

WOOD VALE TENNIS CLUB

PLANNING STATEMENT LED FLOODLIGHTING COURT NR 5

Wood Vale Tennis Club is a club which embraces inclusivity and diversity. We want to build on the club's reputation as enthusiastic and welcoming, attracting younger members and families within the community, and offering opportunities to more of the community to get involved with tennis. Our emphasis is on social, inclusive tennis - available to all - but also with opportunities to play more competitive tennis. We have no restrictions on ability of potential members. We block book our courts on Saturday afternoons for social tennis where members of all abilities can come along and mix in. We run monthly American tournaments to encourage members less used to competitive play to join in without the pressure of more competitive events. We also have midweek courts set aside for our seniors.

We had four all-weather porous asphalt courts. In 2024 thanks to our existing membership and with the assistance of a Middlesex LTA loan (which will be repaid by October 2029), we reconstructed a fifth court from an outdoor shale tennis court to form an additional outdoor porous asphalt court. This has allowed us to increase our membership from 130 adults and a minimal number of juniors six years ago to its current level of 275 adults and 20 juniors. In addition, we have three coaches who offer adult and junior coaching (both of which are available to members and non-members). In the past we have had community open days. However, even after reconstructing our fifth court, we currently have 56 adults on our waiting list and very little capacity to host open days.

Our coaches have expressed a desire to extend their junior coaching programmes which are open to the wider community which currently isn't possible in the autumn and winter months.

We have LED lighting on two of our courts with a cut-off at 9.45pm. This allows us to compete in the Middlesex LTA Winter league (two courts required for this). However, only having two courts with lighting:

- Restricts our ability to hold more after-school coaching sessions for children in the autumn and winter months;
- Restricts availability for members and general coaching when Middlesex Winter League matches are being played;
- Curtails the club's Middlesex LTA Summer League matches In early Spring/late Summer due to diminished light as three courts with lighting are required for these matches; and
- Reduces our capacity to take on new members as autumn and winter court availability is constrained

Middlesex LTA has supported our plan to add lighting to a third court and is providing some of the funding for the project. With LED lighting on a third court, adjacent to the two courts with current LED lighting, we will be able to extend court availability for members; offer more opportunities for our coaches to be involved with the wider community; and accommodate more members.

The court, for which we are applying to instal LED lighting with, is centrally located on the site at a similar distance from neighbouring properties to the courts with existing LED lighting. We would like to adopt the same 9.45pm lighting cut-off which applies to the other two courts with lighting.

Putting in the additional set of LED lighting on our reconstructed court is a vital part of our long term planning to futureproof our club, making it a sustainable resource for our members and the wider community.

A. HIND 14.01.2026