief Executive & Council Leader to write to the Chancellor outlining the need for a long-term commitment to funding for:

- more affordable and social rent housing for local people, including larger family homes;
- homes for British Army veterans;
- a proportionate number of homes for refugees, including those from Afghanistan."

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET AND COMMITTEES –**

To consider the recommendation of the Cabinet in relation to the following item:

### **1) Variation to the Capital Programme - Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Investment into Public Tennis Courts in Parks – (Pages 9 - 44)**

To receive a report from the Cabinet (copy attached – Annex 1) which recommends a variation to the Capital Programme to enable improvement and fencing works in public tennis courts in parks. Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Operational Services Portfolio Holder, will introduce this item.

## **7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET –**

To receive any questions by Members to Cabinet Members submitted in accordance with the Procedure Note.

## **8. REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES – (Pages 45 - 70)**

To receive and ask questions on the Reports of the following Meetings (copy reports attached):

**Cabinet**

3rd October, 2023  
17th October, 2023  
21st November, 2023

## **Committees**

Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards	27th September, 2023
Development Management Committee	11th October, 2023
Development Management Committee	8th November, 2023

### **9. REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD – (Pages 71 - 82)**

To note the Reports of the following meetings (copy reports attached):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21st September, 2023
Policy and Project Advisory Board	26th September, 2023
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9th November, 2023

P. SHACKLEY  
Chief Executive

Council Offices  
Farnborough  
Hampshire GU14 7JU

Wednesday 29 November 2023

# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 5th October, 2023 at 6.30 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr C.P. Grattan) – In the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura)

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford  
Cllr J.B. Canty  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Jules Crossley  
Cllr K. Dibble  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr Michael Hope  
Cllr G.B. Lyon  
Cllr Nadia Martin  
Cllr Marina Munro  
Cllr D. Sarki  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr P.G. Taylor  
Cllr Nem Thapa  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper  
Cllr G. Williams

Cllr A. Allen  
Cllr Jessica Auton  
Cllr Jib Belbase  
Cllr C.W. Card  
Cllr D.E. Clifford  
Cllr P.J. Cullum  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr Christine Guinness  
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo  
Cllr Mara Makunura  
Cllr S.J. Masterson  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan  
Cllr Calum Stewart  
Cllr M.J. Tennant  
Cllr S. Trussler  
Cllr Becky Williams

Honorary Alderman John Debenham  
Honorary Alderman Sue Dibble  
Honorary Alderman Tony Gardiner  
Honorary Alderman Roger Kimber

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Halleh Koohestani, Cllr T.W. Mitchell, Cllr M.J. Roberts and Cllr Sarah Spall.

## 18. ELECTION OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

### (1) Terence David Bridgeman

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Christine Guinness, **SECONDED** by Cllr K. Dibble – That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Rushmoor be conferred upon **TERENCE DAVID BRIDGEMAN** in recognition of the eminent and long service rendered by him to Rushmoor Borough Council for just under 30 years and as Mayor of Rushmoor in 2013 to 2014.

The Motion was put to the Meeting and was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

The Mayor presented Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman with a framed copy of the Resolution conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough Rushmoor and a Badge of Office.

Honorary Alderman Terry Bridgeman addressed the Council and thanked Members for the honour that had been bestowed upon him.

(2) **John Henry Marsh**

It was MOVED by Cllr Jessica Auton, SECONDED by Cllr Diane Bedford – That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Rushmoor be conferred upon **JOHN HENRY MARSH** in recognition of the eminent and long service rendered by him to Rushmoor Borough Council for 43 years and as Mayor of Rushmoor in 1984 to 1985, 2005 to 2007 and from 2022 to 2023.

The Motion was put to the Meeting and was **DECLARED CARRIED** unanimously.

The Mayor presented Honorary Alderman John Marsh with a framed copy of the Resolution conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough Rushmoor and a Badge of Office.

Honorary Alderman John Marsh addressed the Council and thanked Members for the honour that had been bestowed upon him.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

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# BOROUGH OF RUSHMOOR

**MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 5th October, 2023 at 7.20 pm.

The Worshipful The Mayor (Cllr C.P. Grattan) – In the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr Mara Makunura)

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Mrs D.B. Bedford  
Cllr Jib Belbase  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Jules Crossley  
Cllr K. Dibble  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr Michael Hope  
Cllr Nadia Martin  
Cllr Marina Munro  
Cllr M.J. Roberts  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan  
Cllr Calum Stewart  
Cllr M.J. Tennant  
Cllr S.J. Trussler  
Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr Abe Allen  
Cllr Jessica Auton  
Cllr J.B. Canty  
Cllr C.W. Card  
Cllr D.E. Clifford  
Cllr P.J. Cullum  
Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo  
Cllr Christine Guinness  
Cllr G.B. Lyon  
Cllr S.J. Masterson  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr Dhan Sarki  
Cllr M.D. Smith  
Cllr P.J. Taylor  
Cllr N. Thapa  
Cllr Jacqui Voster  
Cllr Gareth Williams

Honorary Alderman T.D. Bridgeman  
Honorary Alderman R.J. Debenham  
Honorary Alderman A.E.A. Gardiner  
Honorary Alderman R.J. Kimber  
Honorary Alderman J.H. Marsh

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Halleh Koohestani, Cllr T.W. Mitchell and Cllr Sarah Spall.

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor's Chaplain, Mr David Betts, led the meeting in prayers.

## 19. MINUTES

It was MOVED by Cllr M.L. Sheehan; SECONDED by Cllr P.G. Taylor and

**RESOLVED:** That, subject to an amendment to Minute No. 14, in respect of the numbers of votes cast (amended copy circulated at the meeting), the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th July 2023 be taken as read, approved and signed as correct record.

## 20. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Mayor reported that events he had attended since the last meeting of the Council included:
  - Blackwater Valley District Scouts AGM on 20th July
  - Royal Garrison Church of All Saints 160th birthday celebrations on 30th July
  - Bula Festival on 4th August
  - Merchant Navy Day Flag Raising Ceremony at the Council Offices on 3rd September
  - Service of Commemoration of the 83rd anniversary of the Battle of Britain on 17th September
  - Rushmoor Community in Bloom Prize Evening on 18th September
  - Green Flag Raising Ceremony at Wellington Woodland on 27th September; and
  - Opening of Aldershot Enterprise Centre on 29th September.
- (2) The Mayor reported that a Quiz Night had been held in aid of his charities on 29th September and that Ian Harrison, Executive Director, had been the Quizmaster. The Mayor was pleased to report that £430 had been raised and thanked all who had attended and supported the fundraising event.
- (3) On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Paul Shackley, Chief Executive, and his partner Jo, who had married on 16th September in the Lake District.

## 21. **STANDING ORDER 8 - QUESTIONS**

The Mayor reported that no urgent questions had been submitted under Standing Order 8.

## 22. **NOTICE OF MOTION - YOUTH NETWORK**

The Council was asked to consider a Motion which had been submitted by Cllr A. Adeola in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9 (1):

“The Council is committed to all residents and would like to ensure that the views of our young people are heard. They are often the most underrepresented in terms of the formal consultation process that we use. Building on the existing Rushmoor Youth Influence, the Council is asked to support the development of a wider youth network to facilitate engagement both in terms of day-to-day services that we provide and particularly on the many major projects that are planned in the near future.”

In moving the Motion, Cllr Adeola stated that he was proposing a Youth Network, a partnership with young people to explore their ideas and optimism for the Borough, which would deliver benefits now and in the future. He urged all Members to support such an intergenerational partnership.



In seconding the Motion, Cllr J. Belbase paid tribute to the work of Cllr Sue Carter in respect of her youth coaching and the Rushmoor Youth Influence initiative. Cllr Belbase acknowledged the many ways in which the Borough's young people were already acting as partners across Rushmoor (eg Army, Air and Sea Cadet groups) and the young people who volunteered and led at various sports, leisure and community groups (eg Naya Yuva – a young people's organisation in the Nepali community). He was of the opinion that, with examples like these already involved in the life of the Borough, the proposal to establish a youth network partnership would succeed.

During discussion, it was **MOVED** by Cllr Abe Allen and **SECONDED** by Cllr Sophie Porter – That the Motion be amended by adding the following wording at the end of the Motion:

“There are many models for community engagement, and young people should be empowered to choose the best system for co-production. This Council agrees that younger people who attend Rushmoor Youth Influence are consulted on the various engagement models and that they agree on the types of schools and youth groups that we engage with as part of this initiative – with a report to Cabinet following their decision.”

Cllr Allen felt that, by adding this wording, the Borough's young people would be empowered to actively take part in decision making processes, ensuring their perspectives were considered and their voices were not only heard, but also integrated into the Council's policies and projects. He was of the opinion that amending the Motion in this way would send a clear message that the Council trusted and valued its young people as stakeholders in the community and thereby strengthening the sense of belonging and civic responsibility among the youth of the Borough.

During discussion on the Amendment, the view was expressed that it was important to recognise that young people engaged in different ways and a partnership network would need to be able to reflect that and also engage the hard to reach groups of young people. It was also stated that work should start as soon as possible to get young people involved in building a Borough that was inclusive to all.

Following further debate, the Amendment was put to the meeting. There voted **FOR**: 12; **AGAINST**: 21; **ABSTAINED**: 0 and the Amendment was **DECLARED LOST**.

During discussion on the original Motion, views were expressed on the urgent need to garner input and engagement from young people building on the work of Rushmoor Youth Influence. Following further discussion, the Motion was put to the meeting. There voted **FOR**: 33; **AGAINST**: 0; **ABSTAINED**: 0 and the Motion was **DECLARED CARRIED** nem con.

## 23. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET**

### **(1) Variation to the Capital Programme – Local Authority Housing Fund, Round 2**

Cllr M.J. Tennant, Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder, introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th August 2023, which set out proposals for matched funding and governance arrangements in relation to the second round of the Local Authority Housing Fund.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr M.J. Tennant and **SECONDED** by Cllr D.E. Clifford – That approval be given to a variation to the Capital Programme to incorporate both Rounds 1 and 2 of the Local Authority Housing Fund in the sum of £2,883,089, with £1,298,374 funded from Local Authority Housing Fund grant and £1,584,715 from a combination matched funding resources, as set out in Paragraph 2.4 of the Report.

There voted **FOR: 33: ABSTAINED: 0: AGAINST: 0** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

### **(2) Variation to the Capital Programme – Aldershot Crematorium Refurbishment**

Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Deputy Leader and Operations Portfolio Holder, introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th September 2023, which set out details of a request to approve capital funding to progress the full refurbishment of the Aldershot Crematorium through to development.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr M.L. Sheehan and **SECONDED** by Cllr D.E. Clifford – That approval be given to an additional capital allocation of £1.152 million for the crematorium development project, over and above the £3.574 million already agreed as part of the existing Capital Programme.

There voted **FOR: 33: ABSTAINED: 0: AGAINST: 0** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

### **(3) Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2023 – 2027**

Cllr Gareth Lyon, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder, introduced the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th September 2023, which set out the Council's strategic approach to housing and homelessness prevention.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr G.B. Lyon and **SECONDED** by Cllr M.L. Sheehan – That approval be given to the Rushmoor Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2023-2027.

There voted **FOR: 22: ABSTAINED: 1: AGAINST: 11** and the Recommendations were **DECLARED CARRIED**.

## 24. QUESTIONS FOR THE CABINET

- (1) Cllr N. Thapa had submitted a question for response by the Operational Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr M.L. Sheehan) in respect of disregarding certain Army pension payments when calculating Disabled Facilities Grants for veterans.

In response, Cllr Sheehan stated that a written response would be provided.

- (2) Cllr Jacqui Vosper had submitted a question for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr D.E. Clifford) in respect of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).

In response, Cllr Clifford stated that Rushmoor would do all it could to make sure that ULEZ was not introduced in the Borough, if Hampshire County Council was ever to consider this issue.

- (3) Cllr Jules Crossley had submitted a question for response by the Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder (Cllr M.J. Tennant) in respect of Action 1 of the Climate Change Action Plan – to transition electricity across the Council's sites to 100% renewable tariffs.

In response, Cllr Tennant stated that the Council was examining all options on value for money renewable energy to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. A target date for this had been set as September 2024.

- (4) Cllr Gareth Williams had submitted a question for the Operational Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr M.L. Sheehan) regarding the lack of provision of a public swimming pool in Farnborough.

In response, Cllr Sheehan stated that leisure facilities would be provided as part of the project to provide a Civic Hub, which was due for completion in 2027.

- (5) Cllr Gareth Williams had submitted a question for the Operational Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr M.L. Sheehan) regarding the temporary play park in Queen Elizabeth Park.

In response, Cllr Sheehan stated that works by Esso were still taking place in the Queen Elizabeth Park to re-lay its pipeline and the permanent play area had been cordoned off for safety reasons. The play equipment in the temporary play area was considered to be of good quality.

## 25. REPORTS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES

**RESOLVED:** That the Reports of the following meetings be received:

Cabinet	4th July 2023
Cabinet	8th August 2023
Cabinet	12th September 2023
Development Management Committee	19th July 2023
Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee	26th July 2023
Development Management Committee	16th August 2023
Development Management Committee	13th September 2023

26. **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD**

**RESOLVED:** That the Reports of the meetings of the Policy and Project Advisory Board held on 27th June 2023 and 25th July 2023 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20th July 2023 and 7th September 2023 be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

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## COUNCIL MEETING – 7TH DECEMBER 2023

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 (1)

**VARIATION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME -  
LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA) INVESTMENT INTO PUBLIC TENNIS  
COURTS IN PARKS**

A report from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th October, 2023

**SUMMARY**

This report requests a variation to the Capital Programme to enable improvement and fencing works in public tennis courts in parks.

At its meeting on 17th October 2023, the Cabinet considered a report which set out the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) programme of investment into public tennis courts in parks and gave approval to enter into an agreement with the LTA who would then fund renovation works to the value of £114,043, across three of the Council's tennis court sites ([Report No. OS2314](#)).

The Cabinet agreed to:

- Approve the LTA investment to renovate tennis courts at Manor Park, Cove Green Recreation Ground & Rectory Road Recreation Ground in accordance with their investment into public tennis courts in parks scheme.
- Delegate authority to the Executive Head of Operations in consultation with the Corporate Legal Manager and the Executive Head of Finance to enter into the necessary funding agreement with the LTA to facilitate the grant award.
- Appoint an operator to run the bookings system, administration of the parks' tennis courts and an outreach programme at no cost to the Council.
- Delegate authority to the Executive Head of Operations in consultation with the Operational Services Portfolio Holder to research and implement an appropriate charging structure for the use of the parks' tennis courts, considering the comments made during the meeting in relation to the level of charges.
- Approve the use of Section 106 funding to replace the fencing across all 3 sites, as detailed in the report below.

The decision was called-in and considered at a meeting of the [Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9th November](#). However, it was not referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, and the decision came into effect.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is recommended to approve the addition of £216,500 into the Capital Programme for 2023/24 funded from a combination of LTA grant (£114,043) and Section 106 Contributions (£102,457) as identified in paragraph 4.7.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. A recent announcement by the Government Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has provided the LTA with a £22 million to invest into public tennis courts in parks. This will be further topped up with LTA funds to provide c£30million to invest into public tennis courts in parks.
- 1.2. The LTA are prioritising investment into authorities with an existing stock of courts where some / all are in the poorest condition. Rushmoor has been identified as an authority that falls into this category.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Rushmoor has widely well-balanced distribution of tennis facilities, with the opportunities to play indoor (and outdoors) at the tennis centre, join members tennis clubs at Farnborough and Eggars Hill or play in one of three sets of parks courts at Cove Green (3 courts), Manor Park (3 courts) and Rectory Road Recreation Ground (2 courts). The widest challenge across Rushmoor for players is the courts in the parks. Cove Green is in very poor condition and Manor Park and Rectory Road are in average – poor condition. According to LTA research, the absence of the ability to book and courts being in poor condition are two of the greatest barriers to play.
- 2.2. Open unmanaged courts such as those in Rushmoor represent a large barrier to park users; they create several ‘fears’ amongst prospective players. For example – will I get to court and have to wait? How long can I play for? Will I have to ask someone to leave? The proposal includes the installation of new access gates fully funded by the LTA which include controlled access locks. Access would be given to anyone who books a court via a code which when entered into the lock, providing access to the court.
- 2.3. The LTA have undertaken technical assessments of Rushmoor’s 3 park tennis sites to fully understand the costs of works required to bring them back to a safe, quality, playable standard. The headline findings of these surveys are detailed below. The LTA have offered to fund the improvements to the courts across all 3 sites, totalling £114,043. The Council will need to sign up to a set of terms & conditions, one of which will be to put in place a managed, affordably charged model (with aspects of free tennis). The overriding purpose of the proposed charging model is to create a sinking fund for future maintenance.

### 3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

#### General

- 3.1. Cove Green is in a poor state, the worst condition of the Council's 3 park sites. The LTA's proposal is for a complete resurfacing of all 3 courts. There is 25m<sup>2</sup> of root ingress from a tree therefore this area would need complete reconstruction. The LTA propose one controlled access gate to the courts with hirers using the internal gates to access each of the 3 courts. New nets for all 3 courts would be included. Contingency to facilitate an access plan for vehicles carrying materials to undertake the works has been included. Total cost circa £61,628 excluding VAT, to be funded in full by the LTA.
- 3.2. The courts at Manor Park are in fair condition hence the LTA's proposal is to repair some cracking to the surface, add a binder layer to hold the surface together and to repaint, rather than a complete resurface. There would be one controlled access gate to the courts. Total cost circa £14,552 excluding VAT, to be funded in full by the LTA.
- 3.3. The courts at Rectory Road would be resurfaced. 31m of fencing would be replaced as would the pedestrian gate used to access the courts. There would be one controlled access gate to the courts. Contingency to facilitate an access plan for vehicles carrying materials to undertake the works has been included. Total cost circa £37,863 excluding VAT, to be funded in full by the LTA.
- 3.4. The LTA funded proposal includes the replacement of some of the fencing surrounding the courts at Rectory Road, not all of it. The LTA funded proposal does not include the replacement of any fencing at Manor Park or at Cove Green. Should the Cabinet resolve to enter into an agreement with the LTA to accept the investment to improve the courts, it is proposed that the Council use Section 106 funds to replace the fencing at all 3 sites with new. The cost to upgrade the fencing, which would be paid for using Section 106 funds, is detailed below:

Site	Weld Mesh Fencing (£)
Cove Green	52,853.43
Manor Park	31,961.58
Rectory Road	17,644.25

- 3.5. Using Section 106 funding to replace the fencing at the 3 sites would use up the majority of Section 106 funding earmarked for improvements to the tennis courts hence no more Section 106 funding would be available for other improvements in the short-medium term. Further funds would only be available when more permitted development takes place, providing Section 106 funding, or should the Council enter into an agreement with the LTA and subsequently generate sinking funds.

### 4. IMPLICATIONS (of proposed course of action)

#### Financial sustainability / Sinking funds Implications

- 4.1. To ensure the ongoing maintenance of the courts, it is proposed that the appointed operator creates a “sinking fund” from fees received for use of the courts, at no cost to the Council. Sinking funds will be transferred to the Council to enable future maintenance of the courts.
- 4.2. Investment into the Council’s parks tennis courts is currently funded via Section 106 income. This is problematic as Section 106 funding is available only when developers’ build housing within the locality upon which the parks tennis courts are sited. Investment is therefore unevenly distributed across the borough, and it is difficult to maintain the courts to the level we would like, under the current system.
- 4.3. The DCMS and LTA investment programme aims to ensure courts are financially sustainable post capital investment. With precedents from other projects the proposed pricing model enables a solution to the financial sustainability of the tennis courts considering access for those on the lowest incomes.
- Sales of household memberships (£36 per household per annum)
  - Sales of one off Pay and Play (e.g. £6 per court per hour)
  - Any rent from a coaching provider using courts for teaching lessons
  - Concessions / Free passes for those in low income (through clear criteria)
  - Offer of some free coaching through products, programmes, and initiatives
- 4.4. The aim of generating income is to build up funds that, over time, create a fund to pay for future repainting and resurfacing.
- 4.5. The recommended amount to be put aside per court per year for future refurbishment is in the region of £1,400 per court. There are some expenses to maintain the access control system – c£400 per gate per year which are factored into the income and expenditure modelling. The courts would also be required to be registered with the LTA and some safeguarding procedures in place.
- 4.6. The model in essence can sustain itself, whilst using any surpluses to reinvest in the facility or other initiatives. An important factor is that any operator must be able to provide some free tennis at the parks courts. The main factor of success is the decision on who ‘operates’ the model and the work they do to market, promote, and deliver tennis on the courts.
- 4.7. The Capital cost of the improvements and the fencing works amount to a total of £216,500. This will be funded from LTA grant of £114,043 and from earmarked S106 contributions of £102,457.

### **Future Operation**

- 4.8. The bookings system needs to be managed & operated. Having considered current capacity internally at the Council, the Cabinet has approved the appointment of a 3rd party to operate & administer the parks tennis courts at all 3 sites.



- 4.9. This model would enable an expert tennis organisation to provide opportunities for residents throughout the year and therefore increase participation in the sport, whilst also removing the need for the Council to manage the system.
- 4.10. Following Cabinet approval of this 3rd party model, a soft market test will take place to gauge interest in advance of inviting expressions of interest from a range of suitable organisations.
- 4.11. In addition, a service level agreement or contract will be set up between the Council & the 3<sup>rd</sup> party to ensure the relevant terms & conditions set out in the agreement with the LTA and the required sinking fund (minimum of £1,400 per court) are met by the operator.
- 4.12. The agreement and performance of the operator will be subject to regular monitoring by the Council.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1. A public consultation to invite feedback on the proposals detailed previously took place via an online survey from 21st August to the 17th September 2023.
- 5.2. The consultation was completed by 384 respondents, 56% of whom use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks (195 respondents).
- 5.3. Of the 195 respondents who use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks, 42% indicated that they would use them more if they were improved (81 respondents) and 51% indicated they would play the same amount of tennis on the courts (99 respondents).
- 5.4. Of the 195 respondents who use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks, 17% indicated that they would play more tennis if an online booking system was introduced (34 respondents), 29% indicated they would play the same amount of tennis on the parks courts (56 respondents) and 43% indicated they would use the courts less (84 respondents).
- 5.5. Of the 195 respondents who use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks, the top 3 factors that would motivate them to play more tennis in the parks were better court facilities (45% - 71 respondents), free access to tennis (40% - 63% respondents) and the ability to book in advance (37% - 58 respondents).
- 5.6. Of the 384 respondents who completed the consultation, 61% were in favour of the LTA investment to improve the courts and for an external operator to run the courts on the Council's behalf and understood this would mean charges for tennis court users and a booking system (209 respondents).
- 5.7. Of the 384 respondents who completed the consultation, 22.3% did not want the Council to pursue the grant to renovate the tennis courts and understood this will mean they will not be renovated as other funding sources have not been identified (76 respondents).

- 5.8. Of the 324 respondents who completed the question regarding what the hire price should be if the Council proceeds with the investment, 39% felt there should not be a charge (125 respondents), 38% felt the charge should be £3-5 per hour (123 respondents) and 9% felt the charge should be £5-7 per hour (30 respondents).
- 5.9. The full report which provides the outcomes from the consultation is attached as **Appendix B**.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1. Given the limited funds available for parks tennis courts via S106 contributions, the LTA investment programme provides an opportunity to bring courts up to a good standard. The operating model as proposed will allow for a sinking fund to safeguard courts into the future.
- 6.2. The Cabinet has considered and approved proposals which will enable the Council to receive significant investment from the Lawn Tennis Association to improve the condition of our parks tennis courts, to increase usage of the facilities & participation in the sport across the borough, and to enable more opportunity for community outreach programmes to be provided by tennis experts for the residents of Rushmoor.

M.L. SHEEHAN  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR  
OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Model 1 - Example £36 per household per annum, £6 Pay and Play, No free Passes

	Anticipated Unique Users (Source:LTA Modelling)	Annual Pass Cost	Modelled to sell	0% Free Passes to low Income	Income Generated from 'Annual Passes'	Pay and Play Cost	Income from Pay by hour Play Court Bookings £6 per hour.	Sinking Fund (Put aside for future resurfacing each year)	Costs to Operator (Gate Maintenance Fee, payment transaction fees)	Surplus above sinking fund expenses
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	1567	£36	150	0	£5,400	£6	£1,261	£2,400	£661	£3,600
MANOR PARK	1338	£36	128	0	£4,608	£6	£1,892	£3,600	£691	£2,209
Cove Green Recreation Ground	1401	£36	134	0	£4,824	£6	£1,892	£3,600	£695	£2,421
	Totals across Rushmoor		412		£14,832		£5,045	£9,600	£2,047	£8,230

Model 2 - Example £36 per household per annum, £6 Pay and Play, 10% of Passes Free

	Anticipated Unique Users (Source:LTA Modelling)	Annual Pass Cost	Modelled to sell	10% Free Passes to low income groups	Income Generated from 'Annual Passes'	Pay and Play Cost	Income from Pay by hour Play Court Bookings £6 per hour.	Sinking Fund (Put aside for future resurfacing each year)	Costs to Operator (Gate Maintenance Fee, payment transaction fees)	Surplus above sinking fund expenses
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	1567	£36	150	15	£4,860	£6	£1,261	£2,400	£661	£3,060
MANOR PARK	1338	£36	128	13	£4,140	£6	£1,892	£3,600	£691	£1,741
Cove Green Recreation Ground	1401	£36	134	14	£4,320	£6	£1,892	£3,600	£695	£1,917
	Totals across Rushmoor		412		£13,320		£5,045	£9,600	£2,047	£6,718

Model 3 - Example £36 per household per annum, £6 Pay and Play, 10% of Passes, £20 Concession

	Anticipated Unique Users (Source:LTA Modelling)	Annual Pass Cost	Modelled to sell	10% Free Passes at £20	Income Generated from 'Annual Passes'	Pay and Play Cost	Income from Pay by hour Play Court Bookings £6 per hour.	Sinking Fund (Put aside for future resurfacing each year)	Costs to Operator (Gate Maintenance Fee, payment transaction fees)	Surplus above sinking fund expenses
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	1567	£36	150	£300	£5,100	£6	£1,261	£2,400	£661	£3,300
MANOR PARK	1338	£36	128	£260	£4,348	£6	£1,892	£3,600	£691	£1,949
Cove Green Recreation Ground	1401	£36	134	£280	£4,544	£6	£1,892	£3,600	£695	£2,141
	Totals across Rushmoor		412		£13,992		£5,045	£9,600	£2,047	£7,390

Model 4 - Example £20 per household per annum, £5 Pay and Play, 0% of Passes Free

	Anticipated Unique Users (Source:LTA Modelling)	Annual Pass Cost	Modelled to sell	10% Free Passes to low income groups	Income Generated from 'Annual Passes'	Pay and Play Cost	Income from Pay by hour Play Court Bookings £6 per hour.	Sinking Fund (Put aside for future resurfacing each year)	Costs to Operator (Gate Maintenance Fee, payment transaction fees)	Surplus above sinking fund expenses
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	1567	£20	150	0	£3,000	£5	£1,050	£2,400	£661	£989
MANOR PARK	1338	£20	128	0	£2,560	£5	£1,575	£3,600	£691	-£156
Cove Green Recreation Ground	1401	£20	134	0	£2,680	£5	£1,575	£3,600	£695	-£40
	Totals across Rushmoor		412		£8,240		£4,200	£9,600	£2,047	£793

Model 5 - Example £25 per household per annum, £5 Pay and Play, 10% of Passes Free

	Anticipated Unique Users (Source:LTA Modelling)	Annual Pass Cost	Modelled to sell	10% Free Passes to low income groups	Income Generated from 'Annual Passes'	Pay and Play Cost	Income from Pay by hour Play Court Bookings £5 per hour.	Sinking Fund (Put aside for future resurfacing each year)	Costs to Operator (Gate Maintenance Fee, payment transaction fees)	Surplus above sinking fund expenses
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	1567	£36	150	15	£4,860	£5	£1,050	£2,400	£661	£2,849
MANOR PARK	1338	£36	128	13	£4,140	£5	£1,575	£3,600	£691	£1,424
Cove Green Recreation Ground	1401	£36	134	14	£4,320	£5	£1,575	£3,600	£695	£1,600
	Totals in City Wide Project		412		£13,320		£4,200	£9,600	£2,047	£5,873



# **Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks – please give us your views**

**Draft report**

**September 2023**

Consultation report by Risk, Performance and Procurement

## Contents

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## Purpose of the consultation

Rushmoor Borough Council has eight free to use public tennis courts in three public parks:

- Cove Green recreation ground, Farnborough
- Rectory Road recreation ground, Farnborough
- Manor Park, Aldershot

Five of these courts are in a poor condition and three are in an average condition. There is an opportunity to apply for funding for the refurbishment of the courts to a high standard from the Government's Department for Digital, Community, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). If funding for the tennis courts was successful there would be a charge for usage and a booking system, this would help with the future upkeep of the tennis courts.

The consultation asks residents and users of the tennis courts if they agree with the Council in applying for the funding. It also asked users how the possible changes would effects their usage and asks non-users what would encourage them to use the tennis courts.

## Method

The survey was designed as an online survey (annex A) which was advertised through the Councils social media and emailed to those who have signed up to receive Council consultations via email. In addition, posters (appendix B) were put up in the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks.

The survey ran for four weeks from 21 August 2023 until the 17 September 2023.

## Response rate

In total 384 respondents completed the online survey.

## Respondents

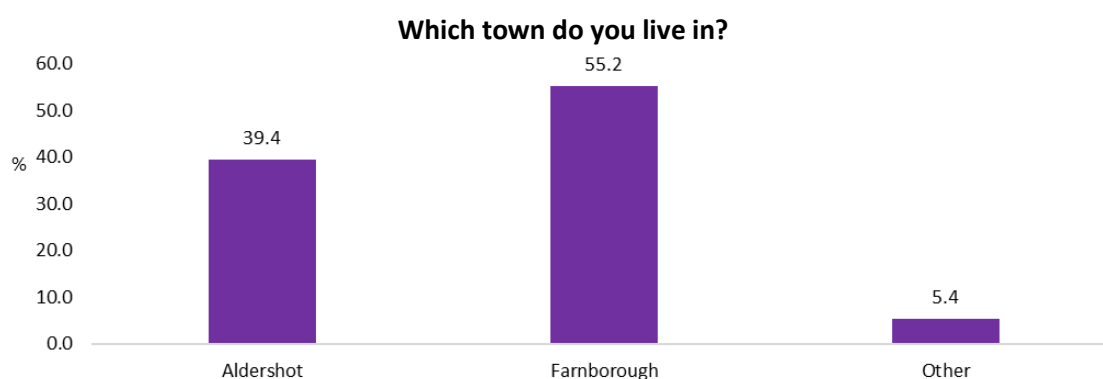
### Have you completed this survey as a group, or on behalf of a group?

In total 313 respondents completed this question. The vast majority of respondents (93.9% - 294 respondents) indicated that they were completing the survey as individuals. 6.1% (19 respondents) indicated that they were completing the survey as a group, or on behalf of a group. Nine of these were on behalf of family or friends, the other responses were:

- On behalf of a group
- Girlguiding
- I work for a local youth charity
- Sunday morning free session coaching at Manor Park
- Club
- FLTC
- With fellow tennis players.
- Aldershot tennis 10 -12 Sunday
- No, but our tennis group used to play with us. We currently play with them in Church Crookham.
- i

### Which town do you live in?

In total 317 respondents complete this question. 55.2% (175) of respondent lived in Farnborough and 39.4% (125) of respondents lived in Aldershot. 5.4% (17 respondents) indicated that they lived other than Aldershot or Farnborough. According to the 2021 Census, 59.9% of Rushmoor residents lived in Farnborough and 40.2% lived in Aldershot, this suggests Farnborough respondents are slightly underrepresented.



Of the 17 respondents that indicated 'other' (all those mentioned more than once):

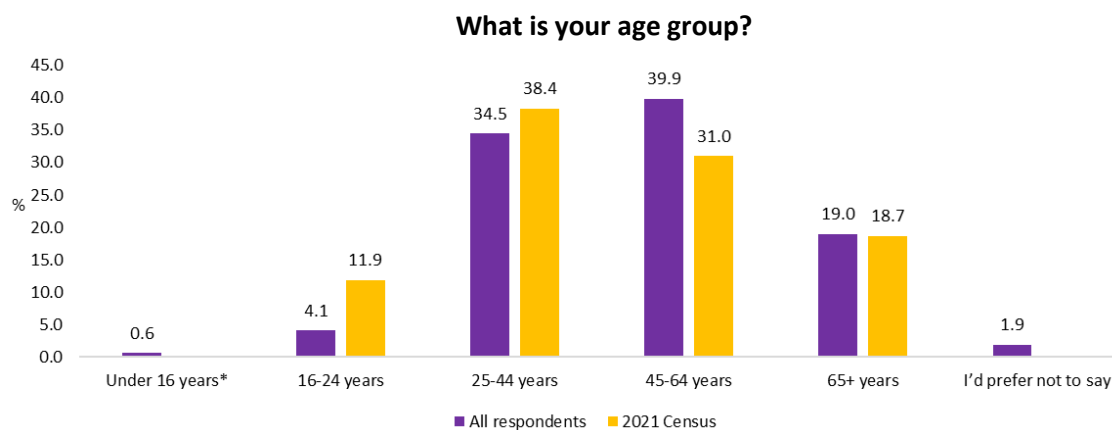
- Four respondents indicated that lived in Fleet
- Three respondents indicated that lived in Ash/Ash Vale



- Three respondents indicated that lived Frimley
- Two respondents indicated that lived in Farnham
- Two respondents indicated that lived in Camberley

## What is your age group?

In total 317 respondents complete this question. In comparison to age data (16 years plus) from the 2021 Census, younger people are slightly under resented and those 45-64 years of age are slightly over represented.



## Summary

The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on applying for funding to upgrade the tennis courts in three of Rushmoor's parks. If funding for the tennis courts was successful there would be a charge for usage and a booking system.

Overall, 61.3% of respondents were in favour of the investment, with 22.3% not being in favour (16.4% didn't know). The users of the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks were also in favour but this was a lower percentage 52.9%. However, more users of Manor Park tennis courts were not in favour of the investment with 44.6% indicating no, compared to 31.3% indicating yes (24.1% didn't know).

55.5% of respondents use the tennis courts in Rushmoor parks and 75.4% of these respondents had used the tennis courts in the past week or in the past month. Of users the most popular courts are in Manor Park (43.1% used these courts the most). The three most popular times to play tennis was weekend mornings, followed by weekends afternoons, then followed by weekdays evenings.

50.8% of the users of tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks indicated that they would use the tennis courts more often if they were improved, 41.5% indicated that they would use the courts the same amount and only 4.1% indicated that they would use the tennis courts less often (3.6% were not sure).

If a booking system was introduced 43.1% of user indicated that they would play less tennis, 28.7% indicated that they would play the same amount and 17.4% indicated that they would play more (10.8% were not sure).

Respondent thought there shouldn't be a charge for use of the tennis courts or the charge should be as low as possible (£3-5 per hour). Users of the tennis courts were more in favour for there not being a charge, than non-users.

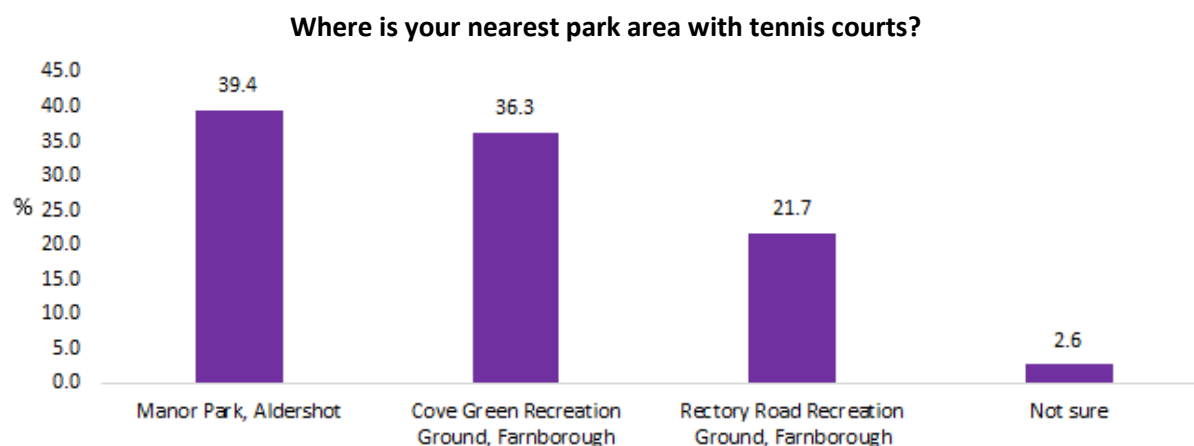
The top three factors that would encourage non-user to start using the tennis court were better court facilities (45.2%), followed by free access to tennis (40.1%) and then followed by the ability to book in advance (36.9%).

A higher percentage of respondents thought children under 18 were the group respondents thought should be offered a discounted court hire and free coach led sessions. Also, a higher percentage wanted to see youth sessions.

## Consultation results

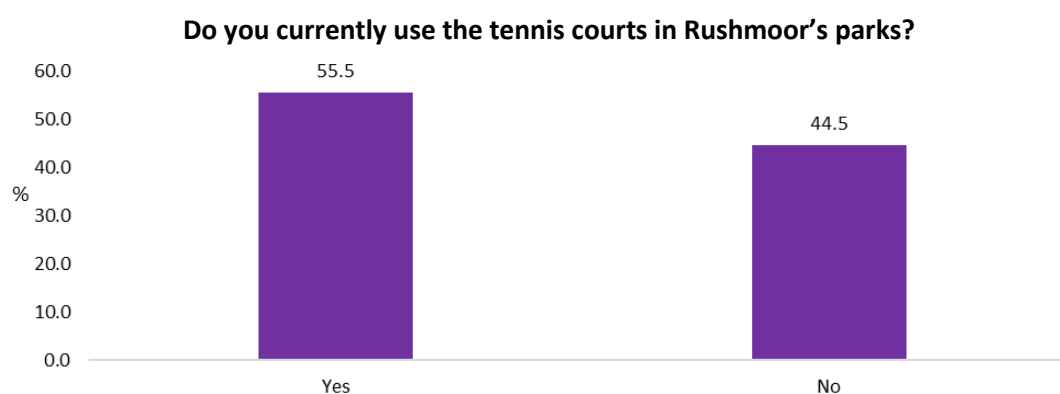
### Question 1: Where is your nearest park area with tennis courts?

In total 383 respondents complete this question. The Manor Park courts were the nearest tennis courts for 151 respondents (39.4%), Cove Green Recreation Ground were the nearest tennis courts for 139 respondents (36.3%) and Rectory Road Recreation Ground were the nearest tennis courts for 83 respondents (21.7%).



### Question 2: Do you currently use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks?

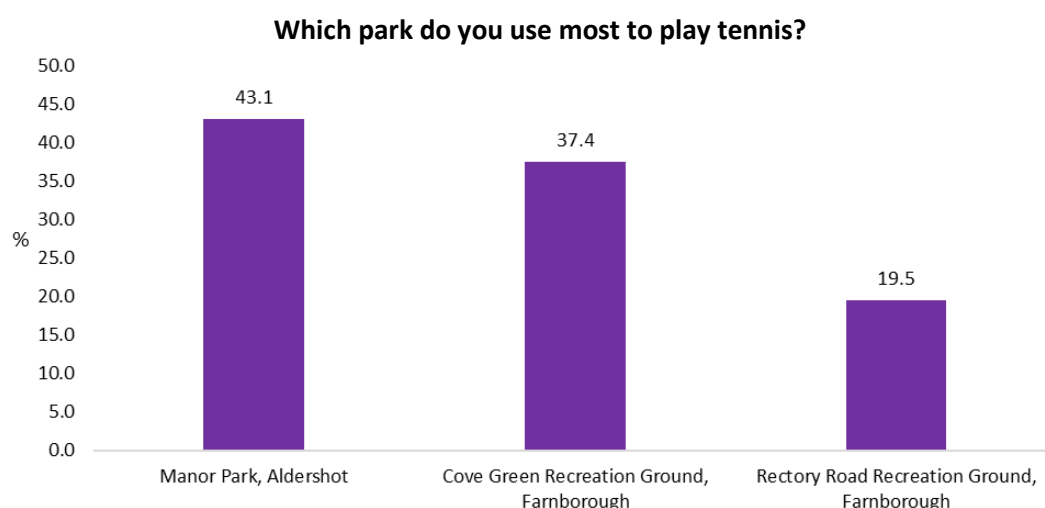
In total 383 respondents complete this question. The majority of respondents (55.5% - 213 respondents) indicated that they currently use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks.



**These questions were for those who answered yes to question 2**

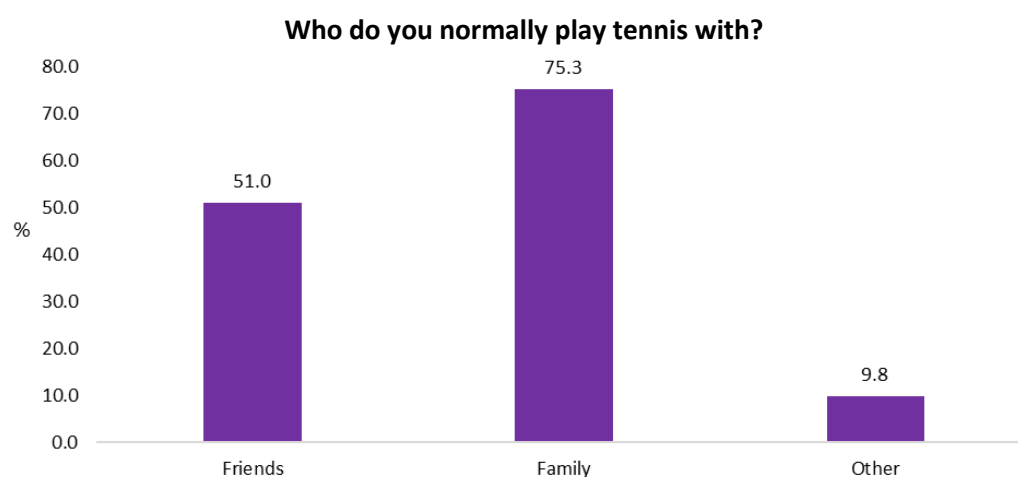
### Question 3: Which park do you use most to play tennis?

In total 195 respondents completed this question. The courts in Manor Park were the tennis courts used the most (43.1% - 84 respondents), followed by the courts in Cove Green Recreation Ground (37.4% - 73 respondents), then followed by the courts in Rectory Road Recreation Ground (19.5% - 38 respondents).



#### Question 4: Who do you normally play tennis with?

In total 194 respondents completed this question. 75.3% (146 respondents) play tennis with family, 51.0% (99 respondents) play tennis with friends and 9.8% (19 respondents) indicated that they play tennis with 'other'.

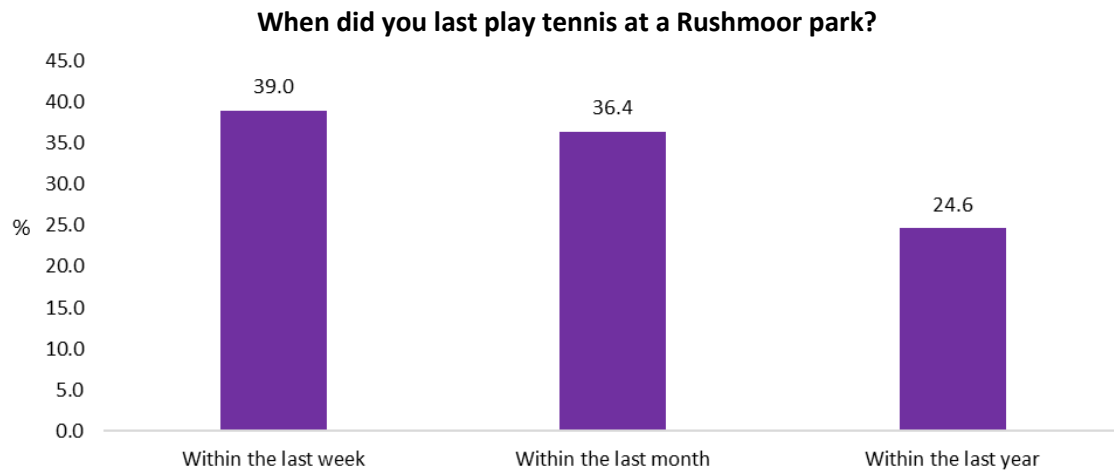


Of the 19 respondents that indicated that they play tennis with 'other', the main themes of the comments were (all those mentioned more than once):

- Eight respondents indicated that they play with Tennis of Free sessions / Sunday tennis
- Five respondents indicated that they play with a club
- Two respondents indicated that they play with partner
- Two respondents indicated that they used the court or other purposes (walking and inline skating).

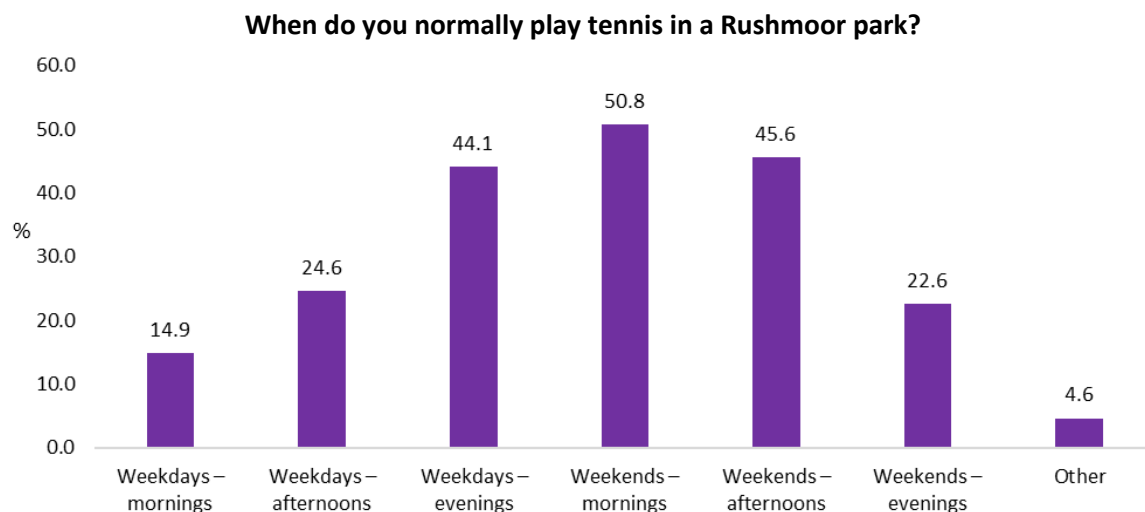
### Question 5: When did you last play tennis at a Rushmoor park?

In total 195 respondents completed this question. 39.0% (76 respondents) played tennis in the past week, 36.4% (71 respondents) played tennis in the past month and 24.6% (48 respondents) played tennis in the past year.



### Question 6: When do you normally play tennis in a Rushmoor park?

In total 195 respondents completed this question. The three most popular times respondents played tennis was weekend mornings (50.8% - 99 respondents), followed by weekends afternoons (45.6% - 89 respondents), then followed by weekdays evenings (44.1% - 86 respondents).

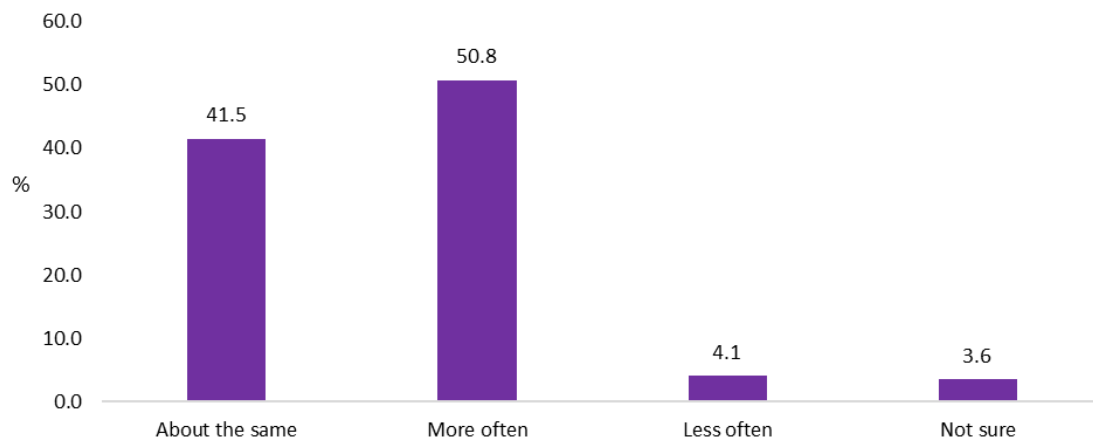


Of the nine respondents that indicated 'other' the main theme of responses was school holidays (mentioned in around five comments).

### Question 7: If the condition of all the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks was improved, would you use them:

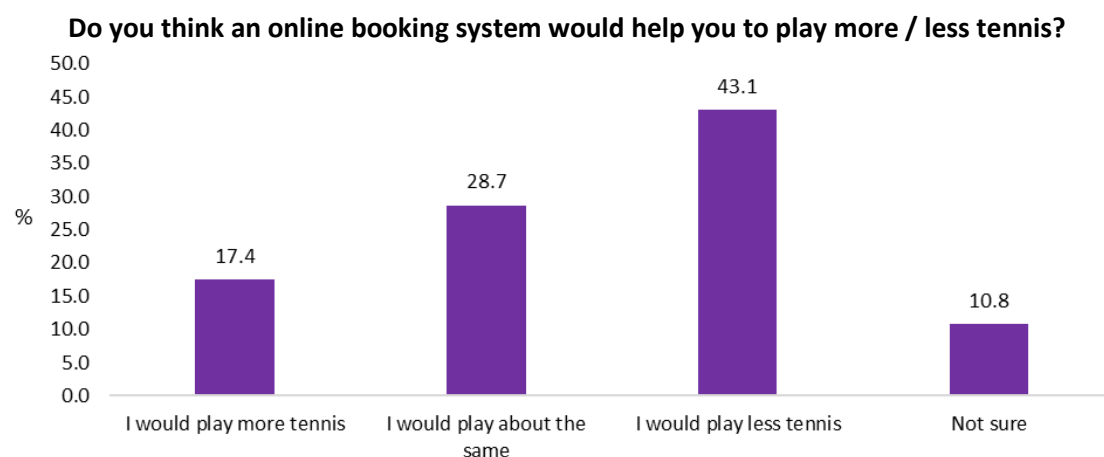
In total 195 respondents completed this question. 41.5% (81 respondents) indicated that they would play more tennis if the courts were improved, 50.8% (99 respondents) indicated that they would play the same amount of tennis, 4.1% (8 respondents) indicated that they would play less tennis and 3.6% (7 respondents) indicated that they didn't know,

**If the condition of all the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks was improved, would you use them**



**Question 8: Do you think an online booking system would help you to play more / less tennis?**

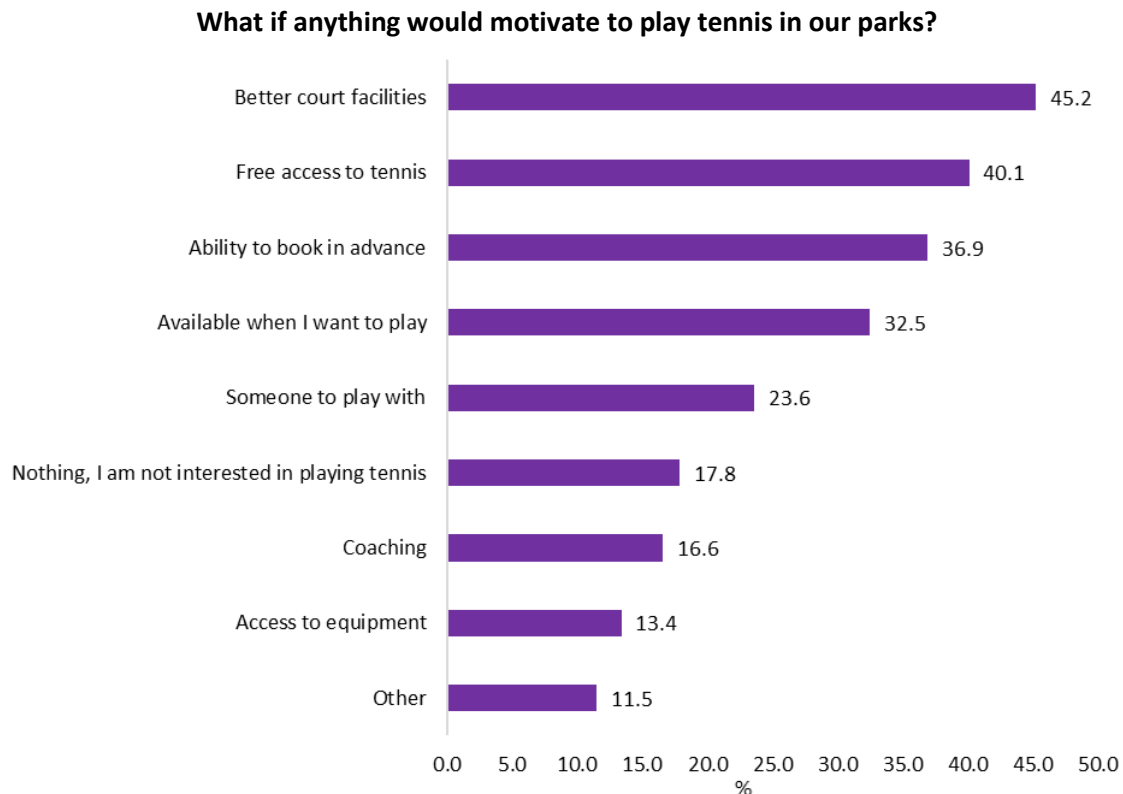
In total 195 respondents completed this question. 17.4% (34 respondents) indicated that they would play more tennis if there was an online booking system, 28.8% (56 respondents) indicated that they would play the same amount of tennis, 43.1% (84 respondents) indicated that they would play less tennis and 10.8% (21 respondents) indicated that they didn't know.



**This question was for those who answered no to question 2**

**Question 9: What if anything would motivate to play tennis in our parks?**

In total 195 respondents completed this question. The top three factors that would motivate respondent to play tennis are better court facilities (45.2% - 71 respondents), followed by free access to tennis (40.1% - 63 respondents) and then followed by the ability to book in advance (36.9% - 58 respondents).



These questions were for all respondents

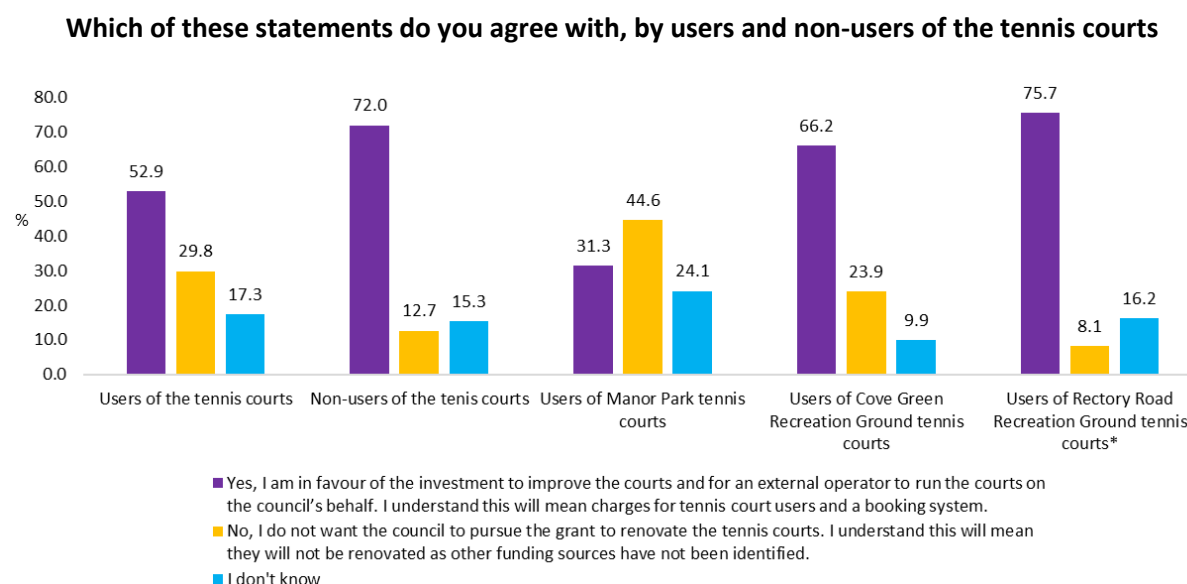
#### Question 10: Which of these statements do you agree with?

In total 341 respondents completed this question. Overall, the majority of respondents (61.3%– 209 respondents) were in favour of the investment to improve the courts and for an external operator to run the courts on the council's behalf and understood this will mean charges for tennis court users and a booking system. 22.3% (76 respondents) did not want the council to pursue the grant to renovate the tennis courts and understood this will mean they will not be renovated as other funding sources have not been identified. 16.4% (56 respondents) didn't know.



However, there is difference in the results by users of the the tennis courts and non- users of the tennis courts. A higher percentage of non-users are in favour (72.0% - 108 respondents), than the users of the tennis courts (52.9% - 101 respondents).

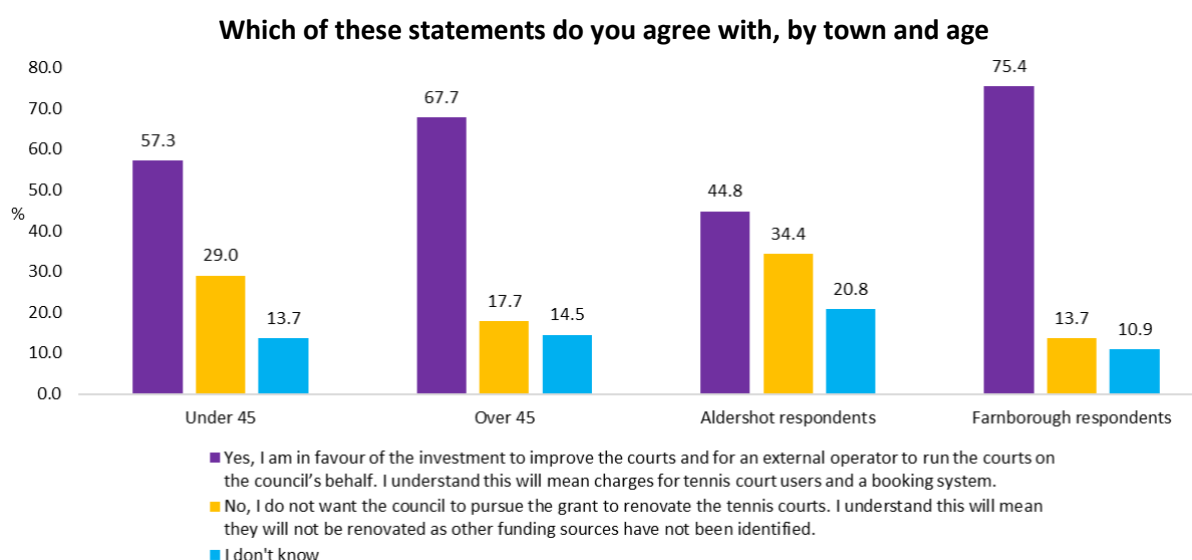
There is also a difference between the views of tennis court users in the three parks, the majority of users of Cove Green Recreation Ground tennis courts (66.2% - 47 respondents) and users Rectory Road Recreation Ground tennis courts\* (75.7% - 28 respondents) are in favour of the investment. Whereas only 31.3% (26 respondents) of users of Manor Park tennis courts are in favour of the investment and 44.6% (37 respondents) are not in favour of the investment.



\*very small sample size (37 respondents who were users of the Rectory Road Recreation Ground tennis courts)

Those in the older age groups and those from Farnborough were more likely to be in favour of the investment.

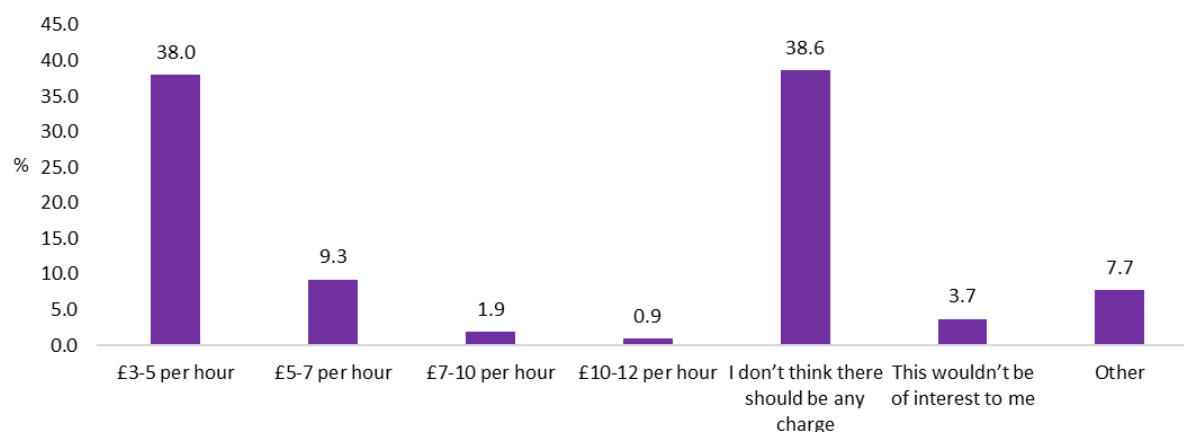




**Question 11: If the council proceeds with the investment, what do you think the price for the hire of a tennis court in Rushmoor should be?**

In total 324 respondents completed this question. Overall, 38.6% (125 respondents) didn't think there should be a charge, closely followed by 38.0% (123 respondents) thought the charge should be £3-5 per hour.

**If the council proceeds with the investment, what do you think the price for the hire of a tennis court in Rushmoor should be?**

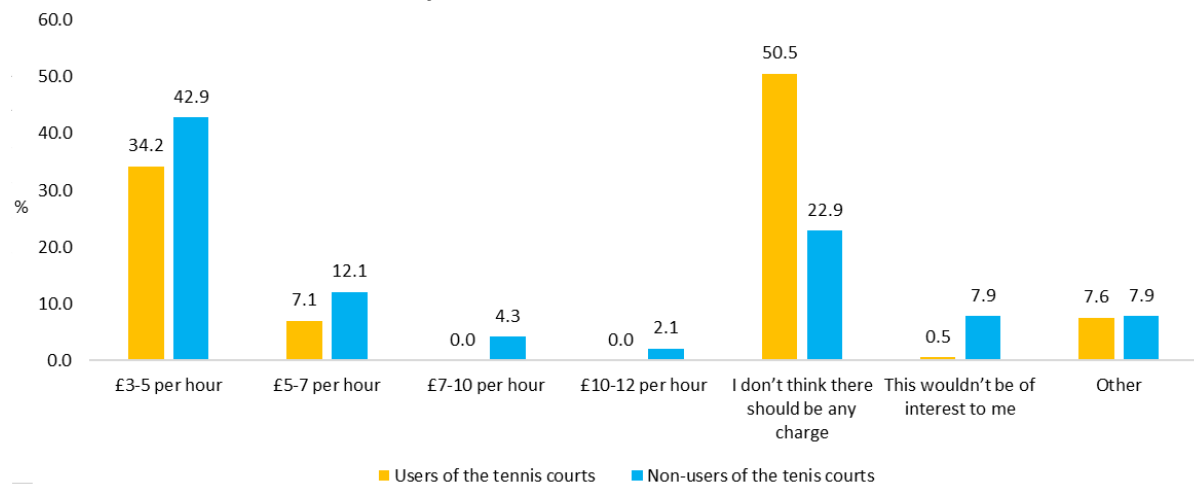


25 respondents (7.7%) indicated 'other' and the main themes of the responses were (all those mention more than once):

- £1-2 per hour (mentioned in around seven comments)
- Should be keep free/free access (mentioned in around four comments)
- £3-5 per hour but less for some / more for others (mentioned in around four comments)

Just over half of the users of the tennis courts (50.5% - 93 respondents) didn't think there should be a charge, compared to only 22.9% of non-users of the tennis courts (32 respondents). The charge with the highest percentage for both groups was £3-5 per hour.

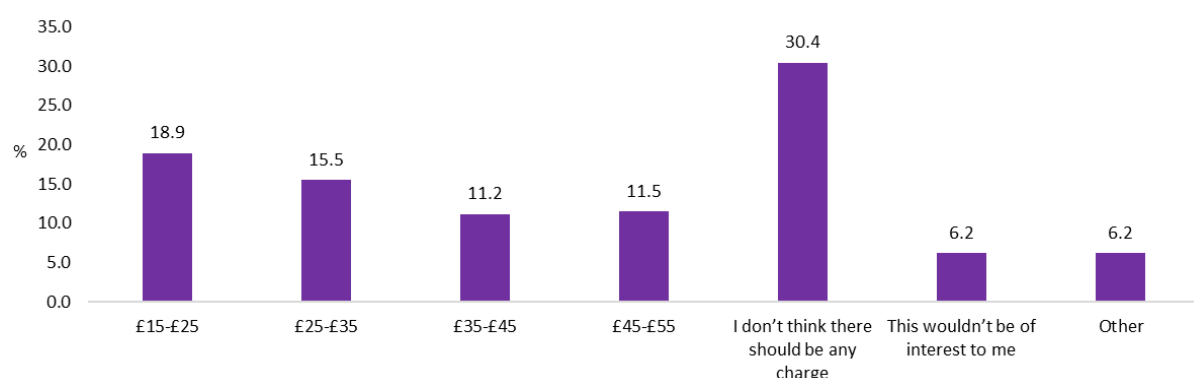
**If the council proceeds with the investment, what do you think the price for the hire of a tennis court in Rushmoor should be, by users of the tennis courts and non-users of the tennis courts**



**Question 12: If there was an 'Annual Pass' available for a household to play all year round for a set fee (with no further charges) what do you think the price should be?**

In total 324 respondents completed this question. Overall, 30.4% (98 respondents) didn't think there should be a charge, followed by 18.9% (61 respondents) thought the charge should be £15-£25 for an annual pass.

**If there was an 'Annual Pass' available for a household to play all year round for a set fee (with no further charges) what do you think the price should be?**

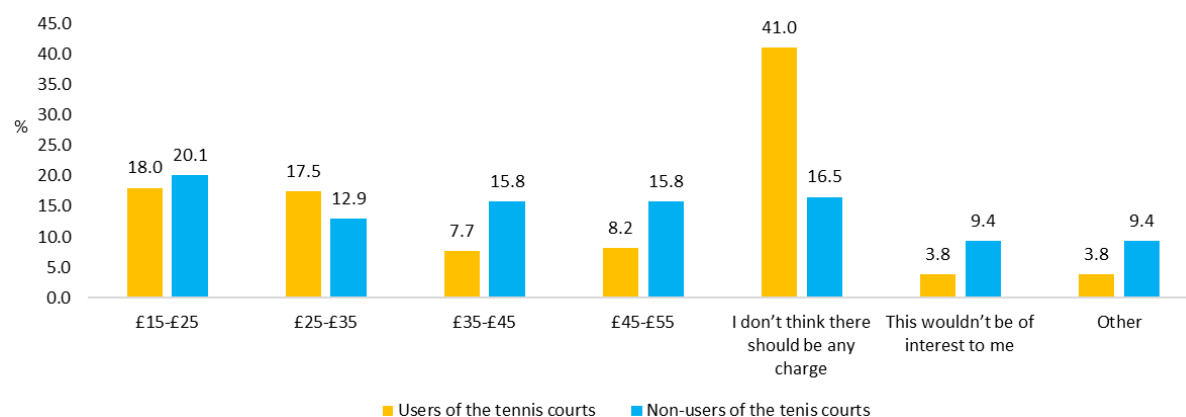


20 respondents (6.2%) indicated 'other' and the main themes of the responses were (all those mention more than once):

- Should be keep free/free access (mentioned in around five comments)
- Numbers over £50 for an annual pass (mentioned in around four comments)

There is a difference between the users and the non-users of the tennis courts with 41.0% (75 respondents) of users indicating that they don't think there should be a charge, compared to 16.5% (23 respondents) on non-users.

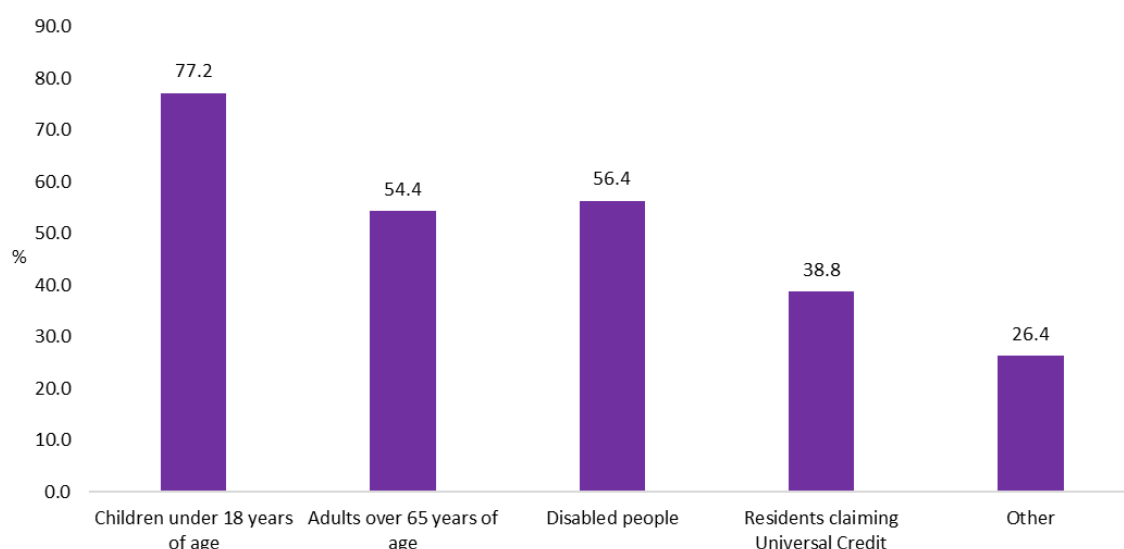
**If there was an 'Annual Pass' available for a household to play all year round for a set fee (with no further charges) what do you think the price should be?**



**Question 13: If the council proceeds with the investment, which of the below groups do you think should be offered discounted court hire?**

In total 307 respondents completed this question. The majority of respondents thought there should be discounted court hire for children under 18 years of age (77.2% - 237 respondents), disabled people (56.4% - 173 respondents) and adults over 65 years of age (54.4% - 167 respondents). 38.8% (119 respondents) thought there should be discounted court hire for those on Universal Credit and 26.4% (81 respondents) thought there should be discounted court hire for 'other'.

**If the council proceeds with the investment, which of the below groups do you think should be offered discounted court hire?**

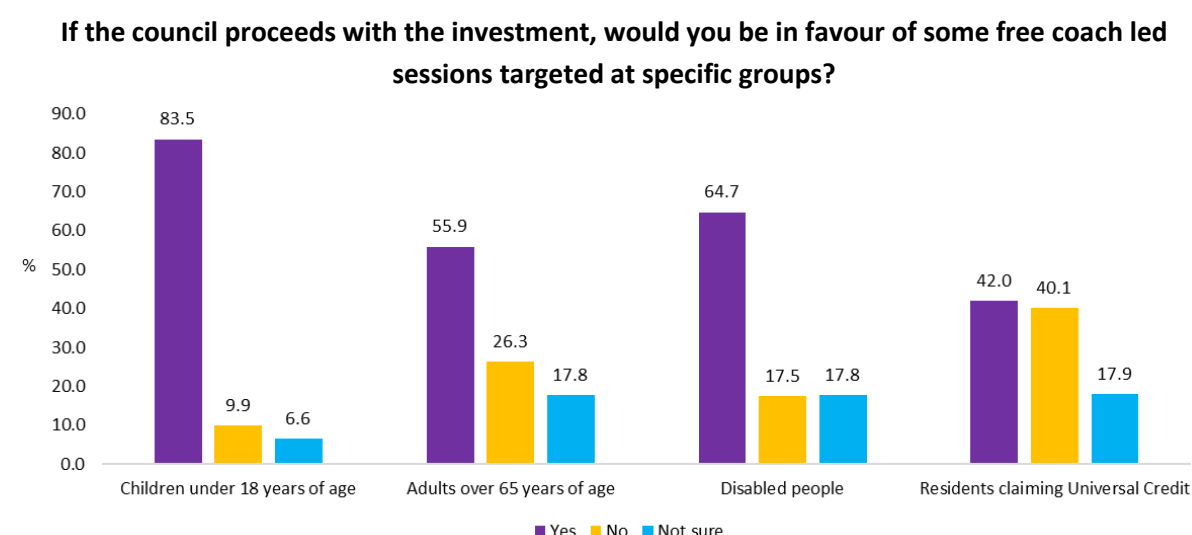


81 respondents (26.4%) indicated 'other' and the main themes of the responses were (all those mention over five times):

- The courts should be free / remain free (mentioned in around 27 comments)
- Local residents (mentioned in around 8 comments)
- Everyone (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- None / no one (mentioned in around 6 comments)
- Everyone pay the same (mentioned in around 6 comments)

#### Question 14: If the council proceeds with the investment, would you be in favour of some free coach led sessions targeted at specific groups?

In total 308 respondent completed this question. The group respondents though should have free coach led session the most are children under 18 years of age (83.5% - 253 respondents indicated yes). The group respondents though should have free coach led session the least were residents claiming Universal Credit (40.1% - 103 respondents indicated no).

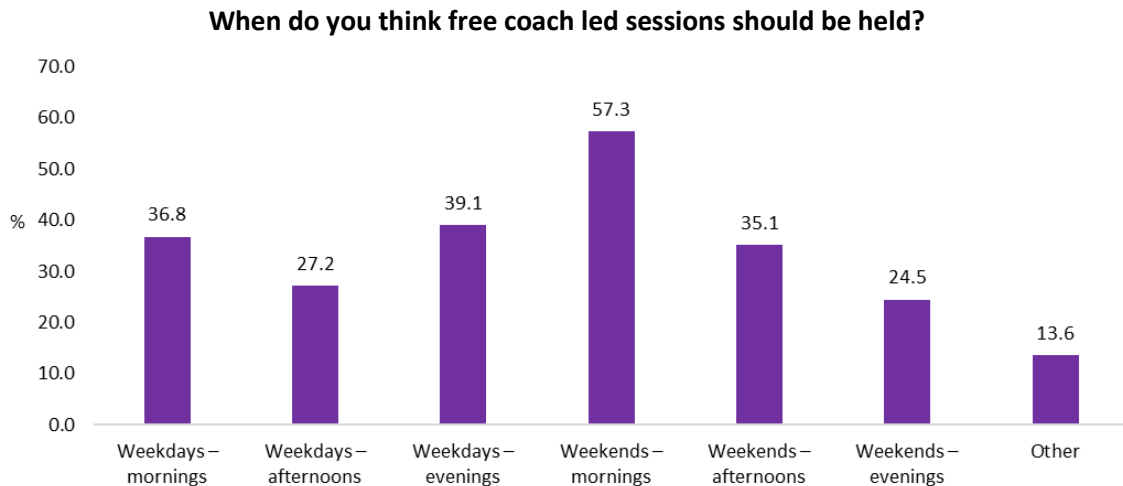


This question had an 'other' comment box and 41 respondents completed this part of the question. The main themes of the responses were (all those mention over five times):

- It should remain free / keep free (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- Everyone (mentioned in around 7 comments)

#### Question 15: When do you think free coach led sessions should be held?

In total 302 respondents completed this question. The top three times respondents thought free coach led sessions should be held, was on weekend mornings (57.3% - 173 respondents), followed by weekday evenings (39.1% - 118 respondents), then followed by weekday mornings (36.8% - 111 respondents). 13.6% (41 respondent) indicated 'other'.

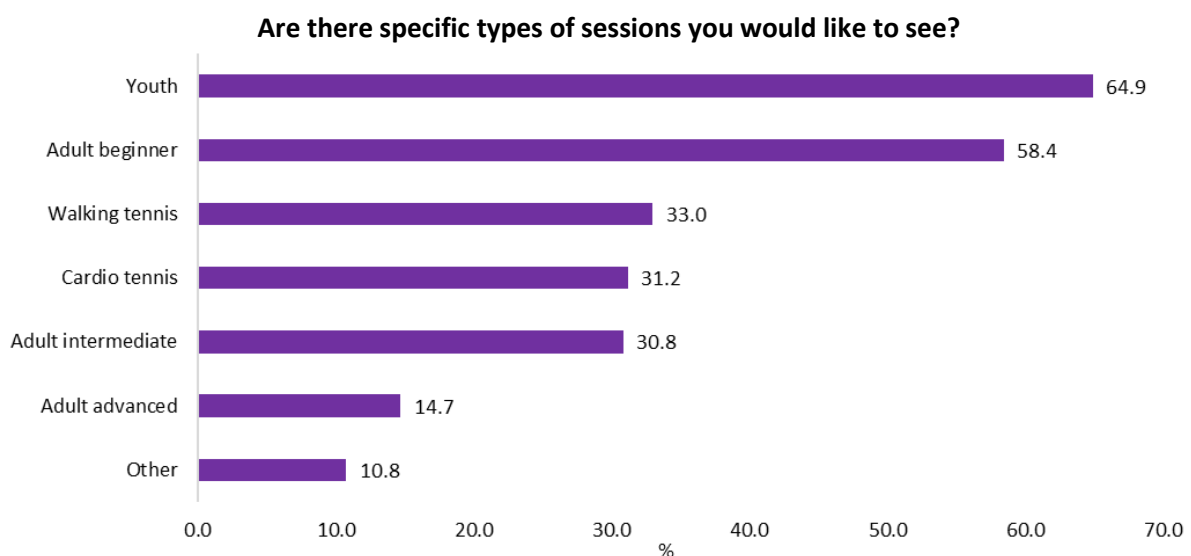


This question had an ‘other’ comment box and 41 respondents completed this part of the question. The main themes of the responses were (all those mention over five times):

- A mix / when those who are attending the sessions can (mentioned in around 9 comments)
- Disagree with free sessions (mentioned in around 6 comments)

#### Question 16: Are there specific types of sessions you would like to see?

In total 279 respondents completed this question. The top three specific session respondents would like to see are youth (64.9% - 181 respondents), followed by adult beginner (58.4% - 163 respondents), then followed by walking tennis (33.0% - 97 respondents). 10.8% (30 respondent) indicated ‘other’.



This question had an ‘other’ comment box and 30 respondents completed this part of the question. The main themes of the responses were (all those mention more than once):

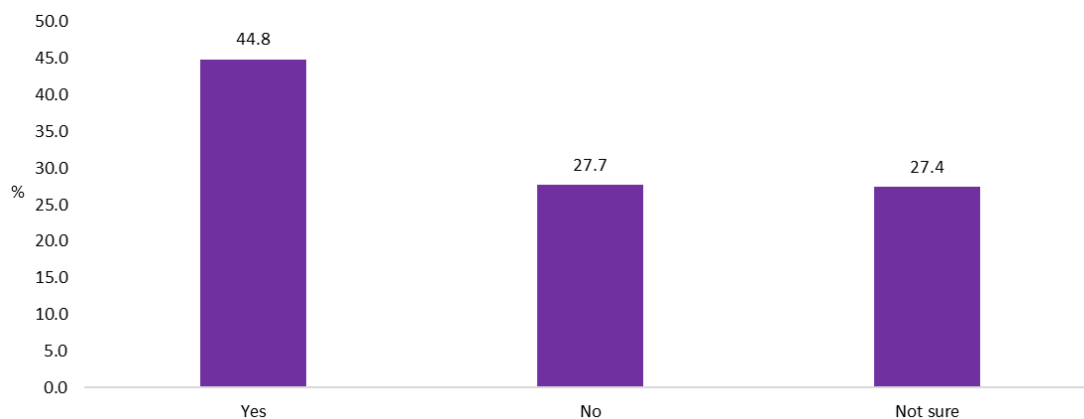
- Keep free / free access (mentioned in around 6 comments)

- N/A (mentioned in around 2 comments)
- None (mentioned in around 2 comments)
- Youth intermediate (mentioned in around 2 comments)
- Not sure (mentioned in around 2 comments)

### Question 17: Would you be in favour of competitive tennis opportunities with people of a similar ability?

In total 310 respondents completed this question. 44.8% (139 respondents) answered yes they would be in favour of competitive tennis opportunities with people of a similar ability, 27.7% (86 respondents) answered no and 27.4% (85 respondents) didn't know.

#### Would you be in favour of competitive tennis opportunities with people of a similar ability?



### Question 18: Do you have any further comments about the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks?

In total 136 respondents completed this question. The main themes of the responses were (all those mentioned more than five times):

- Keep as it is / free and free access (mentioned in around 47 comments)
- The council should have maintained/should maintain the courts (mentioned in around 18 comments)
- Support the proposals (mentioned in around 17 comments)
- This plan will deter players / be a barrier (mentioned in around 17 comments)
- Concerns about the external provider / privatisation of the courts (mentioned in around 15 comments)
- Comments about the current state of the tennis courts (mentioned in around 11 comments)
- The courts are not just used for tennis (mentioned in around 10 comments)
- Concern about the impact on kids ability to use the courts (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- There should be more tennis courts (mentioned in around 5 comments)

## Appendix A –copy of the online survey

### Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

#### Introduction

##### **Background to the consultation**

We have eight public tennis courts across three parks in Aldershot and Farnborough. Five of these courts are in a poor condition and three are in an average condition.

There is no booking system and there are no tennis coaching programmes available in two of the three parks.

The council does not have any way of communicating with players using the courts at this time.

The Government's Department for Digital, Community Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) have announced a £30 million package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts in the UK.

As part of that, they have approached us and been working with us on a project to bring all the courts up to a high standard. This work would cost more than £100,000.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the council to receive external investment for our public tennis courts. We know from figures from the Lawn Tennis Association that there are between 1300 and 1700 residents within a ten-minute drive of each park who would play tennis if they had the opportunity to do so.

If this goes ahead, we would renovate the tennis courts in spring 2024.

##### **Condition of funding**

A condition of this funding is that we would need to show how we would keep these courts in a good condition for the future and avoid them deteriorating.

We would need to set aside £1,200 per court annually to pay for larger repairs such as replacing the courts' surface and repainting the courts when necessary. There would also be day-to-day maintenance and running costs.

It is estimated that the total costs for looking after our eight public courts would be around £10,000 a year. This amount would make sure the courts are kept to a good standard for years to come.

##### **How we would run the courts**

The council would seek a tennis provider to run the courts for us. This would introduce a pay-to-play booking system and coaching to generate the income needed to maintain the courts.

This model would include providing free and discounted tennis for those who could not afford to pay to make sure that everyone could use the courts.

We believe that bringing in an experienced operator to run the courts on our behalf would be the most efficient way to move forward and provide the best quality experience for players and the local community.

We would continue to own the courts and set conditions for the new operator to make sure everyone could have access to the tennis facilities. This would include setting out what the operator must do and what would be a fair charge. Under the conditions of the investment programme, the courts must remain as tennis courts for at least 15 years. The investment does not include floodlighting for any of the courts.

### **Booking system**

If the tennis court were to be improved, we would bring in an online and app booking and payment system. There would also be gate access control at the tennis courts, so that players could guarantee a court being available when they book and that the courts were not being misused in any way.

### **Charges**

At the moment, we charge people to use our football and cricket pitches. This money helps maintain these pitches for future use.

We would do the same with the tennis courts, with all the money received going to make sure the facilities are kept to a high standard.

### **If we were to continue to operate the courts as now**

We do not have a budget to repair or maintain our tennis courts, so if we do not go ahead with the investment programme and keep them free, as now, they will continue to deteriorate, even if they are currently in a fair condition.

### **The survey is open until Sunday 17 September.**

To view our consultation survey privacy notice please visit [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/consultationprivacynotice](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/consultationprivacynotice)

1. Where is your nearest park area with tennis courts? (please tick one)

- ☐ Manor Park, Aldershot
- ☐ Cove Green Recreation Ground, Farnborough
- ☐ Rectory Road Recreation Ground, Farnborough
- ☐ Not sure

\* 2. Do you currently use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks? (please tick one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**\*if answered yes the survey went to question 3 and if answered no the survey went to question 9**



## Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

### Tennis court users

3. Which park do you use most to play tennis? (please tick one)

- ☐ Manor Park, Aldershot
- ☐ Cove Green Recreation Ground, Farnborough
- ☐ Rectory Road Recreation Ground, Farnborough

4. Who do you normally play tennis with? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

5. When did you last play tennis at a Rushmoor park? (please tick one)

- ☐ Within the last week
- ☐ Within the last month
- ☐ Within the last year

6. When do you normally play tennis in a Rushmoor park? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Weekdays - mornings
- ☐ Weekdays - afternoons
- ☐ Weekdays - evenings
- ☐ Weekends - mornings
- ☐ Weekends - afternoons
- ☐ Weekends - evenings
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

7. If the condition of all the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks was improved, would you use them:

- ☐ About the same
- ☐ More often
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Not sure

\* 8. Do you think an online booking system would help you to play more / less tennis? (please tick one)

- ☐ I would play more tennis
- ☐ I would play about the same
- ☐ I would play less tennis
- ☐ Not sure

**\*after this question was answered the survey went to question 10**

Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

Not users of tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks

9. What if anything would motivate to play tennis in our parks? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Better court facilities
- ☐ Coaching
- ☐ Someone to play with
- ☐ Available when I want to play
- ☐ Ability to book in advance
- ☐ Free access to tennis
- ☐ Access to equipment
- ☐ Nothing, I am not interested in playing tennis
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

**\*after this question was answered the survey went to question 10**

Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

\* 10. Which of these statements do you agree with? (please tick one)

- ☐ Yes, I am in favour of the investment to improve the courts and for an external operator to run the courts on the council's behalf. I understand this will mean charges for tennis court users and a booking system.
- ☐ No, I do not want the council to pursue the grant to renovate the tennis courts. I understand this will mean they will not be renovated as other funding sources have not been identified.
- ☐ I don't know

## Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

### If the council proceeds with the investment

11. If the council proceeds with the investment, what do you think the price for the hire of a tennis court in Rushmoor should be? (please tick one)

- ☐ £3-5 per hour
- ☐ £5-7 per hour
- ☐ £7-10 per hour
- ☐ £10-12 per hour
- ☐ I don't think there should be any charge
- ☐ This wouldn't be of interest to me
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

12. If there was an 'Annual Pass' available for a household to play all year round for a set fee (with no further charges) what do you think the price should be? (please tick one)

- ☐ £15-£25
- ☐ £25-£35
- ☐ £35-£45
- ☐ £45-£55
- ☐ I don't think there should be any charge
- ☐ This wouldn't be of interest to me
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

13. If the council proceeds with the investment, which of the below groups do you think should be offered discounted court hire? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Children under 18 years of age
- ☐ Adults over 65 years of age
- ☐ Disabled people
- ☐ Residents claiming Universal Credit
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

14. If the council proceeds with the investment, would you be in favour of some free coach led sessions targeted at specific groups? (please tick all that apply)

	Yes	No	Not sure
Children under 18 years of age	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults over 65 years of age	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disabled people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residents claiming Universal Credit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please tell us)

15. When do you think free coach led sessions should be held?(please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Weekdays - mornings
- ☐ Weekdays - afternoons
- ☐ Weekdays - evenings
- ☐ Weekends - mornings
- ☐ Weekends - afternoons
- ☐ Weekends - evenings
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

16. Are there specific types of sessions you would like to see? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Adult beginner
- ☐ Adult intermediate
- ☐ Adult advanced
- ☐ Cardio tennis
- ☐ Walking tennis
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

17. Would you be in favour of competitive tennis opportunities with people of a similar ability? (please tick one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

18. Do you have any further comments about the tennis courts in Rusmoors parks? (please tell us in the box below)

## Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

### About you

19. Have you completed this survey as a group, or on behalf of a group? (please tick one)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (please tell us in the box below)

\* 20. Which town do you live in? (please tick one)

- ☐ Aldershot
- ☐ Farnborough
- ☐ Other (please tell us)

21. What is your age group? (please tick one)

- ☐ Under 16 years
- ☐ 16-24 years
- ☐ 25-44 years
- ☐ 45-64 years
- ☐ 65+ years
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

## Tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks - please give us your views

### Finally

## Thank you for completing our survey

We would like to keep you up-to-date with the latest council news and information about events and activities taking place in Aldershot and Farnborough. You can also sign up to take part in council consultations. To sign up please follow the link below:

[Sign up to news from the council.](#)


Appendix B – copy of the poster



# Parks tennis survey

We would like your views about the opportunity we have to refurbish the public tennis courts in our parks across Aldershot and Farnborough

[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/tennissurvey](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/tennissurvey)



**Closing date: Sunday 17 September**

**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

*“The Local Labour Group responds to “Rushmoor Borough Council’s consultation about the tennis courts in Rushmoor Parks (Manor Park, Cove Green and Rectory Road)”.*

The LTA funding being offered to Rushmoor Borough Council for the refurbishment of the parks tennis courts in the borough is a combination of funds that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and LTA are using to support the Government’s [Get Active Strategy](#).

Scott Lloyd, Chief Executive of LTA says *“It’s great to see the Government’s commitment to **tackling inequalities in participation** and ensure sport is **inclusive** and welcoming for all. This aligns closely with the LTA’s own vision to **open tennis up**, ensuring tennis is a sport for anyone, no matter their age, gender, background or ability.”*

Whilst the local Labour Group welcome the opportunity and investment to improve the tennis courts that the LTA funding offers, we do not agree with the resultant charging for use of the courts that is being proposed. Implementing a charge for playing and introducing a booking system is likely to discourage spontaneous use of the tennis courts and would discourage or prevent groups from across our community actively engaging in sport, which contradicts the LTA’s statement about *“tackling inequalities in participation...ensuring sport is inclusive... vision to open tennis up...”*

Therefore, as a group we want to look for different ways in which Rushmoor Parks tennis courts could be upgraded, whilst maintaining free access and use for all. We believe that the parks tennis courts should be available for all, just as the skatepark and basketball courts are.”

Look forward to catching up with you on Thursday.

Many thanks,

Becky

Becky Williams  
Rushmoor Borough Councillor  
Manor Park Ward

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# CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Deputy Leader and Operational Services Portfolio Holder  
Cllr M.J. Tennant, Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder

Cllr J.B. Canty, Customer Experience, Transformation and Corporate Portfolio Holder

Cllr Sue Carter, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder

Cllr P.G. Taylor, Finance Portfolio Holder

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr G.B. Lyon.

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **16th October, 2023**.

## **26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, no declarations of interest were made.

## **27. MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12th September, 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **28. FARNBOROUGH LEISURE AND CULTURAL HUB – NEXT STEPS –** (Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. REG2307, which set out an update on the current position in relation to the Leisure and Cultural Hub project and the next steps required to progress its delivery.

The Cabinet was informed that, in order to move forward the delivery of the new Leisure and Cultural Hub and meet the timescales associated with the Levelling Up funding awarded to the Council, it was now necessary to determine the final project scope and the schedule of accommodation to be included in the design. The Report also set out arrangements for the submission of planning applications, the commencement of negotiations regarding the sale of Council-owned land and the termination of associated leases to enable the construction of a mobility hub. Members also heard regarding the approach and timing for the Leisure Operator procurement and the budget required to complete the pre-construction phases of the project, along with the associated funding strategy and risks.

Members were informed that there were proposed amendments to the Report in respect of the wording of Recommendations 1, 2 and 3. In particular, the approach to finalise the sustainability and design, based on return-on-investment modelling, would now be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17th October and would not be delegated, as had originally been proposed.

The Cabinet expressed strong support for the suggested approach for the progression of the project and considered that this would provide residents with excellent, modern facilities on the site.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED that**

- (i) the scope of the Leisure and Cultural Hub project, as set out in Report No. REG2307, as amended at the meeting, be approved as follows;
  - (a) Leisure and Cultural Hub to include:
    - Leisure Centre with the revised facilities mix, as set out in paragraph 3.12 of the Report
    - Shared café/bar with space for performance
    - Library and associated community space
    - Cultural space including art gallery, digital lab, collaboration space and studios
    - Customer access to Council and voluntary sector services
    - Council Offices
    - Meeting rooms
  - (b) Mobility Hub (circa 350 spaces)
  - (c) Skate park
  - (d) Play area;
- (ii) the progression of design development to RIBA Stage 3, planning submission and associated costs of up to £1,050 million, as set out in the Report, as amended at the meeting, be approved;
- (iii) the decision on the approach to sustainability for the building would be based on return-on-investment modelling and would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17th October, 2023;
- (iv) the project timetable, decision getaways and dependencies, as set out in the Report, be noted;
- (v) the intended land assembly process, as set out in the Confidential Appendix 1 of the Report, be approved;
- (vi) the estimated project budget and current funding strategy, as set out in the Report, be noted;
- (vii) the overall operator procurement and appointment approach, as set out in the Report, be approved;

- (viii) the immediate commencement of the operator procurement process, in accordance with the draft contract specification and conditions outlined in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Report, be approved;
- (ix) the Executive Head of Operations, in consultation with the Operational Services Portfolio Holder, be authorised to amend the procurement documentation, as required, throughout the process; and
- (x) the extending of the existing contract with Places Leisure to operate the Aldershot Pools and Lido, as set out in the Report, be approved, for a period of up to twelve months whilst the leisure operator procurement process is undertaken.

The Meeting closed at 7.32 pm.

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# CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Deputy Leader and Operational Services Portfolio Holder  
Cllr M.J. Tennant, Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder

Cllr J.B. Canty, Customer Experience, Transformation and Corporate Portfolio Holder

Cllr G.B. Lyon, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder  
Cllr P.G. Taylor, Finance Portfolio Holder

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Sue Carter.

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **30th October, 2023**.

Before the meeting started, a minute's silence was observed in respect of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine.

## **29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, no declarations of interest were made.

## **30. MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3rd October, 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **31. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME - REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT TASK AND FINISH GROUP –**

(Cllr Diane Bedford, Chairman of the Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2316, which set out the work carried out by the Council's Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group in respect of potential changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford, Chairman of the Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group, who was attending to report on the Group's recommendations.

The Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group had met on 24th July, 2023, 30th August, 2023 and 26th September, 2023 to consider its recommendations to the Cabinet. The Group had considered the on-going impact the cost of living rises and had paid specific attention to a number of matters during its deliberations and these were set out in paragraph 2 of the Report. Having considered all relevant factors, the Group had recommended that a consultation should be undertaken regarding the

removal of the 88% maximum liability used to calculate awards. This would mean that working age residents on the lowest incomes would no longer be expected to pay a 12% contribution.

The Cabinet expressed gratitude to the Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group for its work in producing these recommendations.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED that**

- (i) the undertaking of a public consultation on options around the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme regarding a scheme change to remove the 88% maximum liability used to calculate awards, as set out in Report No. FIN2316, be approved;
- (ii) the presentation of a report on the outcome of the consultation and any subsequent proposals to amend the Council Tax Support Scheme at the Cabinet meeting on 6th February, 2024 be noted; and
- (iii) the deliberations and considerations of the Council Tax Support Task and Finish Group in arriving at its recommendation in resolution (i) above, as set out in the Report and in Appendix 1 of the Report, be approved.

**32. LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA) INVESTMENT INTO PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS IN PARKS –**

(Cllr Maurice Sheehan, Operational Services Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. OS2314, which set out the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) programme of investment into public tennis courts in parks.

In introducing the Report and the LTA's proposals, the Operational Services Portfolio Holder informed the Cabinet that a representation had been received from Cllr Calum Stewart that had not been included in the Report or appendices. Cllr Stewart had raised concerns over the affordability, particularly to families, of the proposed charging structure. The Portfolio Holder also referred to photographs he had taken on Friday, 13th October to show the current condition of the tennis courts at Cove Green, Rectory Road and Manor Park. These photographs were now published on the Council's website.

Members were informed that the proposed agreement would result in the LTA funding renovation works to the value of £114,043 across the tennis courts at the above three sites. The scheme would involve the Council appointing an operator to run the booking system and other administration regarding the courts. Any surplus from the fees collected would be held in a sinking fund for the future maintenance of the tennis courts. The Report contained the full details of the LTA's proposals. In discussing the proposals, Members expressed concern that the fees should be set at as low as possible, whilst still making the scheme and the future maintenance of the courts viable. In that respect, it was decided to delegate the finalisation of the charging structure to the Executive Head of Operations, in consultation with the Operational Services Portfolio Holder.

The Cabinet expressed strong support for the scheme and considered that this would provide residents with excellent facilities for playing tennis.

### **The Cabinet**

(i) **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the LTA investment to renovate tennis courts at Manor Park, Cove Green Recreation Ground and Rectory Road Recreation Ground, in accordance with its investment in public tennis courts in parks scheme, as set out in Report No. OS2314, be approved;
- (b) the Executive Head of Operations, in consultation with the Corporate Manager – Legal and the Executive Head of Finance, be authorised to enter into the necessary funding agreement with the LTA to facilitate the grant award;
- (c) the appointment of an operator to run the booking system, administration of the parks' tennis courts and an outreach programme, at no cost to the Council, as set out in the Report, be approved;
- (d) the Executive Head of Operations, in consultation with the Operational Services Portfolio Holder, be authorised to research and implement an appropriate charging structure for the use of the parks' tennis courts, considering the comments made during the meeting in relation to the level of charges;
- (e) the use of Section 106 funding to replace the fencing across all three sites, as set out in the Report, be approved; and

(ii) **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that approval be given to the addition of £216,500 into the Capital Programme for 2023/24, funded from a combination of LTA grant and Section 106 contributions, as identified in paragraph 4.7 of Report No. OS2314.

33. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY AND BRITISH GURKHA VETERANS –**

(Mr Ian Harrison, Executive Director)

The Cabinet considered Report No. DEM2307, which set out the work carried out by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of support for the local armed forces community and British Gurkha Veterans.

Members were informed that the work had been carried out in response to a Notice of Motion that had been referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 6th July, 2023. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had held a Special Meeting on 7th September, 2023 to consider these matters and additional parties had been invited to give representations. The Committee had considered the representations that had been made and the information that had been provided. The findings of the

Committee and its recommendations for the Cabinet were set out in the Report under five headings:

- 1) Pensions for Gurkha Veterans
- 2) Disabled Facilities Grants
- 3) Employers Recognition Scheme – Gold Award
- 4) Single point of access in Rushmoor for advice – available to the whole military community
- 5) Build a stronger network between local organisations providing support for the military community

The Cabinet expressed gratitude to, in particular, the Cabinet Champion for the Armed Forces and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their work in producing these recommendations.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Report No. DEM2307, be approved, subject to any letter from the Council in respect of these matters being signed jointly by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Champion for the Armed Forces and the removal of any reference in the recommendations to the 'Shadow Armed Forces Champion'.

34. **FARNBOROUGH LEISURE AND CULTURAL HUB – APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY –**

(Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. REG23087, which set out a proposed approach to sustainability in relation to the Leisure and Cultural Hub project.

The Cabinet was reminded that, at its meeting on 3rd October, it had agreed that it would consider a report at this meeting to agree the approach to sustainability and investment in PassivHaus, based on a detailed piece of work carried out by the Council's architects, GT3, and cost consultants, Artelia, to look at the return on investment. The Report set out three options and, in discussing these, the Cabinet had no hesitation in supporting Option C which would result in full PassiveHaus certification. Members considered that, despite requiring a higher initial outlay, this option would be the best option for the Council in terms of payback period and sustainability credentials.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the proposed approach to design development pursuing full PassiveHaus accreditation, with the associated capital investment of £8,164,000, as set out in Report No. REG2308, be approved;
- (ii) the final decision to proceed with the implementation of the resulting design being subject to the overall affordability assessment, to be considered in June, 2024, be approved; and
- (iii) the additional costs for abortive fees and redesign, estimated at £880,000 (excluding VAT) and the delays to the programme, estimated at 10-12 weeks,

should a decision be taken not to proceed with the full PassivHaus design later in the project, be noted.

The Meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

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# CABINET

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21st November, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## Voting Members

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council  
Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Deputy Leader and Operational Services Portfolio Holder  
Cllr M.J. Tennant, Deputy Leader and Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder

Cllr J.B. Canty, Customer Experience, Transformation and Corporate Portfolio Holder

Cllr Sue Carter, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder

Cllr G.B. Lyon, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder

Cllr P.G. Taylor, Finance Portfolio Holder

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **4th December, 2023**.

### 35. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, no declarations of interest were made.

### 36. **MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th October, 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### 37. **COUNCIL PLAN AND RISK REGISTER QUARTERLY UPDATE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2023/24 –**

(Cllr Sue Carter, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet received Report No. ACE2308, which set out progress in delivering the Council Plan projects during the second quarter of 2023/24. Members were informed that progress against key activities and projects was included in the Report, along with the Council's business performance monitoring information and the Council's Corporate Risk Register. It was reported that, at the end of the second quarter, 90% of projects/activities were on track, with the remainder showing an amber status. No project had a red status.

In considering the Report, Members expressed satisfaction with the Council's performance levels and discussed matters around the uptake of digital services, the administration of fixed penalty notices, recycling and residual waste and missed bin collections.

**The Cabinet NOTED** the progress made towards delivering the Council Plan and the changes highlighted in the Corporate Risk Register, as set out in Report No. ACE2308.

38. **REVIEW OF THE RUSHMOOR LOCAL PLAN 2014-2032 –**  
(Cllr Gareth Lyon, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PG2334, which set out a review of the Rushmoor Local Plan.

The Cabinet was informed that the Council had been required to review the Rushmoor Local Plan in line with planning legislation. The review had been undertaken using the Planning Advisory Service's toolkit and this had highlighted actions that were required.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) in accordance with the conclusions of the review of the Rushmoor Local Plan and as set out in Report No. PG2334, the Local Plan policies are in need of updating; and
- (ii) the review of the Local Plan policies on a full update basis be approved.

39. **CAR AND CYCLE PARKING STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) –**  
(Cllr Gareth Lyon, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. PG2338, which set out the draft updated Car and Cycle Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and sought agreement for this to be published for consultation.

Members were informed that the purpose of this update was to reflect a number of factors, including changes to policy, recent town centre planning applications, 2021 Census data and factual changes since the adoption of the SPD in 2017. In discussing the proposal, Members were assured that parking standards in non-town centre locations would be protected and would remain unaltered according to this proposal.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that the draft Car and Cycle Parking Standards SPD be approved for public consultation.

40. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD - PROJECTS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH IN RUSHMOOR –**  
(Cllr Marina Munro, Chairman of Policy and Project Advisory Board)

The Cabinet considered Report No. ACE2310, which set out the work carried out by the Council's Policy and Project Advisory Board (PPAB) in respect mental health service provision in Rushmoor. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Marina Munro, Chairman of the Policy and Project Advisory Board, who was attending to report on the Board's recommendations.

Members were informed that, at its meetings in July and September, PPAB had considered evidence in relation to mental health service provision in Rushmoor, both in terms of prevention and treatment. The Board had also considered whether

residents would benefit from the Council signing the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health. It was noted that around £70,000 would be allocated for health-related projects from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) investment plan. The Board recommended that the whole allocation should be used specifically to support mental health projects. The Cabinet expressed gratitude to the Board in bringing forward these recommendations and considered that work should continue towards the Council signing the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health in due course.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED that**

- (iii) the full UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation for health-related projects being used specifically to support mental health projects when the proposals are brought to the Cabinet in February, 2024, as set out in Report No. ACE2310, be approved; and
- (iv) full support be expressed for the principles set out in the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health, as set out in the Report.

The Meeting closed at 7.42 pm.

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# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th September 2023 at the Council Offices,  
Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members:**

Cllr P.J. Cullum (Chairman)  
Cllr S. Trussler (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr C.W. Card  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr Christine Guinness  
Cllr Nadia Martin  
Cllr Nem Thapa  
Cllr Jacqui Vosper  
Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr K. Dibble attended the meeting in place of Cllr Sarah Spall

## **Non-Voting Member:**

Mr Tom Davies – Independent Member (Audit)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Sarah Spall.

## **16. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

## **17. EXECUTIVE HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER - MR PETER VICKERS**

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Vickers (Executive Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer) to his first meeting of the Committee and wished him well in his new post at Rushmoor.

## **18. ANNUAL OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT REVIEW LETTER 2023 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN**

The Committee received the Monitoring Officer's Report No. CS231907, which provided an update on the positive response and outcome of the Annual Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Complaint Review Letter.

It was noted that the LGSCO had received eight complaints directly from members of the public, of which four had been closed on initial enquiry, three had been referred back to the Council to be dealt with and one which had not been upheld. Members were satisfied that no detailed investigations had been carried out by the LGSCO during the review period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and this meant, therefore, that no recommendations for service improvement had been made by the LGSCO.

During discussion, it was suggested that future reports on the LGSCO Complaint Review Letter should contain more details about the complaints which had been referred back to the Council to deal with.

**RESOLVED:** That the Monitoring Officer's Report No. CS231907 be noted.

19. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND NON-TREASURY INVESTMENT OPERATIONS 2022/23**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Finance Report No. FIN2314, which set out the main activities of the Treasury Management and Non-Treasury Investment Operations during 2022/23, which was a statutory requirement under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

The Report advised that the Council's Treasury Team had continued to concentrate on the security of investments taking due regard of the returns available. The return on treasury management activity had been in line with the revised budget for 2022/23 and pooled funds had proved to be robust and had performed well. As a result of increased levels of borrowing, the Treasury Team continually reviewed the Borrowing Strategy, weighing up interest rate levels and risk of refinancing. The cost of both long and short-term borrowing had risen dramatically over the year, with rates at the end of March 2023 at around 2%-4% higher than those at the beginning of April 2023. Rate rises had been driven primarily by inflation and the need for central banks to control this by raising interest rates. It was further noted that borrowing levels had increased, which in turn raised the refinancing risk. The Committee was advised that levels and length of borrowing would be continually reviewed to mitigate refinancing risk.

The Committee noted that total borrowing on 31st March 2023 had been £120 million, which was a £20 million increase from 31st March 2022. The increased level of borrowing, together with the increased interest rate of borrowing, had resulted in an increased cost of borrowing of £0.865 million when compared to 2021-22.

The Committee was advised that the Council's non-treasury investments risk exposure on 31st March 2023 had been £125.9 million, of which £111.9 million was funded via external loans. The rate of return across all the Council's investments had been variable, however, the aggregate rate of return on all Council investments was in line with the estimated return for 2022/23 due to the cost associated with commercial property being clarified during the financial year.

During discussion, Members raised questions regarding: short and longer-term investments and whether it was now time to look at adjusting these; how the Council

managed the risks involved in having a portfolio of assets; and, the Council's credit rating.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Head of Finance Report No. FIN2314 be noted.

## **20. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS/EXTERNAL AUDIT OPINION - UPDATE**

The Chairman welcomed Kalthiemah Abrahams of Ernst & Young (EY), who joined the meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams. It was noted that work on the 2020/21 audit had commenced in late August and Council Officers were working through the process of providing information requested.

In respect of other outstanding audits, Ms Abrahams referred to guidance awaited from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in October on local authority audits and how to deal with the current audit delays.

The Committee received the final version of the Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31st March 2020, which had been circulated with the agenda. Members noted that Senior Management had accepted the recommendations contained in the Audit Letter and that action on these was already in hand.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) the update on the 2020/21 audit by Ernst & Young be noted; and
- (ii) the final version of the Audit Letter for the year ended 31st March 2020 be noted.

## **21. INTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT UPDATE**

The Committee received the Audit Manager's Report No. AUD2307, which set out: an overview of the work completed towards the 2023/24 Audit Plan; a progress update on the 2023/24 Audit Plan; and, a schedule of work to be delivered in Quarter 3. An update was also given at the meeting on the table showing a summary of progress to date, where two draft audit/audit follow-up reports had now been reviewed (instead of none, as set out in the report) and that three (instead of 4) were now in progress.

The Audit Manager advised the Committee that there were six audits that had not yet been allocated for staff to complete, however, it was her opinion that this would not impact her ability to provide an assurance at the end of the year. The Audit Plan was a risk based plan, with priority given to audits that needed to be completed in order to enable the Audit Manager to provide assurance. A few changes had been made to the Audit Plan to enable more assurance levels across the organisation.

The Audit Manager advised the Committee that work was being carried out, including the use of procurement frameworks, to employ contractors to carry out audit work, when required..

**RESOLVED:** That the Audit Manager's Report No. AUD2307 be noted.

## 22. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - ANNUAL UPDATE

The Committee considered the Corporate Manager of Legal Services Report No. LEG2301, which provided an update on how the Council had dealt with Freedom of Information (FOI) requests submitted during 2022/23.

The Committee was advised that there had been a 3% increase in response times in Quarter 1 of 2023/24 when compared with Quarter 4 of 2022/23. It was noted that there had been a 43.65% reduction in overdue requests since 7th June 2023 and it was hoped to be able to reduce this much further by December 2023.

The Corporate Manager of Legal Services advised that Rushmoor was among a large number of Councils that had fallen behind in answering FOI requests as a result of the Covid pandemic. It was noted that an action plan was in place to reduce the Council's backlog and that longer-term plans were being drafted to reduce the amount of time it took to respond to FOI requests, including publishing more information on the Council's website.

During discussion, the Corporate Manager of Legal Services undertook to provide regular updates on dealing with the backlog of FOI requests to be answered.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) the Corporate Manager of Legal Services Report No. LEG2301 be noted;
- (ii) the Corporate Manager of Legal Services be asked to review the FOI system for logging requests to make the system as robust as possible (assuming no additional budget for 2023/24); and
- (iii) Officers be asked to continue their work to reduce the number of overdue FOIs within the system by December 2023, following the Information Commissioner's Officer guidance notes.

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm.

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# DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr S.J. Masterson (Chairman)  
Cllr Marina Munro (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Jib Belbase  
Cllr P.J. Cullum  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr Michael Hope  
Cllr Halleh Koohestani  
Cllr Calum Stewart

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A.H. Gani, Cllr Sophie Porter and Cllr D. Sarki.

Cllr Christine Guinness, Cllr S. Trussler and Cllr G. Williams attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

## **Non-Voting Member**

Cllr G.B. Lyon (Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder) (ex officio)

### **30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

### **31. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September, 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

### **32. REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with the guidelines for public participation at meetings, and in particular major planning applications, the following representations were made to the Committee and were duly considered before a decision was reached:



<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>In support of or against the application</b>
23/00668/FULPP	No. 69 Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough	Mr Paul Rosewarne, No. 67a Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough	Against
23/00668/FULPP	No. 69 Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough	Ms Temi Agunbiade, Director - Beyond Vision Transitions, No. 141 Frimley Road, Camberley	In Support

### 33. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **RESOLVED:** That

- (ii) consideration be deferred to a future meeting for the following application:

23/00668/FULPP                      No. 69 Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough

- (iii) the following application be determined by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chairman:

\*            23/00519/FULPP                      Coltwood Business Centre, No. 3 Pickford Street, Aldershot

- (iii) the applications dealt with by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, where necessary in consultation with the Chairman, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, more particularly specified in Section "D" of the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2335, be noted

- (iii) the current position with regard to the following applications be noted pending consideration at a future meeting:

21/00271/FULPP                      Block 3, Queensmead, Farnborough

\*\*            22/00340/REMPP                      Land at Blandford House and Malta Barracks Development Site, Shoe Lane, Aldershot

23/00597/FULPP                      Land at No. 127 Orchard Rise, La Fosse House, No. 129 Ship Lane, and Farnborough Hill School, No. 312 Farnborough Road, Farnborough

\* The Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2335 in respect

of these applications was amended at the meeting.

\*\* It was agreed that site visits would be arranged to these sites

34. **ALDERSHOT BUS STATION - APPLICATION NO. 22/00029/FULPP**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2337 regarding Planning Application No 22/00022/FULPP – Proposed mixed re-development of site at Aldershot Bus Station, No. 3 Station Road, Aldershot. The Committee had been asked to authorise the removal of Condition No. 29, precluding re-development of the former Aldershot Bus Station site until alternative bus connection provision had been provided in the vicinity of the Aldershot Railway Station.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the condition be removed.

35. **ESSO PIPELINE PROJECT**

Katie Herrington, Principle Planning Officer, gave a verbal update to the Committee on the position regarding the agreement of all outstanding legal agreements including the Environmental Improvement Plan pursuant to the Development Consent Order for the renewal and partial realignment of the Southampton to London ESSO fuel pipeline which crossed the Borough of Rushmoor.

It was noted that all pipelines were now underground, covered and snagging was currently being carried out. It was expected that the new playground would be open by school half term in October and it had been agreed that the playground which was installed during works would be kept as a permanent facility. The playgrounds would be maintained by the Council going forward once hand over was complete.

In response to a query it was advised that cycle path lighting was being installed and the lighting units were being funded by ESSO.

**RESOLVED:** that the update be noted.

36. **APPEALS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2336 concerning the following appeal decisions:

<b>Application / Enforcement Case No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
23/00045/FULPP	A new appeal against the refusal of the erection of a two-storey side extension at No. 94 Field Way, Aldershot	New appeal to be determined

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2336 be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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# DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 at the Concorde Room, Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr Marina Munro (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Jib Belbase  
Cllr P.J. Cullum  
Cllr A.H. Gani  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr Michael Hope  
Cllr Halleh Koohestani  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr D. Sarki  
Cllr Calum Stewart (In the Chair)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr S.J. Masterson.

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford attended the meeting as a Standing Deputy.

## **Non-Voting Member**

Cllr G.B. Lyon (Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder) (ex officio)

### **37. CHAIRMAN**

Due to the absence of the Chairman (Cllr S.J. Masterson) and taking account that the two main items were situated in the ward of the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Marina Munro), the Committee AGREED to appoint Cllr Calum Stewart as the Chairman for the meeting.

### **38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

### **39. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October, 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

#### 40. REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the guidelines for public participation at meetings, and in particular major planning applications, the following representations were made to the Committee and were duly considered before a decision was reached:

Application No.	Address	Representation	In support of or against the application
23/00668/FULPP	No. 69 Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough	Ms Temi Agunbiade, Director - Beyond Vision Transitions, No. 141 Frimley Road, Camberley	In Support
2300597/FULPP	Land at No. 127 Orchard Rise, La Fosse House, No. 129 Ship Lane and Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough	Lisa Bevan 13 Woodland Crescent, Farnborough	Against
2300597/FULPP	Land at No. 127 Orchard Rise, La Fosse House, No. 129 Ship Lane and Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough	Mr George Britton Rushmoor Cycle Forum	Against
2300597/FULPP	Land at No. 127 Orchard Rise, La Fosse House, No. 129 Ship Lane and Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough	Thomas Rumble Woolf Bond Planning, The Mitfords, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading. RG7 1AT	In Support

#### 41. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) permission be given to the following application, as set out in Appendix “A” attached hereto, subject to the conditions, restrictions and prohibitions (if any) mentioned therein:

\*        23/00668/FULPP        No. 69 Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough

- (ii) permission be refused for the following application, as set out in Appendix "A" attached hereto:
    - \* 23/00597/FULPP Land at No. 127 Orchard Rise, La Fosse House No. 129 Ship Lane and Farnborough Hill School
  - (iii) the following application be determined by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, in consultation with the Chairman:
    - \* 23/00688/FULPP Redan Road Depot, Redan Road, Aldershot
  - (iv) The application was withdrawn by the applicant following publication of the agenda
    - 23/00602/FULPP No. 7 Avon Close, Farnborough
  - (v) the applications dealt with by the Executive Head of Property and Growth, where necessary in consultation with the Chairman, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, more particularly specified in Section "D" of the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2339, be noted
  - (vi) the current position with regard to the following applications be noted pending consideration at a future meeting:
    - 21/00271/FULPP Block 3, Queensmead, Farnborough
    - \*\* 22/00340/REMPP Land at Blandford House and Malta Barracks Development Site, Shoe Lane, Aldershot
    - 23/00713/FUL Manor Park Cottage, St. Georges Road East, Aldershot
    - 23/00765/FULPP Aldershot Park Crematorium, Guildford Road, Aldershot
- \* The Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2339 in respect of these applications was amended at the meeting.
- \*\* It was agreed that site visits would be arranged to these sites

42. **PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 23/00597/FULPP - LAND AT NO. 127 ORCHARD RISE, LA FOSSE HOUSE, NO. 129 SHIP LANE AND FARNBOROUGH HILL SCHOOL**

The Committee considered the Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2339 regarding the demolition of the existing care home and dwelling, repairs and works to the kitchen garden wall and the erection of 30 residential units, associated access works, drainage works, tree works, car parking and hard and soft landscaping at land at No. 127 Orchard Rise, La Fosse House, No. 129 Ship Lane and Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough.

Before consideration of the application, the Committee was addressed by Ms. Lisa Bevan and Mr George Britton in opposition and Mr Thomas Rumble in support of the application.

During consideration of the application, Members spoke of issues relating to the scale, height and proximity of the flatted development to the existing garden wall and the balance and harm to the conservation area and heritage aspects of the site. It was considered that, on balance the harm outweighed the public benefit of the scheme

The Committee agreed that the final wording of the refusal should be drafted for the Chairman's approval.

**RESOLVED:** That planning permission be refused, as set out in Appendix "A" attached hereto for the reasons mentioned therein.

#### 43. **APPEALS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2340 concerning the following appeal decisions:

<b>Application / Enforcement Case No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
23/00306/ADVPP	A new appeal against the refusal of planning permission for advertising consent at No. 41 Station Road, Aldershot	New appeal to be determined
23/00055/FULPP	Appeal against refusal of planning for the retention of boundary fencing and electric gates at No. 27 Church Road East, Farnborough	Appeal dismissed
23/00072/ADVPP	Appeal against refusal of advertising consent at Empire Banqueting and Hall, Aldershot	Appeal allowed

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2340 be noted.

#### 44. **PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT) SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE QUARTER JULY 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Committee received the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2341 which provided an update on the position with respect to achieving performance indicators for the Development Management Section of the Planning

Service and the overall workload of the Section for the quarter from 1st July to 30th September 2023.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Head of Property and Growth's Report No. PG2341 be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

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## Development Management Committee

### Appendix “A”

**Application No. & Date Valid:** 23/00597/FULPP

**14th January 2022**

**Proposal:** Demolition of the existing care home and dwelling, repairs and works to the kitchen garden wall and the erection of 30 residential units, associated access works, drainage works, tree works, car parking, hard & soft landscaping at Land At Orchard Rise 127 And La Fosse House 129 Ship Lane And Farnborough Hill School 312 Farnborough Road Farnborough Hampshire

**Applicant:** Tom Rumble

- Reasons:**
- 1 The proposed development, by virtue to its bulk and massing, and proximity to the Curtilage Listed Wall, and prominence within the Farnborough Hill Conservation Area and Grade 1 Listed Building Farnborough Hill, would result in harm to the significance of the Heritage Assets (Grade 1 Listed Building + Curtilage Listed Wall, and Farnborough Hill Conservation Area). Such identified harm would not be outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal. The proposal would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, and Policy HE2 and HE3 of the Local Plan.  
.
  - 2 In the absence of a satisfactorily completed S106 agreement, the proposals fail to make satisfactory provision for public open space in accordance with the requirements of policy DE6 of the adopted Rushmoor Local Plan (2014-2032).  
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  - 3 In the absence of a satisfactorily completed S106 agreement, the proposal fails to secure satisfactory provision of Affordable Housing in accordance with the requirements of Policy LN2 of the adopted Rushmoor Local Plan (2014-2032)
  - 4 In the absence of a satisfactorily completed S106 agreement, the proposed development makes no provision to address the likely significant impact of additional residential units on the objectives and nature conservation interests of the Thames Basin Heaths

Special Protection Area. The proposals are thereby contrary to the requirements of retained South East Plan Policy NRM6 and Policy NE1 of the Rushmoor Local Plan (2014-2032).

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 21st September, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr K. Dibble (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Jessica Auton  
Cllr Jules Crossley  
Cllr Mara Makunura  
Cllr S.J. Masterson  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr S. Trussler

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A. Adeola.

Cllr Nem Thapa attended the meeting as Standing Deputy.

## **14. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING**

The Committee welcomed District Commander Gillian Cox, Hampshire Police and David Lipscombe, Community Safety Manager, who were in attendance to update on current issues across the Borough, and to address the matters in the Notice of Motion on Youth Crime Prevention raised at the Council meeting in April, 2023, which had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee received a presentation which covered, roles and responsibilities of the Community Safety Team, data on the local police establishment and details of their roles, the Community Safety Partnership and its strategic assessment and partnership plan and current priorities for both the Community Safety Team and the Police, including data on crime types related to young people.

Since Hampshire County Council (HCC) had removed funding for youth provision, it was advised that some organisation had continued to operate, however no provision had continued in Rushmoor. The Community Safety Partnership offered some initiatives including Safer Streets, Think Safe, Choices and Fighting Chance. It was also noted that the Council offered some provision for young people including, Prospect Youth Club (Farnborough), Rushmoor Youth Influence and a Youth Café, currently being developed in Aldershot, through the Community and Partnerships Team.

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised a number of comments and queries, including:

- Police Community Support Offices (PCSO) – It was noted that changes were anticipated for the role of the PCSO going forward. It was advised that there was currently live recruitment for PCSOs, however potential applicants were opting to apply to be Police Constables (PC) instead, and existing PCSOs and call handlers were moving on to become PCs, resulting in a high turnover of staff. The Committee noted that the issue was currently being looked into.
- Reporting – following concerns raised by residents to Members relating to reporting crime, not being able to get through on 101, and the general feeling that some crimes weren't followed up on by police, it was noted that the police would always encourage reporting to help build a picture of patterns and trends. Reporting through the online portal allowed for engagement with those reporting. It was felt that better communication with the community, in particular on positive outcomes, was something that should be developed further.
- CCTV – The Committee requested data on the impact of the move to Runnymede of the CCTV operation.
- Area Cars - it was noted that the proposal was for one area car per team (one based in Rushmoor and one in Hart).
- New Named Beat Officers – these officers would be deployed in certain areas as a single point of contact for residents. It was noted that the areas were yet to be determined but Members would be updated once these were confirmed. The appointment of named beat officers would assist with beat surgeries held in local wards in conjunction with ward Councillors, promoting engagement with residents.
- Call Handling time data - A request was made for data on call handling and it was advised that the SLA for 999 and 101 calls would be shared with the Committee.
- Choices – It was noted that the Choices initiative ran by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) had had an impact in the schools that had engaged, however the uptake was advised to be low in Rushmoor, and Members were asked to encourage their local schools with Year 6 and 7 cohorts to consider running the initiative with their pupils. The details would be circulated.
- Aldershot Park – following an incident in Aldershot Park, earlier in the year, when the ward had been identified as “an area of concern”, updated information would be shared with Members which detailed “areas of concern” to the VRU.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – it was suggested that ASB figures seemed comparatively high for the area that Rushmoor covered. It was noted that a comparison would be made on the previous year's figures and a report made to the Committee. The Committee were advised that the current Strategic

Assessment gave more information on ASB and crime data generally, including comparisons with previous years.

- Traveler Community – during a discussion regarding land occupied at times by the traveler community, it was noted that legislation sometimes prevented the police from taking any action to remove camps and the ultimate responsibility lay with the land owner.
- Community Safety Survey – it was advise that over 700 people had responded to the survey, which had been the first of its kind. Respondents' age would be looked at going forward and consideration would be given to targeting the younger population, through engagement with schools and colleges.

#### ACTIONS:

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
Share CCTV data following move to Runnymede	David Lipscombe – Community Safety Manager	October, 2023
Named Beat Officers – details to be shared with Members once available	District Commander - Gillian Cox	November, 2023
SLA data on 999 and 101 calls to be shared	District Commander – Gillian Cox	October, 2023
Circulate information on the Choices initiative to all Members	David Lipscombe – Community Safety Manager	October, 2023
VRU updated “areas of concern” information to be shared with Members	District Commander – Gillian Cox	October, 2023
Comparative data on ASB figures to be shared with Members	District Commander – Gillian Cox	October, 2023

The Chairman thanked District Commander Cox and Mr. Lipscombe for their reports and contribution to the meeting.

#### 15. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan and arrangements for the next Progress Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

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# POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## Voting Members

Cllr Jessica Auton (Vice-Chairman) In the Chair

Cllr Jib Belbase

Cllr Michael Hope

Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Cllr M.J. Roberts

Cllr Calum Stewart

Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr G. Williams

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Marina Munro, Cllr A. Allen and Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo.

Cllr P.J. Cullum attended as Standing Deputy.

## 8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

## 9. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Board welcomed James Knight, Service Manager – Place Protection and a David Lipscombe, Community Safety Manager, who were in attendance to guide the discussion around four policy areas which would inform the drafting of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

The four policy areas for discussion were as follows:

**Principles** – during discussion on this area the Board suggested that the links to other policies, such as the Communications, Supporting Communities and Safeguarding Policies, should be broadened. It was also felt that the principles for dealing with anti-social behaviour (ASB), as set out in the draft policy, should be featured nearer the beginning of the document.

**Response Times** – following discussions it was noted that:

- An auto response feature be introduced when reports were made online or via phone, indicating how the response would be dealt with
- In the case of an emergency, emergency contact numbers to be included in auto response

**Reporting** – it was suggested that once a report had been received, the following actions could be taken:

- A case reference number could be provided
- Reports be graded via a triage system to determine urgency/need etc.
- Agree terms on feedback at initial contact (method/format/frequency of feedback), the Board felt it important to keep the informant up to date with progress on their case
- Consideration be given to ways of recording contact to enable better analysis of trends and tracking of repeat offenders.

The Board also felt that the Council could do more to raise awareness by promoting what powers the Council has when dealing with ASB, this could be linked to Communications Service Plan.

**Enforcement** – the discussion highlighted the need to ensure that the nature of enforcement reflected what was reported and that each case should be assessed on its own merits. In general discussion on this area, the Board commented on the following:

- Targeting issues to prevent escalation
- Consider best practice at other local authorities

It was recommended that the next steps would be for the Community Safety Team to consider the Boards comments and work to incorporate them into the draft Policy. A copy of the draft Policy would then be considered at the Progress Group on 1st November, 2023.

The Chairman thanked Mr Knight and Mr Lipscombe.

#### 10. **HAMPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY - MENTAL HEALTH CONCORDAT**

At the previous meeting, the Board considered evidence in relation to mental health provision (both in terms of prevention and treatment) in Rushmoor. The Board explored current activity supporting mental wellbeing and the prevention of mental illness in the Borough. The Board also considered whether the Council should sign the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health and considered what benefit this would have for our residents. The Concordat was an initiative led by Public Health England (PHE) to facilitate local and national action around preventing mental health problems and promoting good mental health and committed organisations to work together to keep people mentally well.

The Board noted that since the last meeting, work had been undertaken to understand where the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health fitted into work that was already progressing within the Borough and to better understand what the benefits of signing it would be for the Council. The results of this work were considered by the Board and it was concluded that, for now, priority would be given to local mental health prevention activity over the steps required to sign the Concordat.

Following the discussion, the Board made the following recommendations to be made to the Cabinet:

- That a series of mental health prevention activities be supported through the Council's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This would be in line with the Council's investment plan which proposed using approximately £70,000 of UKSPF in 2024/25 for projects to support health and wellbeing. In light of the evidence that the Board has reviewed, it is recommended that the full allocation be used specifically to support mental health projects when the proposals are brought to Cabinet in February 2024.
- That whilst it is not proposed that the Council sign the Concordat at this stage, the Council should publicly express its full support for the principles set out in the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion.

## 11. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the Current Work Plan.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Thursday, 9th November, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr K. Dibble (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A. Adeola  
Cllr Gaynor Austin  
Cllr Jules Crossley  
Cllr Mara Makunura  
Cllr S.J. Masterson  
Cllr Sophie Porter  
Cllr S. Trussler

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jessica Auton.

Cllr P.J. Cullum attended as Standing Deputy.

## **16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 7th September and 21st September, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

## **17. CALL-IN - LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA) INVESTMENT INTO PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS IN PARKS**

The Committee was advised of the submission of a request to call-in the resolution made by the Cabinet on 17th October, 2023 in relation to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Investment into Public Tennis Courts in Parks. The request for call-in had been submitted by Cllrs Becky Williams, Gareth Williams, Halleh Koohestani, Abe Allen and Christine Guinness.

The Committee was advised that should the call-in request be rejected the decision made by the Cabinet on 17th October, 2023 would take effect as of 10th November, 2023. If the call-in request was accepted, a report would be made to Cabinet at its next meeting on 21st November, 2023.

Cllr Becky Williams attended the meeting to present the call-in request and the reasons behind it. The Committee noted the reasons, which included, that:

- there had been inadequate evidence that the agreed plan aligned with priorities set out in the Council Plan relating to improved health and wellbeing and access to facilities to promote healthy and active lifestyles;

- the consultation survey had not targeted particular user groups or households that the Council wished to encourage participation from;
- there was inadequate evidence that the agreed plan was affordable for residents, in particular those of low income;
- by delegating the decision on the charging structure and operator selection to officers, the impact on participation across all residents had not clearly been prioritised or targeted;
- a clear plan of recommendation for the provider had not been made, and;
- no alternative funding options had been considered for the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

Cllr Sheehan, Operational Services Portfolio Holder, addressed the meeting on behalf of the Cabinet. Cllr Sheehan advised that the Department for Culture Media and Sports had provided the LTA with £22million of funding, which would be further topped up with LTA funds to provide circa £33million to invest into the provision of public tennis courts in parks. It was noted that the LTA would prioritise investment to authorities with an existing stock of courts, where some/all were in the poorest of condition. Rushmoor's public tennis courts had been identified as being within this category.

It was advised that the LTA had undertaken technical assessments of Rushmoor's three park tennis sites to fully understand the cost of the works required to ensure they were all fit for purpose. It was noted that an offer had been made of £114,043 from the LTA to fund the improvements. By entering into the agreement with the LTA, the Council would be agreeing to a "book and play" system with a managed and affordable charging model, with aspects of free tennis. The overriding purpose of the proposed charging model had been to create a sinking funding for future maintenance.

Following a discussion on the issues raised, it was proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr K. Dibble that:

"consideration be given by the Cabinet to give direction to officers to look at additional funding to provide more free tennis for residents - in addition to the provisions set out within the LTA agreement".

The Committee voted FOR: 4; AGAINST: 6 and the proposal was declared lost.

In summing up, Cllr Becky Williams and Cllr M.L. Sheehan each responded to the discussion. In response to a query regarding the amount of free tennis that would be available, Cllr Sheehan advised that until the procurement process had been carried out and charging levels had been determined, an answer could not be given, however there was a concrete assurance that free tennis would be available.

The Chairman then asked the Committee to vote for or against the decision being referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

There voted FOR: 4; AGAINST: 6 and the call-in request to refer the decision back to the Cabinet was declared lost. Therefore, it was advised that the decision made by

the Cabinet at its meeting on 17th October, 2023 would become effective from 10th November, 2023.

## **18. ARTS AND CULTURE (CULTURAL COMPACTS)**

The Committee welcomed Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager who was in attendance to give a presentation on the work being undertaken by the Council in collaboration with Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), Arts Council England (ACE) and other partners, around arts and cultural activity in the Borough.

It was advised that Rushmoor had been identified as one of eleven authorities in the ACE South West Region as a priority place, with a high need and opportunity to increase arts and cultural activity in the place. As a result of this, the Council had commissioned a Cultural Strategy to inform planning and investment over the next ten years and to provide a delivery plan for the next five years. A Cultural Compact (Partnership), had also been established. The aim of these partnerships was to provide help and support to make step changes in strategic governance of culture, which would help more people and more places benefit from engaging with cultural opportunities. The Compact must link the cultural sector to broader aspirations and priorities intersecting with the ambitions of health agencies, business, universities and other sectors.

The Committee noted the key priorities for the work in the short term, which included:

- building capacity through the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), Cultural Development Manager
- town centres – by growing and enhancing core events and delivering more activities in our town centres
- town centre regeneration – through the Leisure and Cultural Hub and potentially ACE Place Partnership funding which could see a three year programme of activity in Farnborough
- use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to stimulate new events and arts, cultural and heritage activity

In response to a query, it was advised that town centre activities undertaken so far had largely been funded by the Council, however, an expression of interest would be submitted, prior to Christmas, for some Place Partnership funding. If successful, it was anticipated that funds would become available early in the new financial year and would cover a three year period. It was also noted that some funding would be available through project grants for individual organisations.

Following a discussion it was recommended that activities should be available to all residents and consideration should be given to targeting the least culturally engaged communities. It was also felt important to, not just enhance existing events, but to create new events going forward.

**ACTION:**

<b>What</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By When</b>
Share the details of the Cultural Strategy Action Plan with the Committee	Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager	November 2023
Return to the Committee in 6-12 months' time to provide an update on the work	Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager	June - November 2024

The Chairman thanked Mr McQuade for his presentation.

## 19. CLIMATE CHANGE - SCORECARDS

The Committee welcomed Rachel Barker, Assistant Chief Executive and Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer, who were in attendance to provide a presentation on the recently published Climate Change Scorecards. Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder, was also in attendance.

The Committee were made aware that the first set of Climate Change Scorecards, which had been based on the Climate Change Action Plan in 2021, in which the Council had achieved a score of 46%, compared to a district average of 43%. The current set of scorecards had been based on Climate Change action, between January 2019 and January 2023, and the Council had achieved a score of 20%, compared to a district average of 29%.

The process and methodology was described, which included consultation, questioning with criteria and clarification, and information gained through Freedom of Information requests. It was also noted that each section had been weighted differently. The Committee were advised that the Council had scored highly in biodiversity and, collaboration and engagement, but lower in areas such as transport – due to levels of nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5 levels, governance and finance, and, planning and land use, due to the Council's Local Plan having been published prior to the Climate Emergency being declared.

It was noted that since the scores had been published, councils had been given the opportunity to query the scores. It was advised that a number of queries had been made in response to the achieved scores for Rushmoor.

The Committee received a brief update on the Climate Change Action Plan, which would be presented in full at a future meeting of the Committee.

Following a discussion with regard to the Local Plan, it was noted that the process to produce a new Plan was complex and took considerable time. The existing Plan, which ran until 2032, would be updated and the new Plan would address the Climate Emergency in greater detail.

**ACTION:**

<b>What</b>	<b>Whom</b>	<b>When</b>
Share the carbon footprint information with the Committee	Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer	November, 2023

The Chairman thanked Ms Barker and Rogers for their presentation.

**20. WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

The meeting closed at 10.08 pm.

CLLR M.D. SMITH (CHAIRMAN)

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