

COOLHURST LAWN TENNIS AND SQUASH RACKETS CLUB

CLUB STATEMENT – January 2024

PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATION FOR FLOODLIGHTS ON COURT 5

This statement supports our application for the installation of floodlights on court 5, with an evening cut off time of 9pm during the week and 8pm at weekends (as is the case for the existing lights on the adjacent courts 6-8).

Background to the Application

Coolhurst Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club was founded in 1903 and has been a valued part of the local community for over a century.

Supported by an investment in improved facilities (new floodlights, new all-weather courts and improved court surfaces), tennis membership at Coolhurst has increased consistently over the past six years. As a result, the club now has over 1,200 tennis members, nearly all of whom are local to the club.

This success, however, has come at a cost in terms of court availability and our available courts are often fully booked. As a result, we have taken the decision to stop accepting new members until existing members leave. We now have a waiting list of some 600 people, demonstrating the demand from local residents to join the club. In order to give existing members more opportunities to play tennis and, hopefully, to allow new members to join, we are looking at ways in which we can increase the utilisation of our 14 courts. We have done this over the years by changing playing surfaces to “all-weather” surfaces and adding floodlights to some of our courts. Haringey council has granted permission, where appropriate for each of these upgrades.

Adding floodlights to Court 5 is one of the few ways we have at our disposal to add more capacity during the busiest, evening period. This is particularly true during the winter months when the shorter days mean that play must stop on our unlit courts by 4pm.

Junior tennis

Participation by local juniors has increased substantially in recent years. Our successful summer camps programme provides an introduction for children to become involved and then develop their skills by participating in our term time programmes.

Given that the term time junior programme runs during after-school hours (4-7 pm) its development is limited by the loss of daylight at certain times of the year and the restricted number of floodlit courts available.

Court 5 also benefits from being fenced on all sides, which makes it ideal for coaching young children by providing a safe, separated coaching space. Adding floodlights will therefore also allow us to

improve our provision to the youngest players (who do not need to be members of the club to join coaching classes).

Limiting impact on our neighbours

Court 5 lies immediately next to seven other floodlit courts and we have endeavoured, with the assistance of a specialist floodlighting design company, to minimise the impact on our neighbours. The carefully designed lighting scheme is compliant with the very latest guidance on such installations. As such, we believe that the additional impact of floodlights on a single court, adjacent to other lit courts and with limited times of operation (up to 9pm weekdays and 8pm on weekends) will be modest.

Support from LTA

Because of our success in attracting and retaining new members with the attendant benefits to physical and mental health of participants in social sports, the LTA is supportive of our application which will increase playing opportunities for existing and new members.

Gerald Barrett
Coolhurst LT&SR Club
January 2024