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Southwick Recreation Ground
Proposed 3G Pitches

Artificial Pitch Noise Management Plan for Community Access Users

ADUR & WORTHING PLANNING SERVICES	
PLAN	AWDM/ 0078/19
~~DATE VALID~~	Rec'd: 20/5/19

For **Engineering Team**
Adur and Worthing councils

Prepared by **BPG Architects + Surveyors**

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STUDIOS 1&2, OLD KINGS HEAD COURT
11 HIGH STREET, DORKING, SURREY, RH4 1AR

Scope of this plan

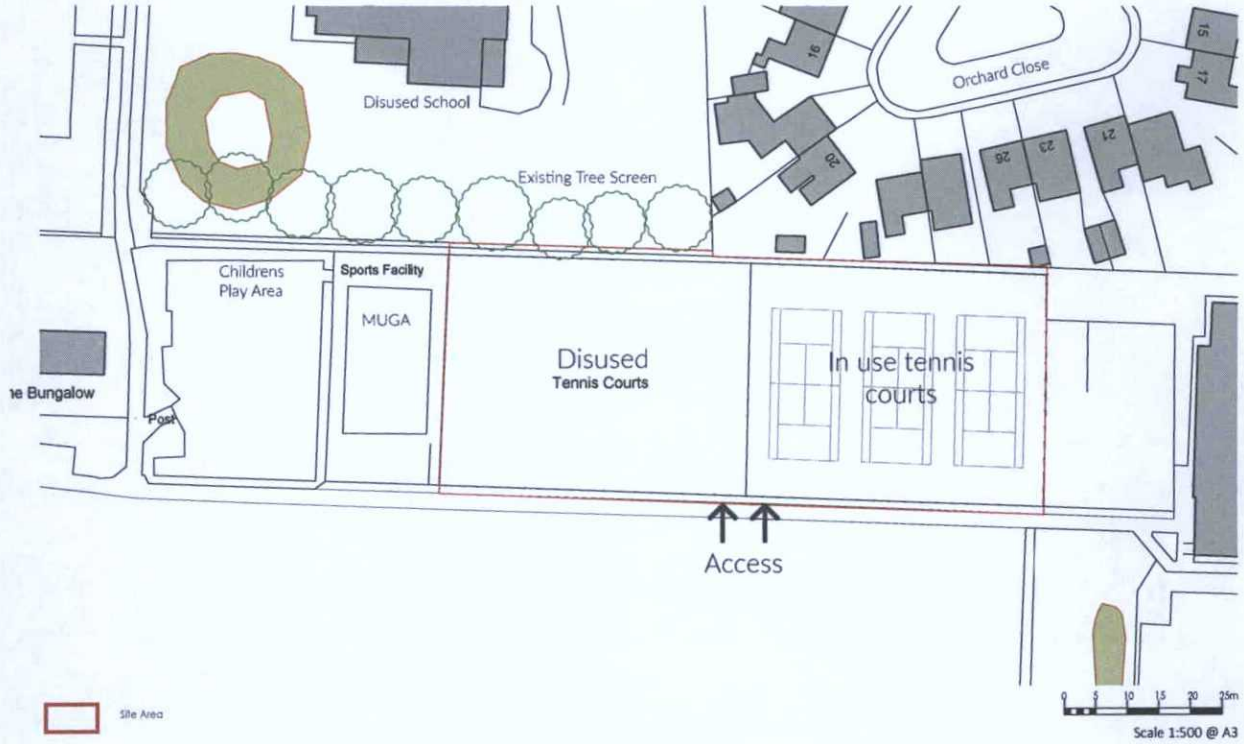
The site is on the northern edge of the Southwick Recreation Ground, comprising 6 tennis courts. Currently made up of 3 disused tennis courts and 3 which because of their poor condition will not be in use this year. The courts are a pay to use facility operated by the private Leisure Trust (Impulse Leisure), and do not form part of the open recreation ground. The proposed scheme is to construct a 3G football pitch on the footprint of the existing 3 disused tennis courts and to refurbish the 3 existing tennis courts to the east.

The 3G pitch will be surrounded by 4.2m high weldmesh rebound fencing, with a roof net. The 3 tennis courts will be surrounded by the same fencing at 2.8m high with no top net. The attached drawing, n°: 1819/156041/P2 shows the proposed layout (see later in this report). Again the courts will be a pay to use facility operated by the private Leisure Trust (Impulse Leisure), and do not form part of the open recreation ground.

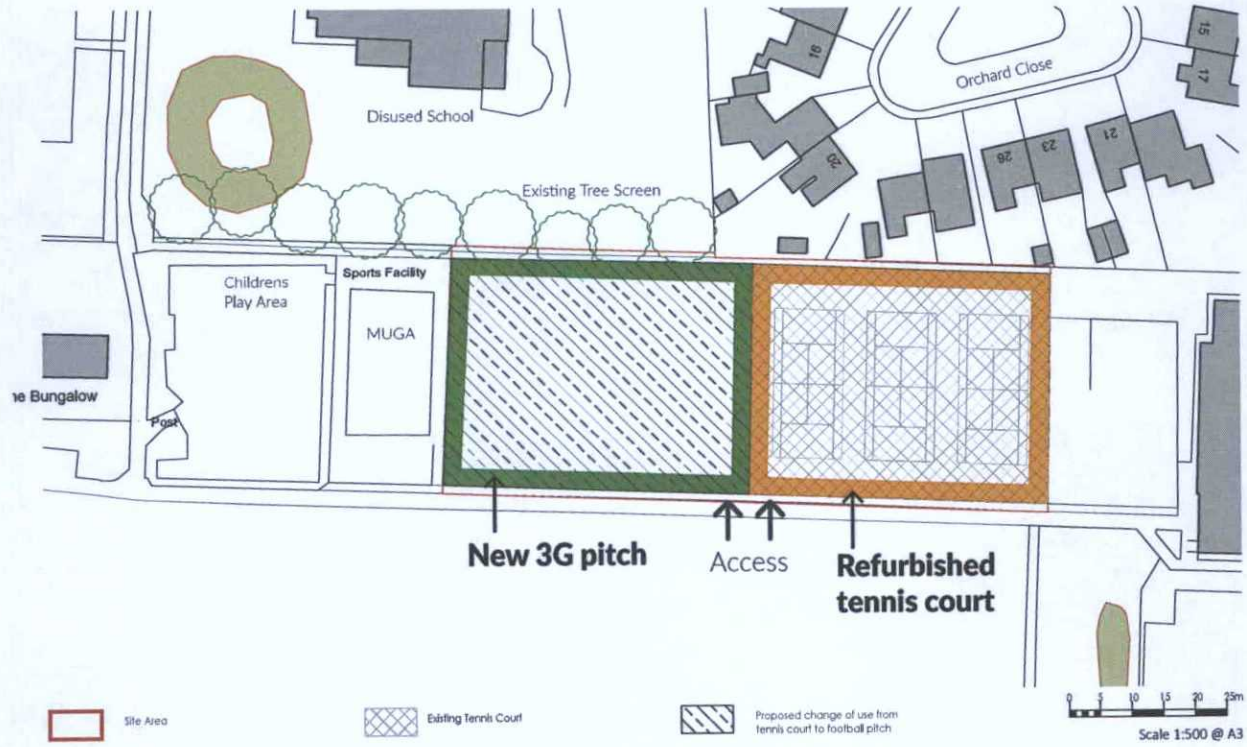


Details of the proposals

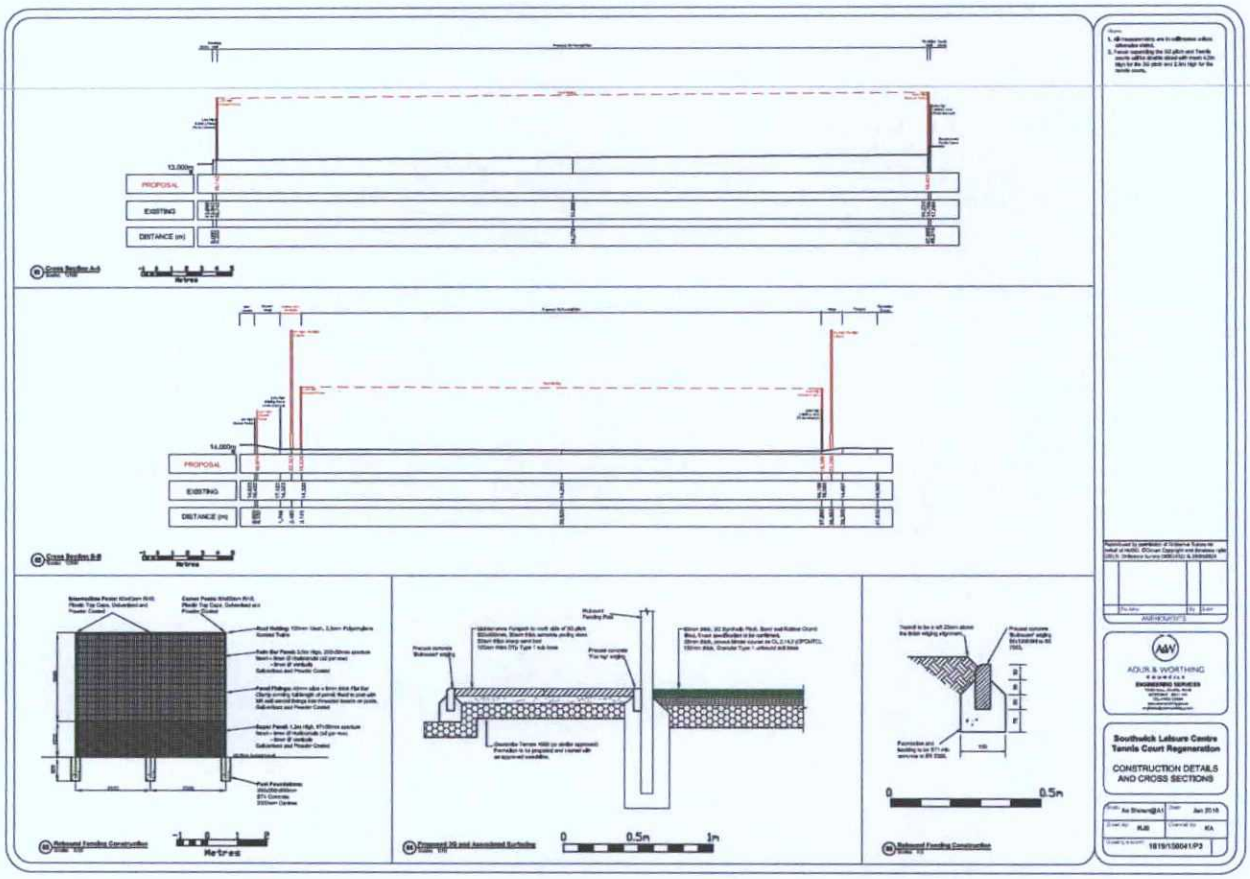
Existing layout

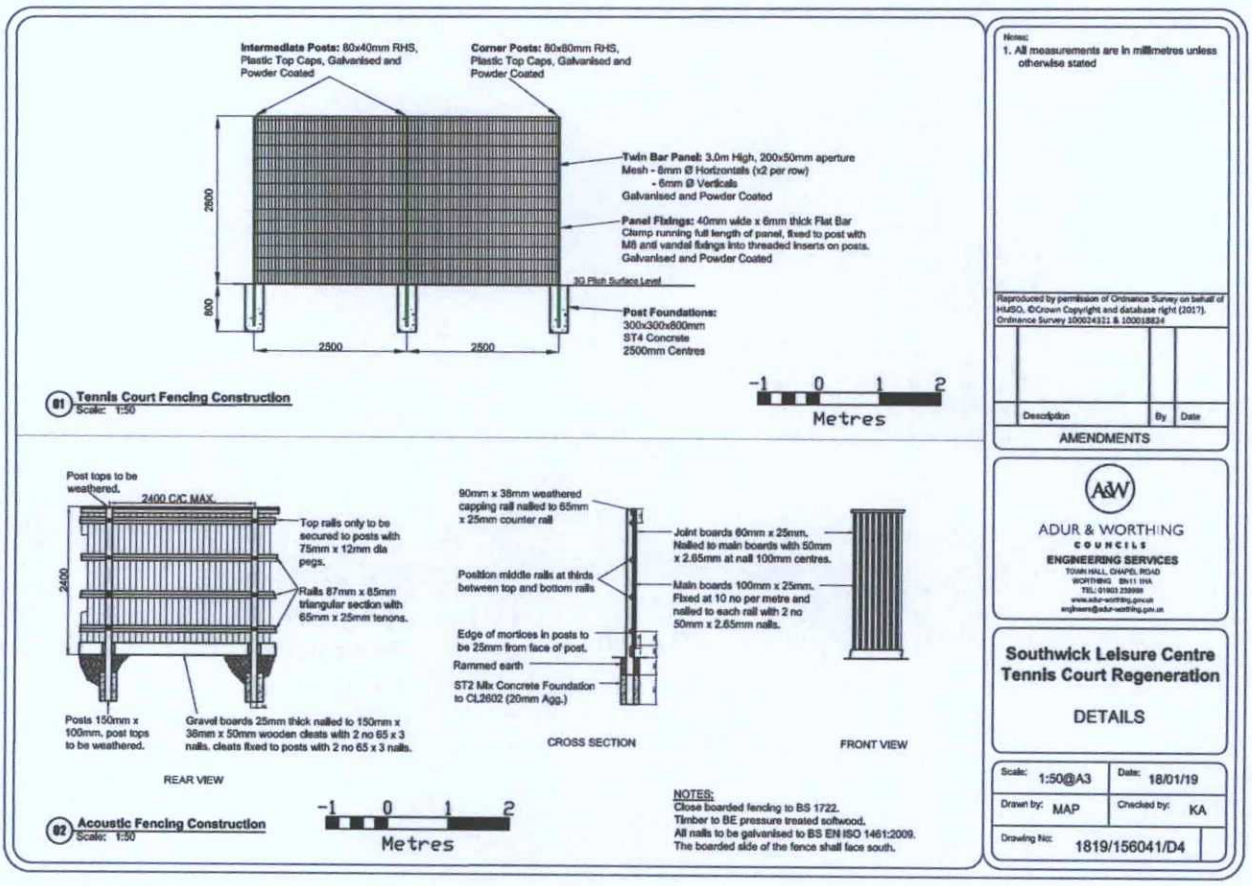


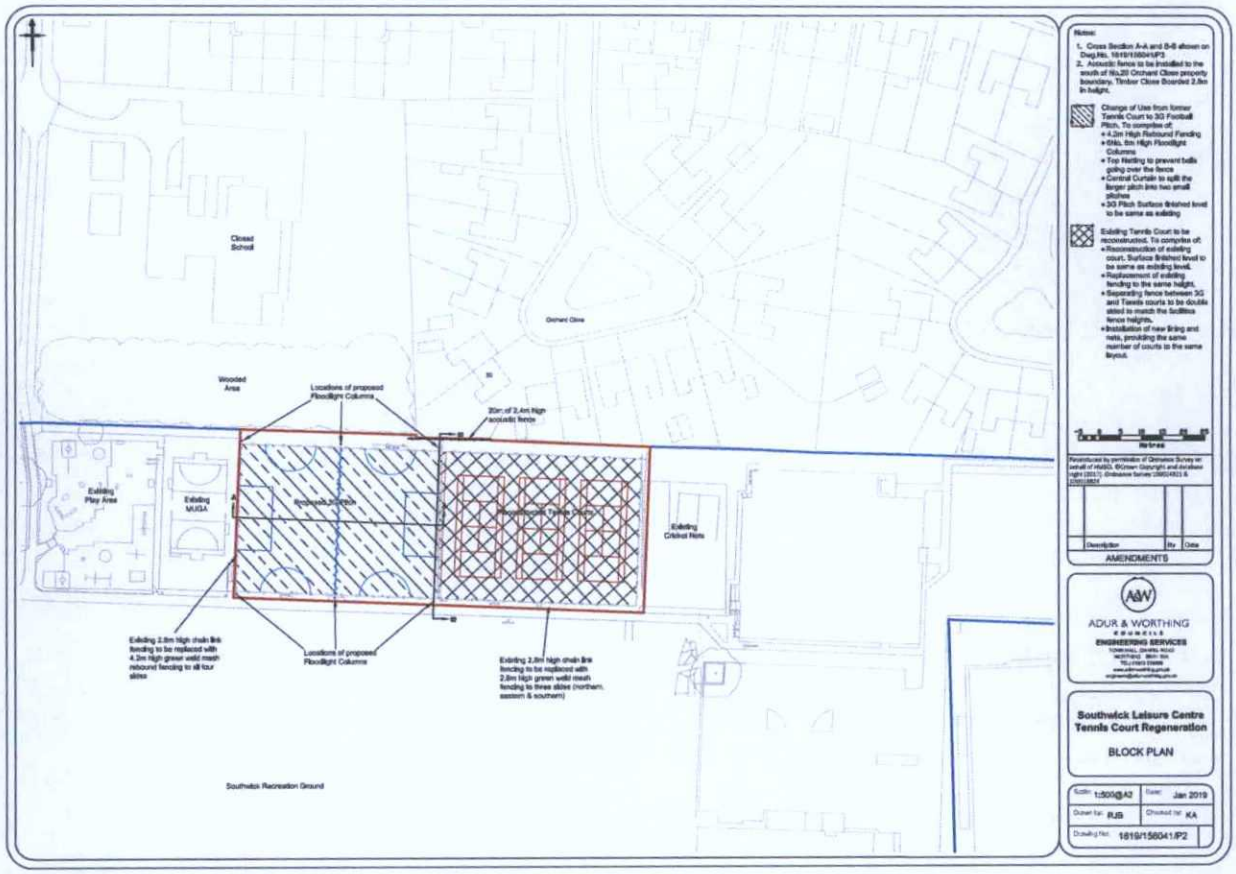
Proposed layout



Construction details







The proposals seek to provide 3 tennis courts and a recreation size 3G football pitch. These facilities will be made available for hire by the private Leisure Trust Impulse Leisure (or another provider approved by the council). The facilities are not open to the general public unless hired.

The 3G pitches are not FA standard sizes and cannot be used for league matches, they are strictly a recreation facility available for hire.

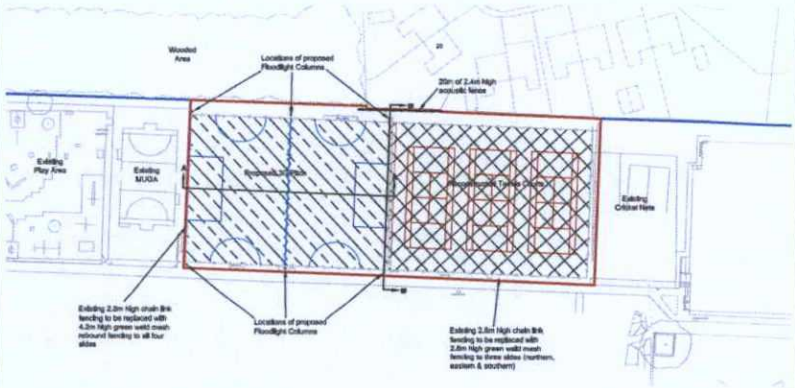
Possible uses will include local teams for training if the grass pitches are too wet or local schools but they are not intended to provide a facility for highly organised matches.

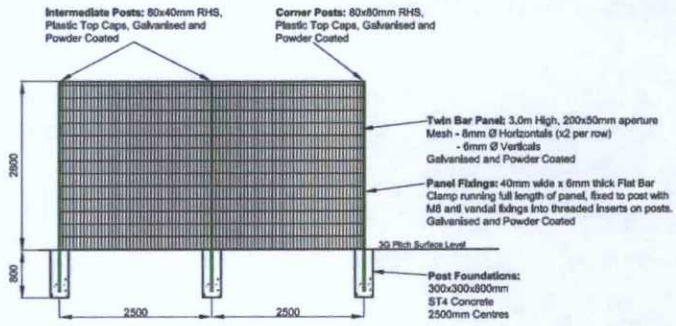
The Artificial Grass Pitch design has been prepared using the guidance set out in the Sport England document, Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) Acoustics Planning Implications. Specifically the following extracts:

Ball Impact Sound Mitigation

The impact noise of balls hitting the strike boards, goal boards and fencing has the potential to generate higher noise levels than from users. In addition, there was a difference in the character of the noise. These impact noises were found to be significantly reduced by the use of padding and the careful design and selection of perimeter fencing.

Measures to mitigate noise levels from AGPs are listed below:

"Acoustic barriers could be built outside the perimeter fence so neighbouring properties are protected from being hit by balls and generating impact sounds."	The sports field already exists (tennis courts) and the proposals seek to reconstruct 3 tennis courts which are currently still used and to re-purpose the adjacent 3 tennis courts (which are beyond repair) as a 3G pitch area.  As shown on the plan only part of the northern boundary backs onto the rear gardens of 4 houses on Orchard Close and the proposals include the introduction of a 20m long 2.4m high acoustic fence at the bottom of the garden of N° 20 Orchard Close to mitigate any additional noise created by the new 3G pitch. The retained tennis courts are an existing facility which will be refurbished to retain its existing use as tennis courts so we do not believe any additional acoustic protection is required in this area.

"Weldmesh fencing is commonly used to enclose the AGP and the panels should be securely clamped with resilient fixings to avoid vibrations."	The project specification includes weldmesh fencing securely clamped to avoid vibrations. The fence also includes a rebound board to reduce noise. - See dwg D4 for details. 
"Sheet metal advertising signs can make a clattering noise when hit by a foot ball and these should be avoided in proximity to the playing surface or replaced by soft vinyl signs."	No metal advertising signs are proposed.
"Lightweight 'substitutes' shelters also have the potential to clatter when hit by hockey balls and should be located within recesses to reduce the risk of impact."	No shelters are proposed.
"People tend to congregate around the entrance to the AGP and as such, it is advisable that the entrance and access route should be located away from nearby housing where possible."	The entrance gates are installed as far away from the adjacent housing as possible to minimise this issue.
"The closest residence is approximately 18m from the pitch fence line with Park Road separating the two locations and a buffer of trees."	The entrance gates are installed as far away from the adjacent housing as possible to minimise this issue.

Noise Management of Community Use

The proposed noise management plan applies at all times when the facility is hired. These facilities will only be used if hired they do not form part of the Southwick public access recreation ground.

Component	Noise Management Plan - Measures in place/to be taken
Excessive noise levels (shouting, abusive language)	Lettings procedure: • First time hirers will be met prior to the commencement of the letting to discuss Health and safety requirements and acceptable code of behaviour. • A new lettings application will be introduced to cover the specific hire of the 3G pitch and tennis courts. • Lettings application will incorporate the need for hirers to undergo a trial period covering two sessions. • Lettings application will reflect that noise levels beyond normal sporting activity will not be acceptable. • PA systems/ any form of amplified music/musical instruments will not be permitted on the 3G pitch or tennis courts.
Excess noise (Whistles)	The pitches are not intended for highly organised matches, this is a recreational facility, it might get used by the local team or local schools, for training if the adjacent grass is too wet so whistles might be used, but the pitches are not FA standard sizes.
Noise from contact of object and balls against the fence	The fence will have a rigid structure to minimalise noise levels. Kick board at the bottom of the fence will be incorporated into the fence structure. Goal nets for football/hockey will be installed. Ongoing maintenance and inspection checks of the fence and the goal nets will be conducted on a monthly basis by the operator.
Component	Noise Management Plan - Measures in place/to be taken
Unauthorised Access	The area will be locked when not in use and this will be supported by CCTV on site. Hirers will only be given access to the site for the period of their hire.
General Noise	Signage to be included with the scheme to remind hirers to be considerate of the noise level for residents.

Complaints Procedure

In the event of excessive noise being generated by a community, user complaints can be registered either:

- On the letting/booking website
- In writing to the operator
- By leaving a message on the operator's answerphone

All complaints will be responded to during normal working hours and within 5 days.
Records of time, date and action taken will be logged.

Lettings will include details of the complaints procedure and will record the following sanctions:

Strike 1	If a complaint is received about the conduct of a letting group, they will be required to report on the circumstances of the noise complaint. This will be assessed by the operators and if appropriate a warning will be issued to the group. (3 warnings and the groups hire contract will be void).
Strike 2	If a second complaint is received then the group responsible will be required to meet the operator to develop a strategy to overcome the problems. This will be assessed by the operator and if appropriate a warning will be issued to the group. (3 warnings and the groups hire contract will be void).
Strike 3	If a third complaint is received then the group will be invited to a meeting to discuss solutions with the people who have complained. If a solution cannot be reached then the hire contract will be withdrawn.



View across the existing tennis court towards Orchard Close

Community Liaison

Operator's representative will engage with all local groups who have an interest in the management and facilitiesof Southwick Recreationd Ground.

Annual meeting will be held with these groups to discuss any issues or concerns. If this is not possible then an annual newsletter will be provided, to local residents.

Future Improvements

This plan will be reviewed regularly and updated as appropriate to learn from experiences gained by visiting groups and adjoining residents.

Access to the plan

The new facility may be run by the Local Authority or an approved off site leisure (or similar) provider who will run an on-line booking system (possibly supplemented with a face to face desk at a local leisure centre).

The approved Noise Management Plan will be available on all booking websites. Copies of the Plan will be included with any letting agreement. Copies of the plan will be available at any 'face to face' desk where booking facilities is available.



Existing tennis courts

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