

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Proposed Installation of 2no. Padel Courts with Glass Walls, Mesh Fencing and Floodlighting

Little Wymondley Recreation Ground, Tower Close, Little Wymondley, SG4 7JG

1. USE

The proposal involves the installation of 2no. padel courts on part of the existing recreational ground at Little Wymondley. The site currently accommodates a range of sports facilities including two tennis courts, a basketball court, a sports pavilion, a tennis hut, and multiple football and lacrosse pitches. The introduction of padel courts represents a natural and complementary extension of the existing sporting provision.

Padel is a rapidly growing sport in the UK and internationally, valued for its accessibility, low barrier to entry and significant social, physical and community benefits. Its compact court size, inclusive playing style and suitability for a wide range of ages support local participation in sport and healthy recreation.

The proposal therefore enhances the recreational offer of the village and supports wider community wellbeing objectives.

2. AMOUNT

Two standard-sized padel courts are proposed, each 20m x 10m, installed within a modest area of the recreation ground as shown on the submitted plans. The works will occupy a relatively small footprint within the wider open space and will not affect access to other sports pitches or facilities.

Floodlighting is proposed to enable safe year-round use, consistent with typical operational requirements for padel courts.

3. LAYOUT

The courts are positioned within the area shown in the submitted layout drawing, set away from residential boundaries and grouped adjacent to existing sports infrastructure. The siting ensures no disruption to the established

access routes within the recreation ground and maintains generous separation distances to nearby dwellings.

Construction traffic and future access will utilise the existing vehicular entrance from Tower Close and the established parking area beside the tennis courts.

4. SCALE

Each court will be installed to standard padel specifications. Key elements include:

- Glass panels (standard padel height) forming the rear and parts of the side walls
- Black-framed edging for a high-quality appearance
- 2m-high steel mesh fencing to the remaining sides
- Floodlighting columns positioned to comply with safe illumination levels for play

The appearance and scale of the structures are in keeping with modern sports court design and compatible with the existing tennis courts nearby.

5. LANDSCAPING

No trees, shrubs or hedges will be removed as part of the proposal.

No new landscaping is proposed, and the installation is limited to the immediate footprint of the courts. The courts will sit on minimal groundworks directly over the existing grassed surface, ensuring limited disturbance to the surrounding area.

6. APPEARANCE

The design incorporates:

- Clear glass walls providing a visually light structure
- Black-framed court edges, giving a contemporary and unobtrusive aesthetic
- Green artificial turf playing surface to reflect the colour palette of nearby tennis courts and to integrate with the wider open space

- Fine-mesh steel fencing, coloured black, consistent with typical high-quality padel court installations

Together, these materials ensure the courts are visually appropriate within a recreational setting.

7. ACCESS

Pedestrian and vehicular access will remain unchanged, using the established access from Tower Close. Existing on-site parking adjacent to the tennis courts provides adequate capacity for expected usage of the padel facilities. The courts do not require any alterations to footpaths or internal circulation routes.

8. NOISE, LIGHTING & NEIGHBOUR AMENITY

The nearest residential property is approximately 195 metres away. Given this substantial distance, coupled with the small playing group size and the absence of any PA or amplified sound, the proposal is not expected to generate any material noise impact. Padel produces relatively low noise levels compared with many outdoor sports and is well suited to community locations.

Floodlighting will be designed and directed to minimise spill beyond the courts. Hours of operation are proposed as:

06:00 – 23:00, seven days a week

These hours reflect typical use of community sports facilities and will not result in undue disturbance to neighbouring properties given the significant separation distance and controlled lighting design.

9. HERITAGE, ECOLOGY & GROUND CONDITIONS

The works occupy an area of modified recreational grassland and involve minimal ground disturbance.

No ecological features, hedgerows or trees will be affected.

The footprint sits well outside any heritage constraints and does not alter the wider open field character.

10. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The proposal has the full support of Wymondley Parish Council, who recognise the community benefits and appropriateness of this facility enhancement. Their

formal letter of support is included as part of this planning application.

11. SUMMARY & JUSTIFICATION

The proposal represents a modest but valuable enhancement of local sports provision within an established recreational setting. The courts complement existing facilities, promote community health and activity, and can be accommodated without adverse impacts on residents, ecology or the character of the site.

The siting is considered appropriate, the design is high quality and visually compatible with the surrounding sports infrastructure, and access arrangements are safe and unchanged.

The development is therefore suitable for planning approval.