

## Padel Project Update

Dear Members,

I wanted to provide everyone with an update on the proposed padel court project at the club after the presentation at Christmas.

As many of you will know, the Club has been exploring the viability of introducing covered padel courts as part of the club's long-term development plans. Interest in padel continues to grow rapidly both nationally and locally, and we believe the project has the potential to strengthen the club's future by attracting new members, increasing participation, and enhancing our facilities for all sections.

Unfortunately, progress on the planning application has been slower than anticipated. I was hoping with this update to be able to include a Planning Application Reference but we have not been able to submit the application at this stage.

This has partly been due to issues with the external company assisting with the preparation and submission of the application, which has resulted in delays to the overall process.

In addition, changes to planning legislation relating to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) are expected at the end of July. For developments under 0.2 Hectares this will no longer be a requirement.

The current requirements would add significant additional cost and consultancy work to the application process, so we have taken the view that it is sensible to wait for the updated legislation before proceeding further. This should help reduce unnecessary costs and improve the overall viability of the project.

I have insisted that the application is ready to be submitted on 1<sup>st</sup> August so hoping to have a decision sometime in October. When I have a Planning Reference, I will share it so you can follow progress on the Bucks Planning Portal.

If we are successful first time, I would look to get the courts constructed over the Winter ready for use early in the New Year.

Despite these delays, work is continuing behind the scenes and we remain committed to getting the Courts in place for our members. Current work includes:

- Finalising design and layout considerations including floodlight plan for Tennis Courts
- Reviewing updated planning requirements
- Assessing financial viability and funding options
- Exploring grant and loan opportunities
- Working through environmental and site-related matters

We have included a number of design images (Appendix below) to give members a better idea of the current vision for the project.

As you were aware from the presentation at Christmas we are trying to raise £400k. We have raised about £150k so far and have ongoing discussions with the LTA and HS2. I also have potentially secured a commercial loan at reasonable rates if all else fails.

However, I have some further contacts that need exploring. If any members feel they may be able to assist with fundraising efforts, sponsorship opportunities, grant applications, or have useful contacts or experience in this area, we would very much appreciate your help and involvement to help us get nearer our goal then please get in contact with me directly or pass your details to Maxine in the office.

We will continue to keep members updated as matters progress and thank everyone for their patience and support,

Kind regards,

Simon Dennis  
Aylesbury Lawn Tennis and Squash Club

## **Appendix**

<https://aylesburysquash.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/SFPD-LIMITED-2025CAS012-AYLESBURY-TENNIS-SQUASH-CLUB-DWG-002-05092025.pdf>

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