



WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
INCLUDING FONTWELL AND BINSTED

Parish Council Office, The Pavilion, The Street,
Walberton, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0PJ

7 January 2019

Mr Michael Eastham
Planning Department
Arun District Council
By email [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Eastham

Planning ref: WA/95/18/RES – Tennis Courts

In the course of the preparation of the Walberton Neighbourhood Plan Development Plan a questionnaire was sent to every household (875) in the Parish in February 2015. 615 were completed and returned.

Questions relating to recreational activities resulted in identifying the following needs

- Improvements to Walberton playing field
- Tennis courts
- Refurbishment of the Pavilion
- Provision of allotments in Fontwell
- A MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)

Survey resume – page 33 gives basic details of our residents “wish list” which shows a considerable interest in sporting facilities for both adults and youngsters. Some 46 requests for such facilities including some specifically asking for tennis courts.

Even with the current limited sports facilities the survey indicated that 66 use these weekly and 211 occasionally. This, of course, excludes most youngsters, of whom only 2 under 21 completed the questionnaire.

The questionnaire’s Village Facilities section included “Young people should have better sports and games facilities in our parish” 302 respondents agreed with this statement.

When the Fontwell Meadows (WA/22/15/OUT) planning application was submitted Walberton Parish Council requested financing and land be allocated for allotments and a MUGA. These were both approved and have been incorporated in a S 106 agreement.

As the development is for a total of 400 homes, placing the MUGA there was deemed to be a far better option than taking up space on Walberton's limited area playing field and the MUGA will be accessible to residents of both Walberton and Eastergate parish residents.

The question of tennis courts was difficult to address as we did not have sufficient space without severely affecting the football pitches and cricket play area. An approach was made to the Avisford Hilton Hotel requesting special rates and arrangements for residents to be able to use their courts, but the offer was deemed to be unworkable on both sides.

A young resident, age 12, made a presentation to the General Purposes committee of the PC on 18th August 2015 requesting tennis courts and citing a demand which he had researched.

He subsequently secured a list of more than 50 names of residents of varying ages who supported this.

When the application for WA/44/17/OUT was submitted the PC decided to endeavour to secure space and funding for the tennis courts. This has been offered and the response from our residents, both young and older, has been very favourable.

Arun District Council Non-Strategic Sites (NSS) DPD Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report states

- The majority of residents describe their health as good but there are opportunities to increase participation in sport. It is estimated that inactivity costs Arun £2.9 million annually. It is therefore important that residents have good access to leisure and sporting facilities;

And

- Leisure facilities in the District are poor and in need of investment. Closure of existing facilities could result in a substantial decline in physical activity in the District;
- Sports facilities in the District are underfunded and do not meet the current Sport England standards;

We therefore believe that the provision of tennis courts meets a demand within our Parish and will be well utilised in addition to providing important health benefits.

Yours sincerely,

Unsigned – sent by email

Andy Peppler – Parish Clerk.