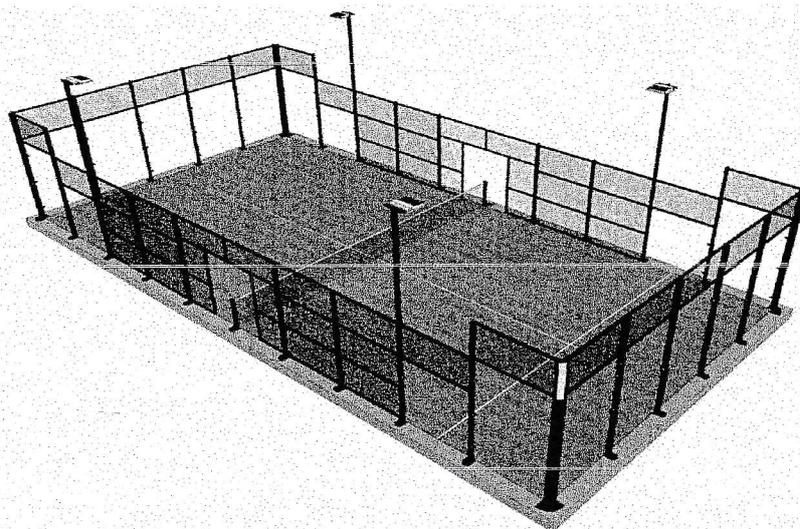


2. Design Proposal

The padel courts are designed in accordance with LTA and SAPCA guidance to meet the needs of the sport. Each court is 20m x 10m and is enclosed by metal posts which are infilled with clear toughened glass and metal open mesh panels. This creates a light and airy outdoor feel to the courts. The proposal is for black powder coated metalwork. The surface is covered in artificial grass which is a typical tennis court surface and would be blue or green in colour. Standard tennis fencing typically ranges from 3m to 3.8m high and the padel court structure is a 3m to 4m high. Existing tennis floodlight columns are understood to be around 8m and 9m high and the padel columns are significantly lower at 6m high. The padel project will create two covered outdoor padel tennis courts which can be used throughout the year.

Typical Court diagram (without canopy for clarity)



The canopy structure (not shown) is designed to comply with LTA guidance on heights which have been selected to allow uninterrupted play in all weathers. The canopy fabric can be green or white in colour.

The canopy has open sides that allow for good ventilation into the courts which makes it a safe covid friendly covered outdoor space that can be used for wet weather provision for other activities.

4. Access

The court access is via an automated wi-fi controlled gate system. This can be accessed by anyone via online booking and so play on the courts is not restricted only to club members. The community access element is a key part of the ethos of the development. The SmartAccess gate also provides automatic control of the low energy LED floodlights which go on and off in line with bookings to ensure a low energy managed system.

The site is located close to the existing clubhouse and there is adequate parking provision within the existing car park to accommodate the proposed users of the facility.

The main access gate into the padel courts is wheelchair accessible and the access route from car park to the courts is also navigable by a wheelchair user.

5. Landscaping

Some low level planting may be done around the court to enhance the visual impact of the courts and there is no impact on the area outside the padel location.

6. Planning Policy

The NPPF has a strong emphasis on sustainable development, and this is underlined throughout this policy document. It confirms that permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts of doing so significantly and demonstrably outweigh benefits of the development.

Section 8 NPPF - Policies promoting healthy and safe communities,

Paragraph 92(c) requires that planning decisions should enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Paragraph 93 - to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs then planning policies and decisions should:

- *plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.*

Paragraph 99 states that

- *Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*
 - a. an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
 - b. the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
 - c. the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

It is therefore clear that Government regards recreational and sports facilities as a sustainable form of development that will benefit the community.