

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 25m² 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 3rd 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

APPENDIX A

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

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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

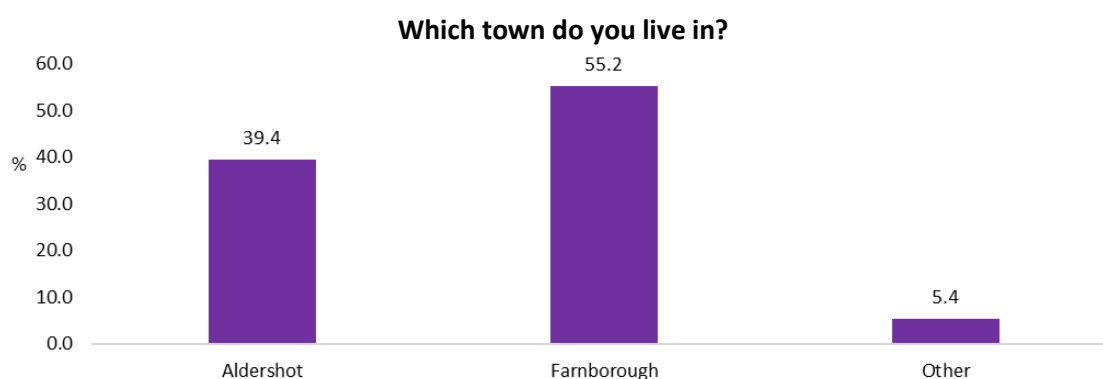
Have you completed this survey as a group, or on behalf of a group?

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.



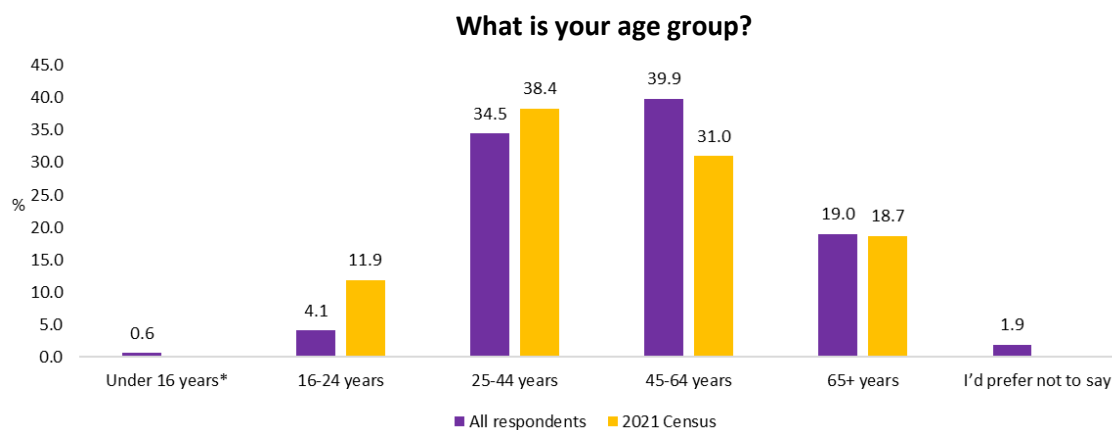
Of the 17 respondents that indicated 'other' (all those mentioned more than once):

- 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.

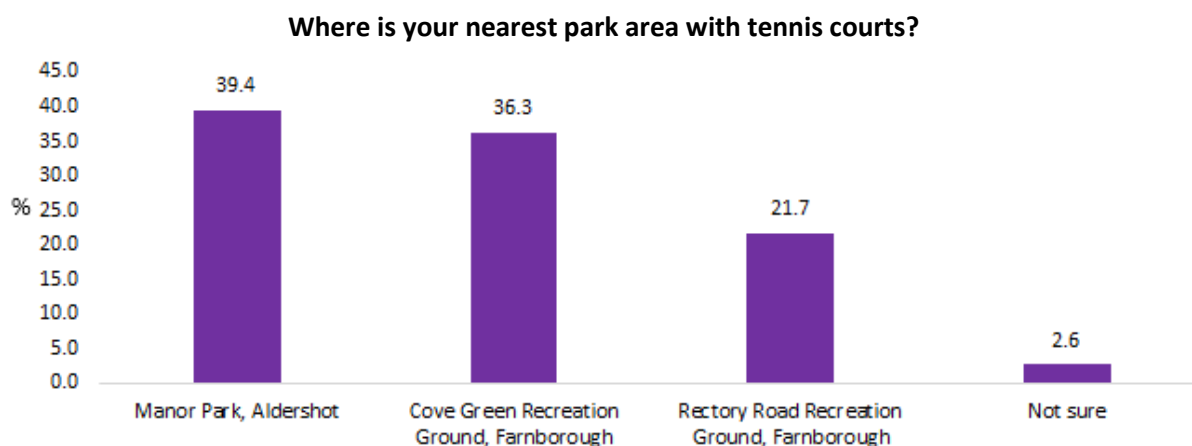
The top three factors that would encourage non-user to start using the tennis court were better court facilities (45.2%), followed by free access to tennis (40.1%) and then followed by the ability to book in advance (36.9%).

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

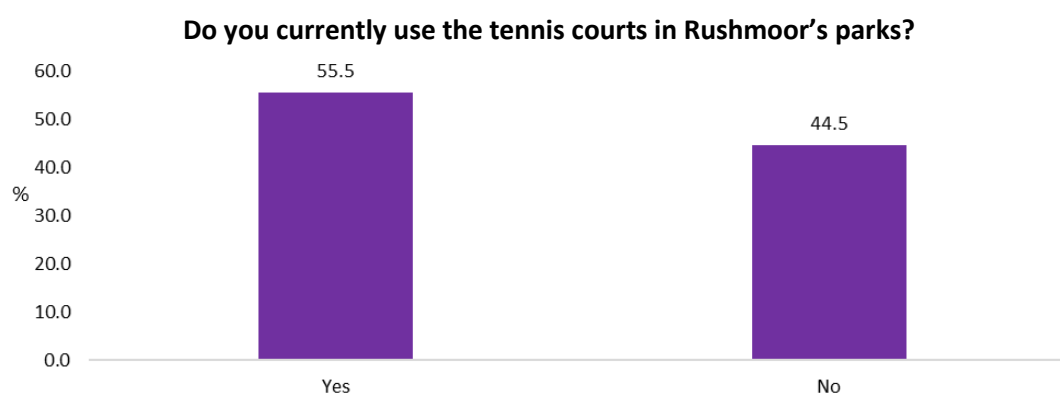
Question 1: Where is your nearest park area with tennis courts?

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?

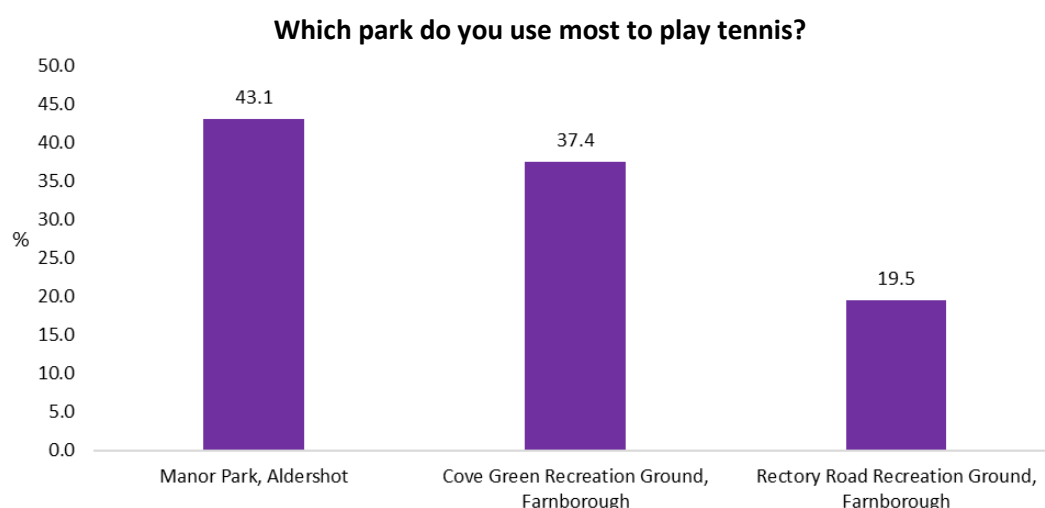
In total 383 respondents complete this question. The majority of respondents (55.5% - 213 respondents) indicated that they currently use the tennis courts in Rushmoor's parks.



These questions were for those who answered yes to question 2

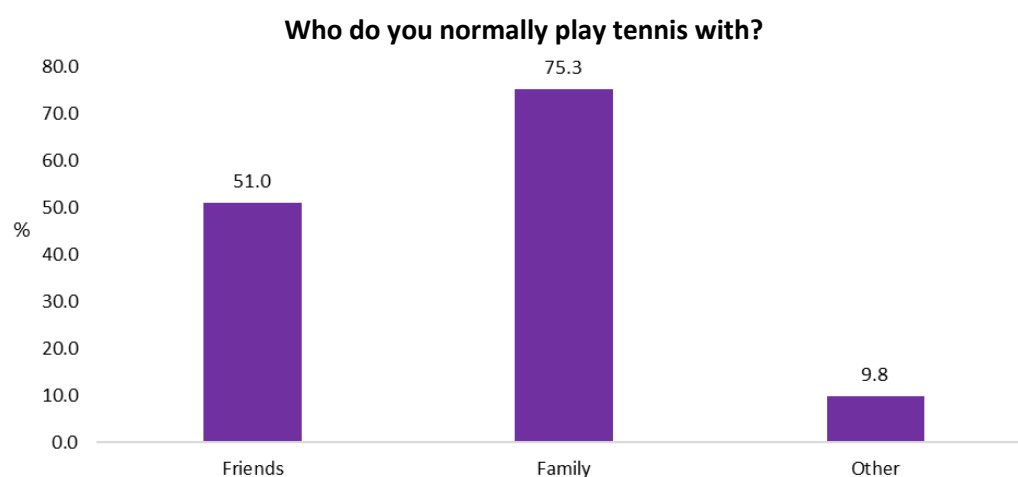
Question 3: Which park do you use most to play tennis?

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'.

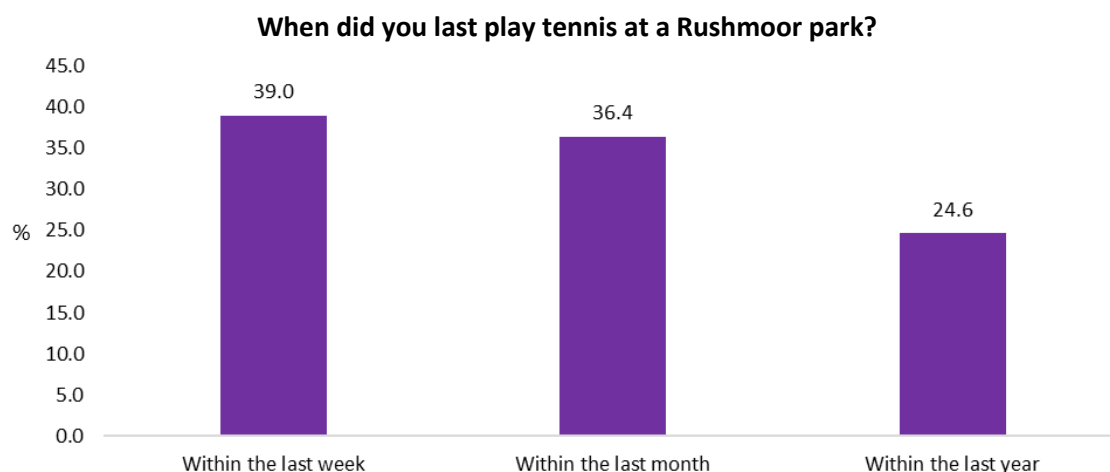


Of the 19 respondents that indicated that they play tennis with 'other', the main themes of the comments were (all those mentioned more than once):

- 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).

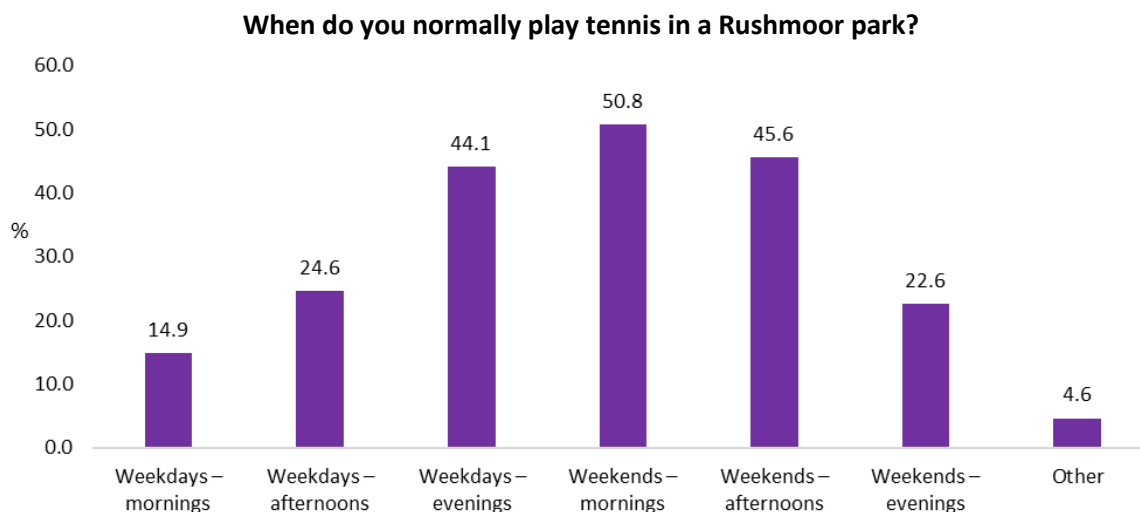
Question 5: When did you last play tennis at a Rushmoor park?

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).

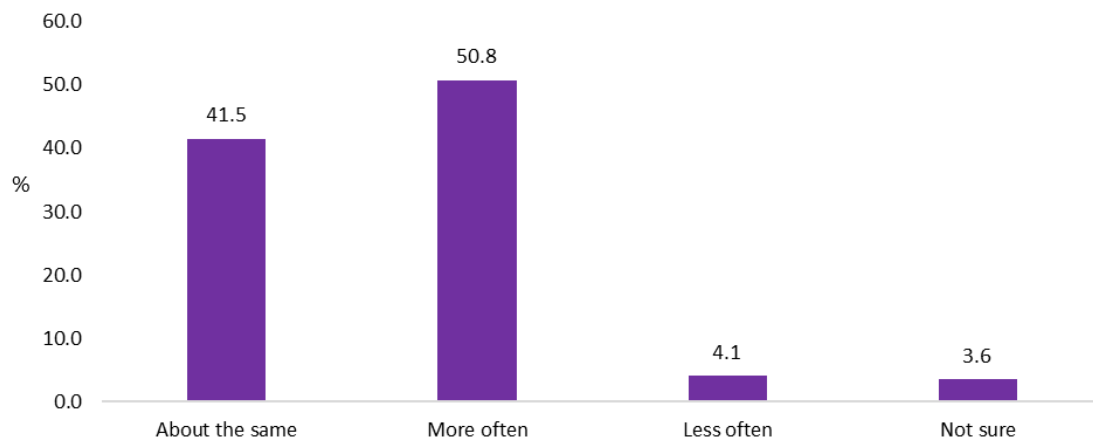


Of the nine respondents that indicated 'other' the main theme of responses was school holidays (mentioned in around five comments).

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

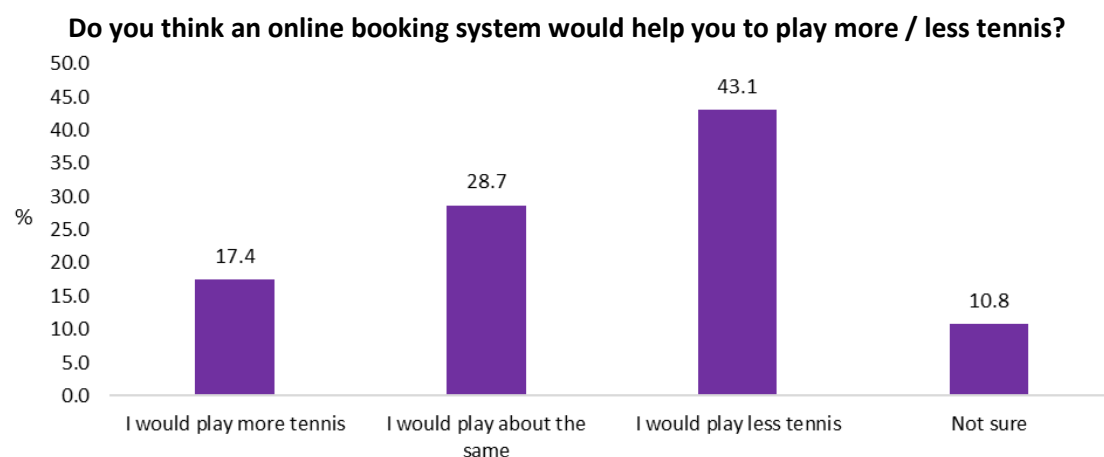
In total 195 respondents completed this question. 41.5% (81 respondents) indicated that they would play more tennis if the courts were improved, 50.8% (99 respondents) indicated that they would play the same amount of tennis, 4.1% (8 respondents) indicated that they would play less tennis and 3.6% (7 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?

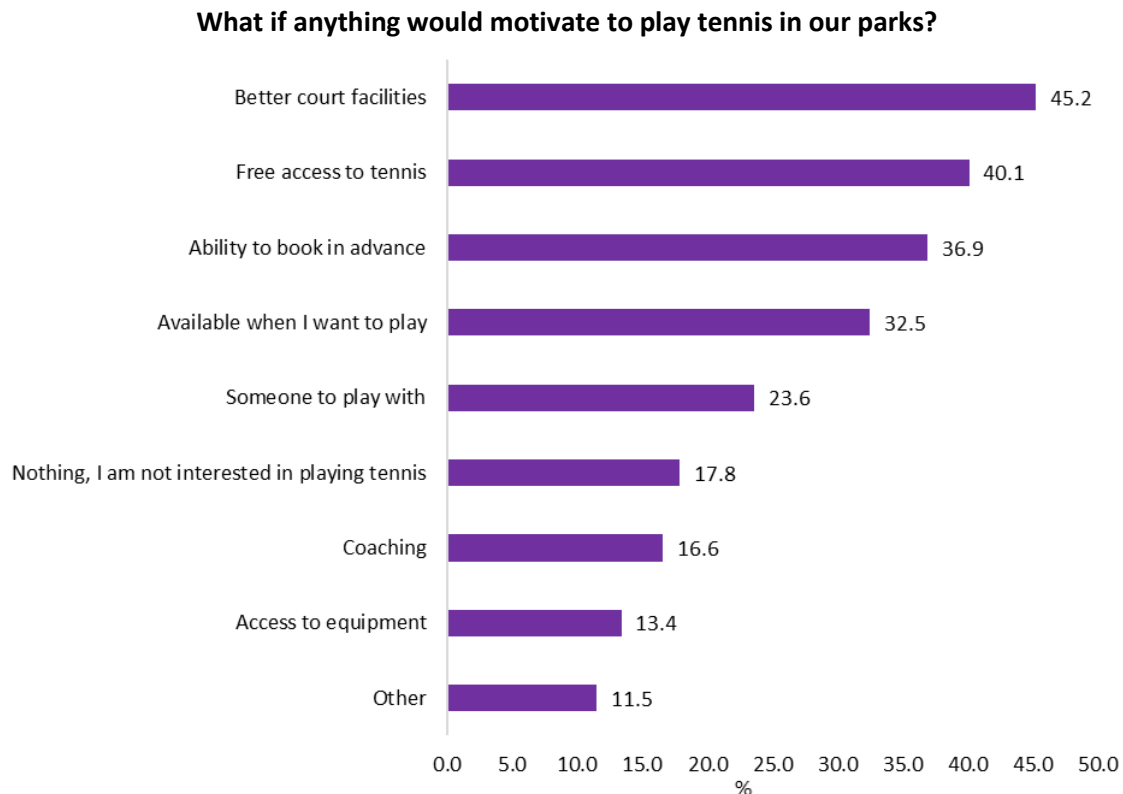
In total 195 respondents completed this question. 17.4% (34 respondents) indicated that they would play more tennis if there was an online booking system, 28.8% (56 respondents) indicated that they would play the same amount of tennis, 43.1% (84 respondents) indicated that they would play less tennis 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

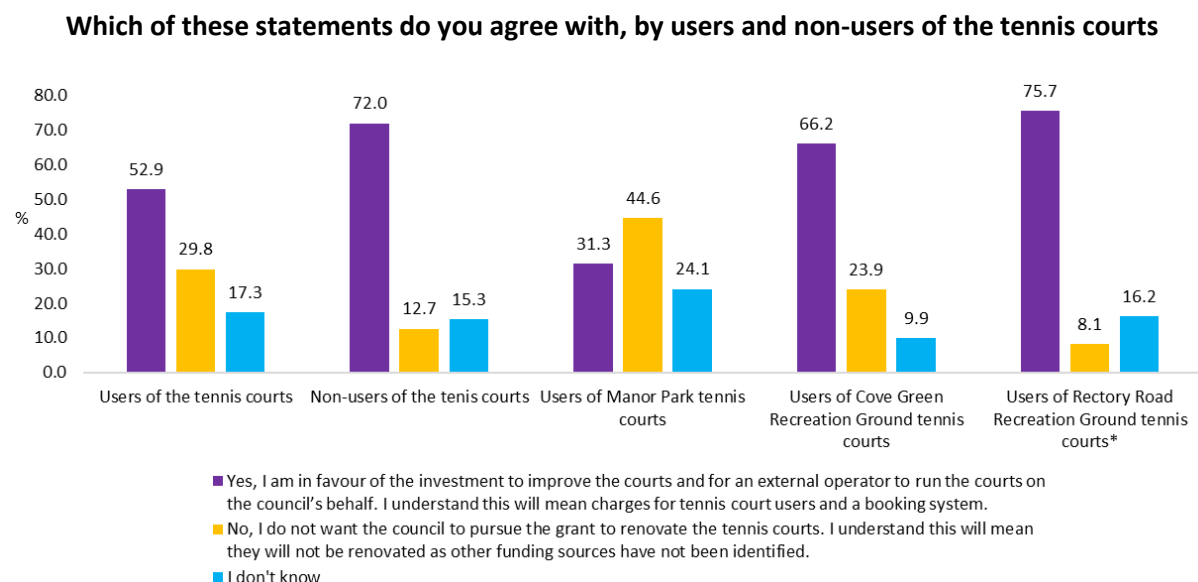
Question 10: Which of these statements do you agree with?

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.



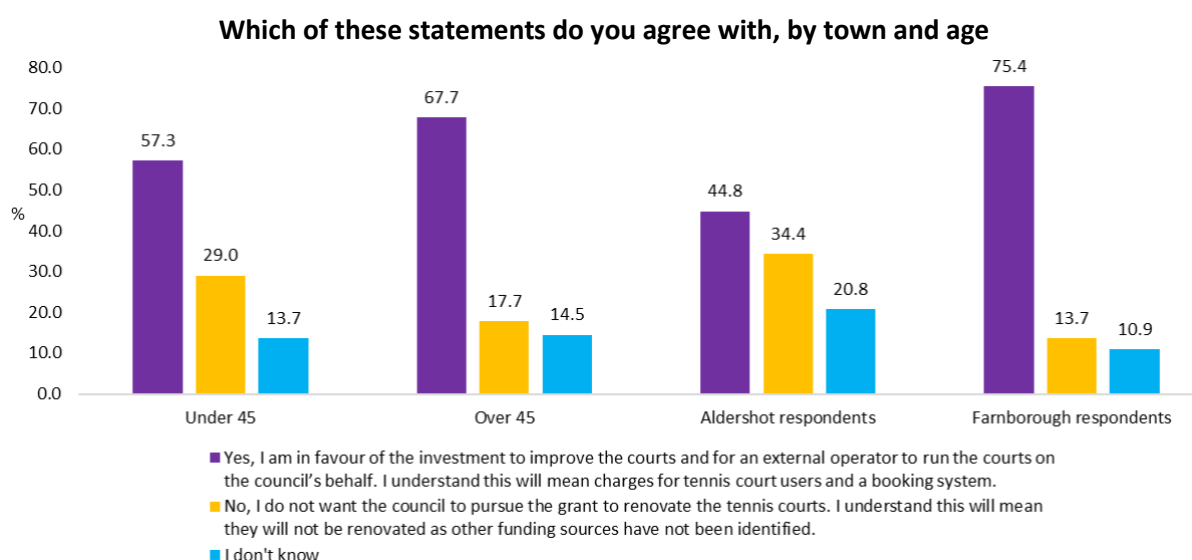
However, there is difference in the results by users of the the tennis courts and non- users of the tennis courts. A higher percentage of non-users are in favour (72.0% - 108 respondents), than the users of the tennis courts (52.9% - 101 respondents).

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)

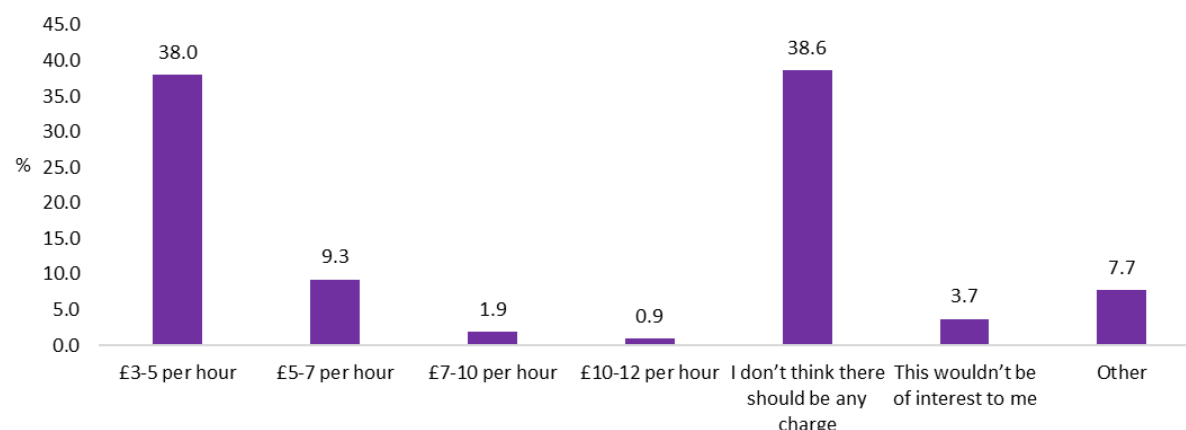
Those in the older age groups and those from Farnborough were more likely to be in favour of the investment.



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?

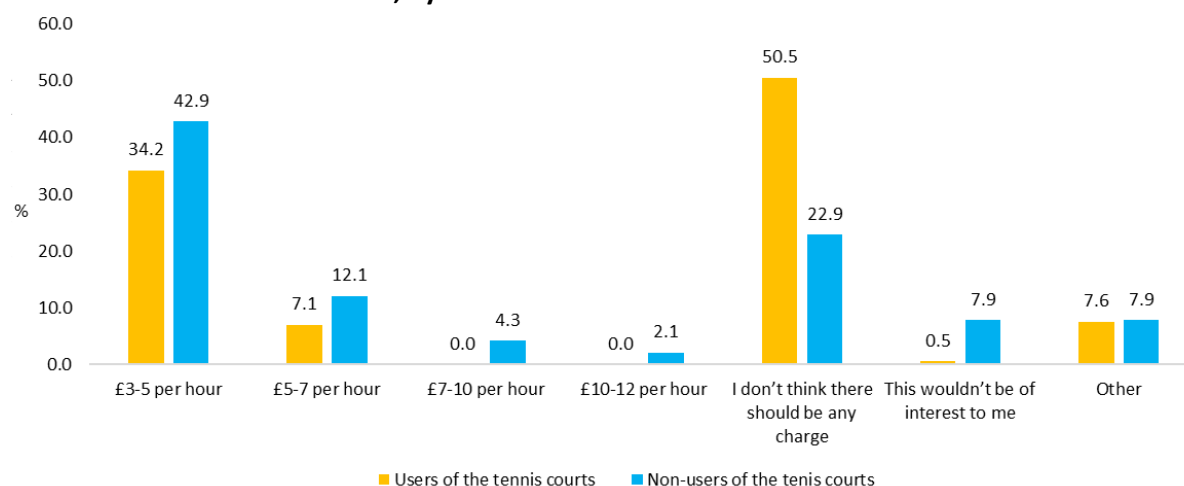


25 respondents (7.7%) indicated 'other' and the main themes of the responses were (all those mentioned more than once):

- £1-2 per hour (mentioned in around seven comments)
- Should be kept 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?

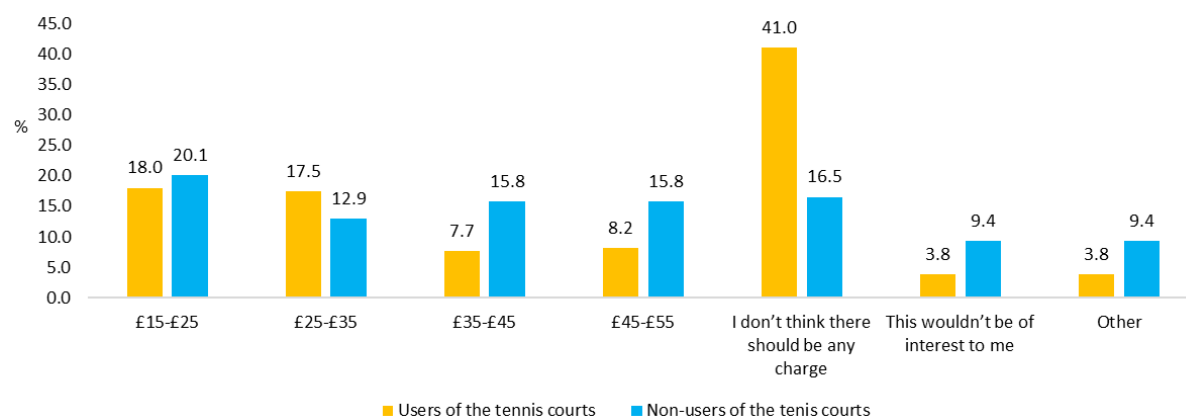


20 respondents (6.2%) indicated 'other' and the main themes of the responses were (all those mention more than once):

- 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.

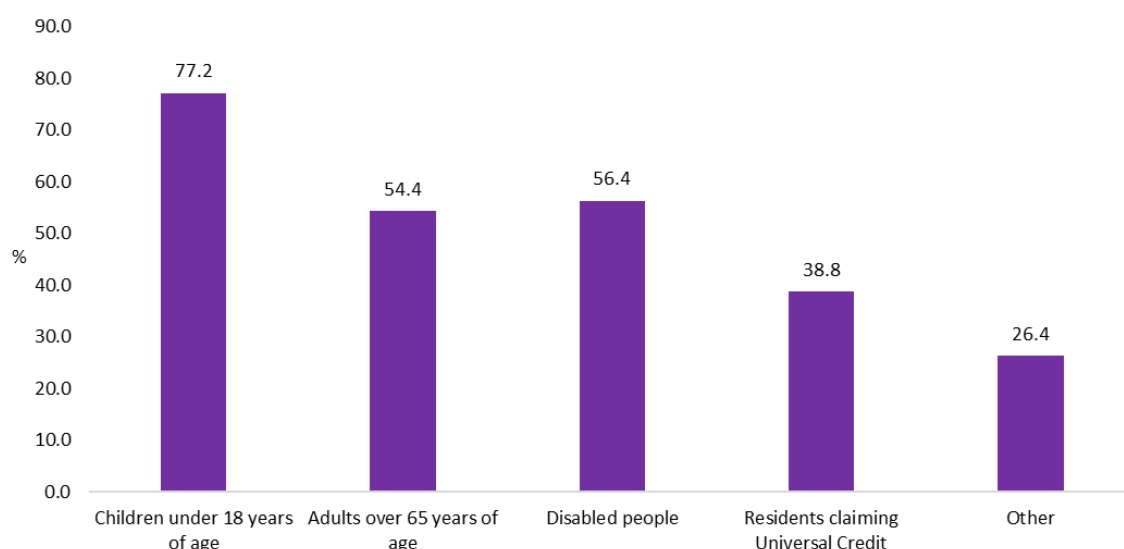
If there was an 'Annual Pass' available for a household to play all year round for a set fee (with no further charges) what do you think the price should be?



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?



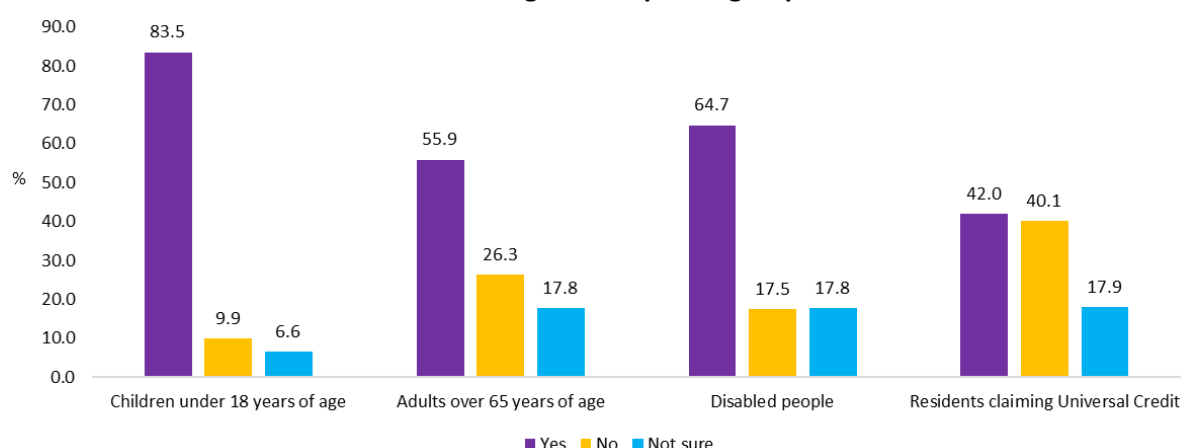
81 respondents (26.4%) indicated 'other' and the main themes of the responses were (all those mention over five times):

- 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).

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

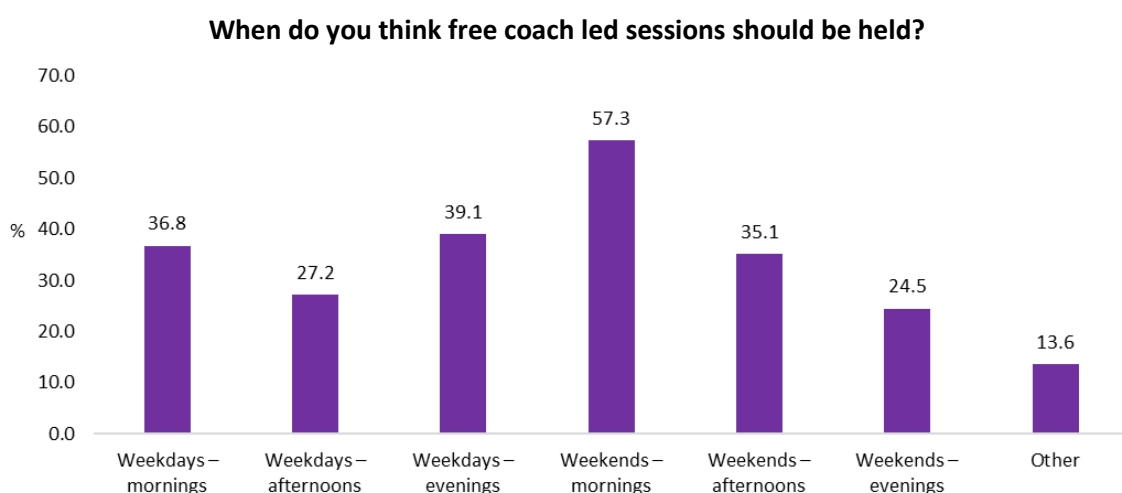


This question had an 'other' comment box and 41 respondents completed this part of the question. The main themes of the responses were (all those mention over five times):

- 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'.

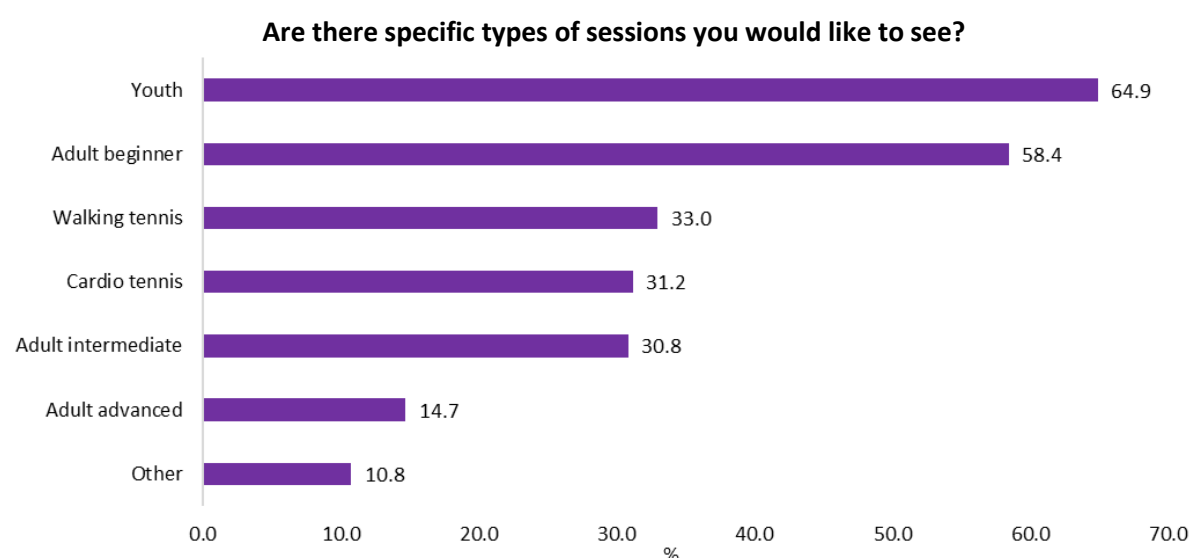


This question had an ‘other’ comment box and 41 respondents completed this part of the question. The main themes of the responses were (all those mention over five times):

- 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):

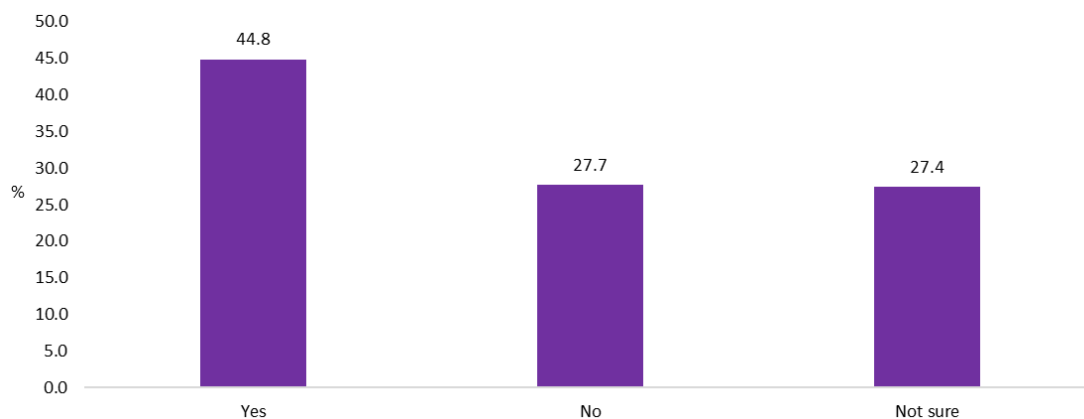
- Keep free / free access (mentioned in around 6 comments)

- 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

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

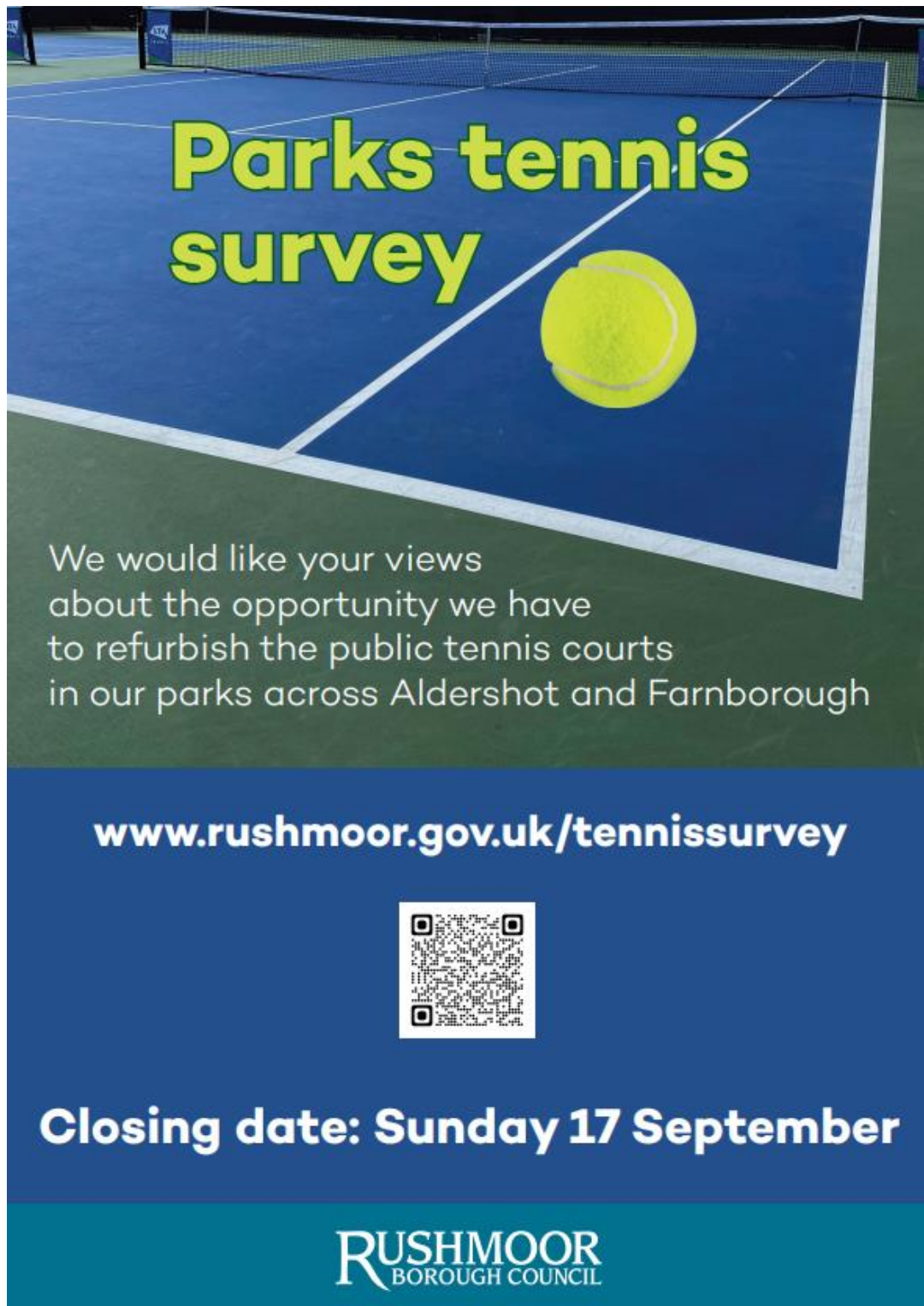
Finally

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



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