

CV PLANNING

Planning Statement for Proposed Padel Courts

Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club

On Behalf of **Saints Padel Club Limited**

March 2026

Contents Page

1. Introduction 3

2. Site Location and Proposed Development..... 5

3. Scheme Rationale 12

4. Key Planning Policy Considerations 14

5. Appraisal of Proposals 16

6. Key Benefits and Conclusions 22

Appendices

Appendix 1: LTA Padel Strategy 2024-2029

Appendix 2 : Site Photographs

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Supporting Planning Statement (SPS) has been produced on behalf of Saints Padel Club Limited (Saints Padel) in support of a full planning application for the creation of a new high quality padel centre on land adjoining the existing tennis court facilities at Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club, Hollin Lane, Bamford, Rochdale (the planning application site).
- 1.2. These proposals seek full planning permission for the creation of a new indoor padel centre comprising 5 courts, surrounding canopy structure, creation of a single outdoor padel court, extension to the existing car park, associated boundary treatments and the creation of a biodiversity net gain (BNG) area which will secure above 10% BNG on site.
- 1.3. The planning application site forms part of the wider development allocation as set out in the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 'Allocation 17 Bamford/ Norden' which is a residential-led allocation for the delivery of around 450 new homes but which also contains a core policy objective to significantly enhance the existing recreational facilities within the locality as part of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network – the vision is for there to be a high quality recreational and sports 'hub' serving the local area and Rochdale Borough as a whole.
- 1.4. This application is submitted in conjunction with the required plans and documentation in accordance with Council's validation requirements and includes:
- Relevant plans and drawings (CN3D Architecture)
 - Supporting Planning Statement (CV Planning)
 - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd)
 - Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Shields Arboricultural Consultancy)

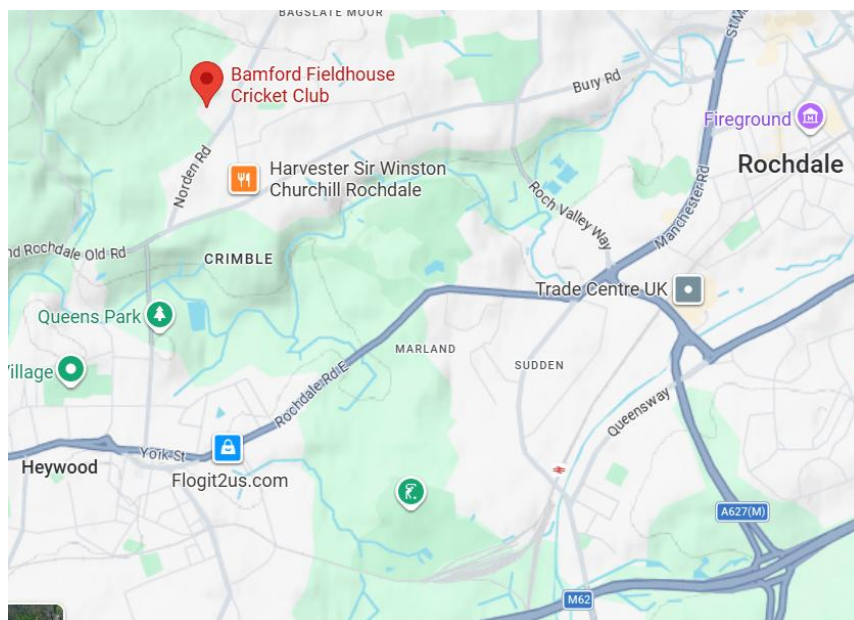
- Landscape drawing and planting specification (Appletons)
- Noise Impact Assessment (PDA)
- Environmental Lighting Impact Assessment Report (SHD)

1.5. The following section of this report provides details on the site location and planning history in addition to an overview of the proposed development. This is followed by Section 3 which sets out the scheme rationale, followed by a review of key planning policies and an assessment of the scheme's compliance in this regard.

2. Site Location and Proposed Development

Site Location and Description

- 2.1. The planning application site is located on the western side of Bamford and forms part of the existing Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club facilities which are accessed from Hollin Lane to the west of Norden Road. The general site location is shown below.

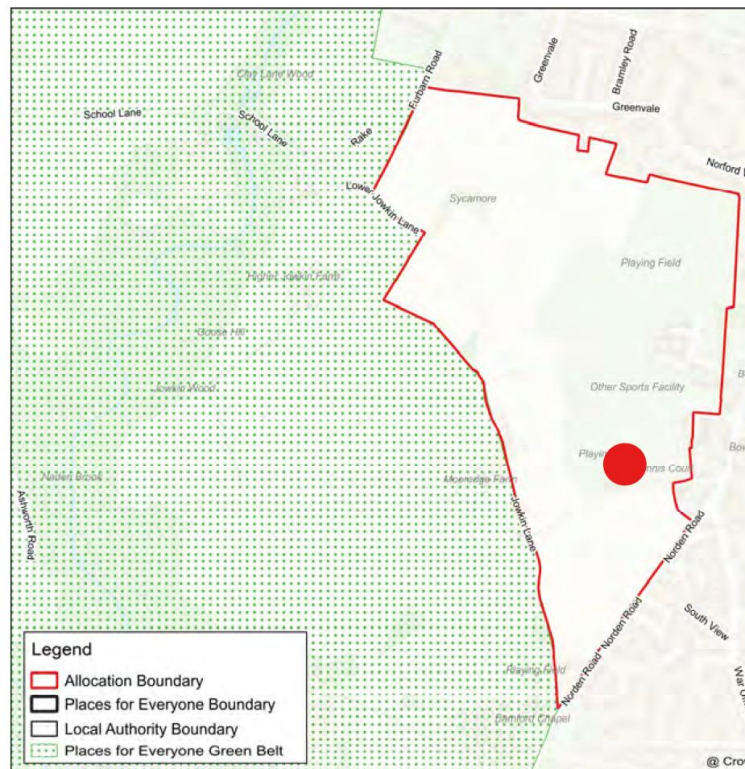


- 2.2. The planning application site is in a highly accessible and sustainable location. Norden is an established suburban Rochdale community and comprises of a significant established residential area including various services such as primary and secondary schools, local retail provision, restaurants, takeaways, etc.
- 2.3. The application site is located at the eastern end of the wider cricket club facility with the existing cricket pitch located directly to the west and the cricket club car park and clubhouse and associated venue facilities located to the south-west. Beyond the cricket club are agricultural fields adjoining Jowkin Lane, however, as identified

previously and confirmed in the map extract below, all of this land has been removed from the Green Belt and forms part of the Bamford and Norden residential-led development allocation. The location of the cricket club site has been broadly indicated by the red circle.

Policy JP Allocation 17: Bamford / Norden

Picture 11.29 JPA 17 Bamford / Norden



- 2.4. The mapping extract below indicates the precise location of the application site which adjoins the existing tennis court facilities to the east and the current car park to the south-west. To the east of the site there is a well-established edge of circa 6m in height and an access road which leads towards a single residential property and a series of existing outdoor grass football pitches and associated car parking area.
- 2.5. Vehicular access to the cricket club is taken via Hollin Lane which widens on approaching the access itself – there is a strip of existing road to the immediate south

of the cricket club site adjoining the vehicular access which is used for car parking in addition to the current on site provision of 31 spaces.



- 2.6. The wider cricket club site contains the cricket pitch itself and associated game paraphernalia, whilst the pavilion and clubhouse buildings are single storey with pitched roof and also include a function suite. To the immediate west of the wider site are high voltage power lines which are notable within the landscape whilst the western and northern boundaries are dominated by very tall evergreen trees (possibly Leylandii) which are approximately 15m in height and extensively screen views into and out of the site from these directions. To the south and south-east are existing 2/2.5 storey residential dwellings and there is a care home/older persons' accommodation block to the east and a public house.

- 2.7. Immediately adjoining the application site are existing synthetic tennis courts which includes a total of 5 courts bound by 2.5m high chain-link fencing interspersed with floodlight columns along the eastern and southern site boundaries. It is also noted that there are much taller and extensive lighting columns provided within the football pitch complex to the north, beyond the site.
- 2.8. To the immediate west of the application site is the existing cricket outfield where it is proposed that cricket ball screening boards will be installed in order to protect the proposed padel canopy structure.
- 2.9. The application site comprises mown grass area (see site photographs at Appendix 2) but which is not formally part of the cricket pitch facilities or any other sporting use, nor does it have any particular ecological value. Towards the north and north-eastern corner of the application site the mown grass gives way to an area of scrub which is fully assessed from the submitted ecological appraisal. Levels drop from the north to the south across the application site and which have been addressed in the submitted proposals with the inclusion of a retaining wall feature.

Planning History

- 2.10. There are a number of historical permissions which are of relevance including:
- 98/D35973 full planning permission for construction of all-weather tennis courts with floodlights
 - 99/D36409 full permission for extension to existing clubhouse
 - 07/D48559 full permission for demolition and rebuilding of scoreboard
 - 25/00954/TELE prior notification of a telecommunications facility including a 30m high lattice tower (approved with conditions)

Proposed Development

- 2.11. Full planning permission is sought for the following description of development:

'Creation of padel centre including courts and associated canopy structure, extension to car park, landscaping/biodiversity net gain area and associated boundary treatments.'

- 2.12. This planning application is supported by a comprehensive suite of drawings produced by CN3D Architecture including a proposed site plan and detailed elevations. The proposed site plan confirms that full planning permission is sought for a new padel centre comprising a canopy structure with pedestrian access taken from an extended surface car park, in addition to the creation of a single outdoor padel court. The proposals would broadly adjoin the existing tennis court facilities providing a combined traditional tennis and padel facility.
- 2.13. The current cricket club is served by a surface car park providing 31 spaces in addition to 8 spaces which can be achieved on the access road immediately adjoining the site access, thereby providing an existing 39 spaces. It is proposed to provide an extension to the main surface car park which would secure an additional 13 spaces (including 2 mobility impaired) thereby providing 52 car parking spaces overall.
- 2.14. The total application site is 0.42 hectares approximately and of this 0.14 hectares will be reserved for landscaping and BNG provision, which represents 34% of the site area. The submitted plans confirm the provision of a retaining wall feature to the northern site boundary which is necessary in order to address the fall in levels across the site from the north to the south. This feature is essential in order to ensure a flat at grade surface throughout the proposed padel centre facility. In all external areas permeable gravel surfacing will be provided for access paths and where any tarmac is used this will also be of permeable construction to facilitate sustainable drainage.

- 2.15. The layout drawing also confirms that within the padel centre canopy structure, a social meeting space will be provided with tables and chairs meaning that players arriving ahead of time for their game have somewhere to spend time and those finishing games can utilise the facilities and rest before departing. A small cabin structure will also be provided to provide for changing facilities and the hiring and renting of equipment such as bats and balls, with the potential for basic refreshments to be provided.
- 2.16. The submitted proposed elevation drawings confirm that the primary canopy structure will be constructed of a steel frame and finished in an anthracite black colour with the canopy clad in profiled steel of the same colour to ensure a contemporary finish.
- 2.17. The roof of the structure will comprise of polycarbonate panels with are translucent in order to allow natural daylight inside the facility including a UV protection layer to ensure longevity. The padel centre will be enclosed by a combination of security mesh fencing with lockable access gates in addition to an element of timber fencing. The southern elevation of the canopy structure will host appropriate signage with the entrance for pedestrians provided to the right, via the eastern elevation which shall comprise of an aluminium framed glazed entrance screen. As noted previously the elevations also confirm the location of the retaining wall along the northern elevation and which will ensure the structure sits within the existing landscape insofar as possible.
- 2.18. The courts covered by the canopy will be lit using low energy consumption padel specific lighting columns whilst the single external court will also be lit using the same products which are illustrated on the northern and southern elevation drawings accordingly. This application also contains a padel court specification document which identifies the lighting products in addition to a specification plan.

Biodiversity Net Gain and Landscaping

- 2.19. The application is supported by a detailed preliminary ecological appraisal undertaken by Tyrer Ecological Consultants (February 2026) in addition to a biodiversity net gain assessment (March 2026). The PEA confirms that there are no notable or protected habitats on the site, no protected species will be affected and therefore no additional surveys are necessary.
- 2.20. Due to the construction of the scheme on presently undeveloped land, a specific scheme has been designed to achieve 10% biodiversity net gain on site and which is illustrated in the landscape proposals plan (Ref: 2593-01 Revision B produced by Appletons). This provides a detailed specification for the creation of a mix of other neutral grassland, the retention and enhancement of existing blackthorn scrub, creation of a new area proposed willow scrub and the planting of individual standard trees.
- 2.21. The following section of this report sets out the rationale for the scheme proposals.

3. Scheme Rationale

- 3.1. Saints Padel Club working in conjunction with Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club have identified a key opportunity to provide a new padel centre which would sit alongside the existing tennis and cricket facilities at the site.
- 3.2. The proposals can be achieved on land which is surplus to requirements, is not utilised for any sporting function and which would not undermine the existing cricket facilities. Importantly the proposals will help to direct funds, at no expense to the public purse, into the cricket facility helping with ongoing maintenance costs which are ever increasing and providing the future opportunity for additional investment into the cricket facilities.
- 3.3. In addition to assisting the on-site cricket facilities, the scheme also will help to achieve a critical mass of sporting facilities in the area in addition to the tennis and cricket on site and the extensive outdoor football pitches located to the north. The Development Plan is clear that the Bamford and Norden allocation area is to become a hub for the Borough in terms of sport and recreation, which the proposals will directly help to contribute towards.
- 3.4. In respect of meeting local and borough-wide needs, it is noted that the Rochdale Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy is now time-expired with the document having been produced and published in 2016 with a 10 year shelf life. It undertakes an overview of cricket facilities across the Borough and notes that the Bamford Fieldhouse facilities are to be protected. However, as noted above and as time has passed there is now a need to invest monies to improve the club facilities and sustain this popular facility. The proposals will also help to satisfy the requirements of the Lawn Tennis Association Padel Strategy which is outlined in further detail below.

3.5. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the national governing body for tennis. The LTA 2024 Padel Strategy (see Append 1) has been produced to provide a focus on padel infrastructure, growing and diversifying the padel coaching workforce and implementing a performance pathway supporting current players whilst paving the way for the next generation. The LTA state that they will invest in driving greater visibility for the sport including exploring opportunities for professional events in Great Britain. The LTA's stated mission and objectives include:

- Increasing the number of annual players from 129,000 to 400,000
- Increasing the number of courts from 350 to 1,000
- Growing the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700
- Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population and interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation

3.6. The LTA Padel Strategy confirms the need and demand for padel at a national level and sets out a number of positive aims and objectives which these planning application proposals will help to contribute towards at a local level.

3.7. The following section of this report identifies the key planning policies of relevance to the determination of the planning application followed by an appraisal section.

4. Key Planning Policy Considerations

4.1. For the purposes of determining this planning application, the Development Plan comprises of the Rochdale Core Strategy (adopted 2016) and the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE) adopted in March 2024. Also of relevance is the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Minerals Plan.

4.2. The key policies relevant to the scheme in the PfE include:

- Policy JP-G9 Green Belt
- Policy JP-P1 Sustainable Places
- Policy JP-P7 Sport and Recreation
- Policy JP-G1 Landscape Character
- Policy JP-G8 Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy GP-C8 Transport Requirements of New Development
- Policy JP-STRAT6 Northern Areas
- Policy JP-STRAT7 North-East Growth Corridor
- Policy JP-P7 Sport and Recreation
- Policy JP-17 Allocation Policy, Bamford/Norden

4.3. The key Core Strategy policies of relevance are as follows:

- E2 – Increasing Jobs and Prosperity
- C6 – Improving Health and Wellbeing
- C8 – Improving Community, Sport, Leisure and Cultural Facilities
- P2 – Protecting and Enhancing Character, Landscape and Heritage
- G1 – Tackling and Adapting to Climate Change
- G7 – Increasing the Value of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- DM1 – Development Requirements

Places for Everyone – Bamford/Norden Development Allocation

- 4.4. As referenced previously in this statement the PfE JP17 allocation covers a broad swathe of land to the west of Bamford and south of Norden and seeks to deliver around 450 new executive homes in addition to other policy objectives including the retention and enhancement of existing recreational facilities, as part of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network. Part 2 of the policy states:

The residential development on the site will provide contributions towards the improvement of the facilities which will create a high quality recreational and sports 'hub' serving the local area and the borough as a whole. The development should incorporate existing public rights of way along with new routes for active travel into a high quality integrated green infrastructure network that links to existing public rights of way in the countryside to the west and north-west of the site.'

- 4.5. The reasoned justification states that the area contains a number of sporting and recreational facilities and that the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy identifies the facilities as a key site (in respect of the football provision), that proposals should seek to ensure that the football pitches and other sporting facilities (including Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club) are retained and significantly enhanced as part of a high quality, integrated development.
- 4.6. In addition to the relevant policies of the Development Plan, the NPPF is also a material consideration. The sections of the NPPF relevant to determination of this application include the presumption in favour of sustainable development and Chapter 8 (promoting healthy and safe communities) and Chapter 15 (conserving and enhancing the natural environment).

5. Appraisal of Proposals

- 5.1. This section assesses the proposed development with respect to its compliance of the Development Plan, in addition to identifying any other relevant material considerations.

Principle of Development

- 5.2. The adopted proposals map indicates that the application site and wider cricket club are located within the Green Belt, however, as previously referenced, the land has been removed from the Green Belt and now falls within the defined urban area as a consequence of its inclusion in the Bamford/Norden development allocation for a major new residential community incorporating a sports hub.
- 5.3. PfE Allocation 17 specifically identifies that the existing recreational facilities within this area should be retained and significantly enhanced in order to create a high quality recreational and sports hub serving the local area and borough as a whole.
- 5.4. The proposed padel centre is demonstrably in accordance with these key land allocation requirements and will provide a high quality new facility for which there is high demand, with the capacity to provide significant local benefits and act as a key centre for this burgeoning sport within the borough as a whole.
- 5.5. It is concluded that the site is an appropriate location in principle to accommodate the scheme with the ability to offer cross-benefits between the traditional tennis game given its co-location with the existing courts. The proposals will draw footfall to the site and assist with the retention and enhancement of the Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club given that this will bring new investment into the site.
- 5.6. The proposals are self-evidently compliant with the Core Strategy strategic objectives including SO2, which is to create successful and healthy communities and

SO3, to improve design, image and quality of place. The proposals draw support and comply with Core Strategy Policy C8 by promoting better community and sport facilities. The site is in a highly accessible location, which forms a key part of the Bamford/Norden residential allocation, whilst also serving the existing established community.

- 5.7. Whilst the is outside of a defined centre, there is a clear rationale for the co-location of the facilities within the existing sporting uses in the area and given the ability for this major investment to help achieve policy objectives locally, building upon existing infrastructure, meeting the needs of the local and wider community, in line with the PfE allocation.

Compliance with Core Strategy Policy DM1, General Development Requirements

- 5.8. This application is supported by a series of detailed technical reports which have informed scheme design, including a noise impact and lighting impact assessment alongside a bespoke biodiversity net gain strategy. The proposals are concluded to comply with Policy DM1 because:
- They are of a high quality and contemporary design and as demonstrated in the submitted drawings, will provide a clean contemporary structure in the new padel centre, particularly the canopy structure which is intended to be a high quality attractive facility in keeping with the Council's policy objectives for the executive housing that will be provided locally.
 - The proposed canopy building has been set well back within the site and will be buffered by the proposed biodiversity net gain area and the existing tall hedge line between the cricket club site and the existing development to the east. In any event the proposals represent an element of infill within an

existing sports site where there are existing synthetic tennis courts, cricket pitch and extensive football training facilities and playing pitches to the north.

- Due to the scheme approach and design the development will not adversely affect the amenity of residents through visual intrusion, overbearing impact, overshadowing or loss of privacy.
- The submitted noise impact assessment demonstrates that there would only be a minor change in the local noise environment, which is dominated by road noise, however, the design has been updated to ensure that the eastern and southern elevations of the canopy are fully enclosed therefore limiting the potential for noise breakout.
- In respect of lighting impacts, there is existing extensive lighting immediately adjoining the application site associated with the tennis courts' facilities – the padel courts will utilise highly efficient and downward facing and concentrated LED lighting with a much reduced light spill. In addition the majority of the new lighting will be within the canopy structure which will help to limit light spill. The submitted lighting impact assessment demonstrates that there would be no unacceptable impacts.
- The site is already well-served with vehicular and pedestrian access however as previously stated a modest extension to the existing cricket club car park is proposed in order to ensure that there are sufficient spaces to serve the site as a whole.
- The development is proposed to be secure with appropriate fencing and lockable gates and therefore has been designed to minimise opportunities

for crime and will include appropriate CCTV and on-site lighting to ensure a safe environment.

- 5.9. This assessment goes on to consider any other key technical matters.

Other Matters

Ecology, Trees and Biodiversity Net Gain

- 5.10. The submitted preliminary ecological appraisal confirms that there are no protected species on site and no additional surveys are required. The report confirms that an area of amenity grassland and existing scrub will be lost to accommodate the proposals, however, the BNG strategy proposes a high quality enhancement strategy which will see approximately one-third of the application site given over to habitat enhancement including the creation of scrub, improvement of retained scrub and planting of new trees.
- 5.11. The proposals will achieve above a > 10% BNG score in compliance with policy and legislation. In respect of trees, a limited number of specimens which are not of high quality will need to be removed to accommodate the proposals as set out in the submitted arboricultural report completed by Shields. This assessment concludes that the proposals are acceptable in respect of tree impacts subject to achieving on-site mitigation (compliant with PfE policy JP-G8) which as noted above is proposed – for further details reference should be had to the detailed landscape proposals drawing produced by Appletons.
- 5.12. In relation to ecology and trees it is concluded that the proposals are compliant with Core Strategy Policies G1, G6, G7 and the Strategic Objectives in addition to PfE.

Highways and Parking

- 5.13. The proposals will continue to utilise the existing vehicular access along Hollin Lane. This statement has previously identified that additional car parking will be provided within the scheme in addition to utilising the existing cricket club parking and spaces available at the western end of Hollin Lane.
- 5.14. It is concluded that the number of spaces will be sufficient to support the proposals and existing uses bearing in mind that car sharing common for group sport activities and given the level of overall provision. There are no highway safety issues in this area given the existing access operates safely and the general low speeds as Hollin Lane is not a through road. It is concluded that the policies are compliant with the transport related policies of the Core Strategy, PfE and NPPF.

Summary

- 5.15. This section has identified that the proposed land use is appropriate in locational terms and is compliant with the Development Plan and proposals map as updated through the PfE Bamford/Norden Development Allocation. The proposals are entirely consistent with the site allocation and will help to drive significant investment into the retained facilities in order to enhance them and significantly boost the Council's objectives for a sporting hub to be created in this location.
- 5.16. The facilities are aimed at the 'best in class' sector of the market which is in keeping with the policy objective for the enhanced sporting facilities to serve both the local community and the wider borough.
- 5.17. The proposals have been carefully designed and will adopt a contemporary appearance using dark colour tones and high quality materials. The layout and design take advantage of the sloping nature of the site meaning that the northern

end of the canopy structure will be set down within the landscape utilising a retaining wall feature, whilst the proposals have been designed to provide an appropriate buffer between the site and adjoining residential properties, including new landscape planting within the BNG area.

- 5.18. The proposals are compliant with policy in respect of land use, appearance and design and in relation to protecting and preserving residential amenity. The site can be safely and suitably accessed and will provide sufficient car parking. Impacts on trees and ecology are acceptable and there will be substantial ecological benefits with the requisite BNG achieved on site and which will have an associated long term management plan.
- 5.19. It is also concluded that the scheme is compliant with the NPPF in fostering the creation of sustainable and healthy communities, improving access to recreation and supporting healthy and active lifestyles and providing further opportunities for social connection. The proposals demonstrably represent sustainable development and will provide significant health and socioeconomic benefits to the local and wider area.

6. Key Benefits and Conclusions

- 6.1. This statement has identified that the proposals for a new padel centre at Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club have been carefully designed according to the constraints and opportunities of the site, with a focus on creating a high quality and sustainable sporting facility which is appropriate to this existing sports and recreational area, which is much valued by the local community. Detailed technical assessments have informed the site layout and design of the proposed canopy structure to ensure that there will be no unacceptable impacts on residential amenity.
- 6.2. This statement concludes that the facilities are an appropriate use of land, can be safely and suitably accessed and is compliant with all of the technical related policies in the Core Strategy, PfE and the guidance contained in the PPG and requirements of the NPPF. It is concluded that the scheme represents sustainable development with multiple planning benefits and, given this compliance with the Development Plan should, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the NPPF, be approved without delay.
- 6.3. The key benefits of the scheme can be summarised as follows:
- Securing a new high quality recreation facility in an appropriate location, which will help to boost the sporting profile of the area and deliver on the Bamford/Norden site specific policy objectives for sport and recreation.
 - Enhancing the sustainability of the Bamford Fieldhouse Cricket Club and leveraging in much needed financial investment to the site which will over time, help to sustain and enhance the cricket facilities.

- Result in the co-location of padel, a burgeoning version of tennis, which will sit alongside the existing tennis courts at the site providing the opportunity for sporting pathways between both versions of the game.
- Providing significant health and wellbeing benefits for local residents and the wider borough.
- Provision of a facility for which there is a demonstrated need and increasing demand both locally and nationally. There is no pre-existing padel facility within the immediate area and whilst there are facilities which have been brought forward within the Borough, these are not comparable to the present application proposals which will be co-located with existing sports facilities and sit at the heart of a new residential community and helping to serve present and future sport and recreation needs.
- The facilities will generate some local employment during construction and in the ongoing operation of the facility as there will be a need for staff on site and opening up opportunities for roles in coaching.
- The proposed operating model will seek to provide time within the overall schedule for example during weekday periods for local community groups and schools to access the facilities, including the potential for discounted rates to enhance accessibility and use.
- The proposals will secure over 10% biodiversity net gain on site and provide local ecological benefits.

6.4. It is concluded that the proposals will result in an element of visual change because the canopy structure will occupy land, which is presently set out for amenity grassland, however the site is not within the Green Belt and not within a protected

landscape area. It is also the case that the sporting facilities are set within the heart of an emerging new major residential community, where there will be a high degree of visual change across the wider area.

- 6.5. It is concluded there would, therefore, be no perceptible landscape harm arising, although there will be a degree of visual change within the immediate area. This is concluded to not give rise to any actual planning harm given the sensitive approach to the layout, high quality design and context of the site, set within an existing sports facility.
- 6.6. In the context that there is no definable planning harm arising from the scheme and in view of the full compliance with the Development Plan and raft of health and socioeconomic benefits which the scheme will provide, it is concluded that the development is entirely acceptable in policy and technical terms.
- 6.7. In accordance with paragraph 11 of the NPPF the proposals should therefore be approved without delay. We respectfully request that planning permission be granted.

CV Planning

March 2026

Appendix 1

LTA Padel Strategy 2024-2029



LTA PADEL STRATEGY 2024–29





OUR **VISION:**

PADEL OPENED UP

OUR **MISSION:**

To grow padel by making it accessible, welcoming,
enjoyable and inspiring



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Since the LTA was recognised as the national governing body for padel in Great Britain in 2020 we've completed important work in laying firm foundations for the sport – facilitating the expansion of padel courts across the country through multi-million-pound loan funding and our work to engage Local Authorities to support them with their padel facility planning.

We've launched a new coaching course with resources to support both new and existing coaches, a structured competition pathway to support players of all ages and levels-of-play, including both domestic and international competitions, and a performance infrastructure to support Britain's top players.

Having successfully completed the tasks we identified in our 2020–23 Padel Development Plan, we now want to evolve our approach in order to grow padel by making it accessible, welcoming, enjoyable, and inspiring and maximise the sport's impact to achieve sustainable growth for the future.

Over the coming years we will maintain our focus on padel infrastructure, growing and diversifying the padel coaching workforce, and implementing a performance pathway that supports current players whilst also paving the way for the next generation.

Alongside this we will invest in driving greater visibility for the sport, including exploring opportunities for professional padel events in Great Britain.

It's an exciting time for the sport as it's set to reach new heights. We want to play our part in driving this growth and support the many organisations and individuals involved in padel.



Tom Murray
LTA Head of Padel



BACKGROUND

Over the last decade, 25 tennis federations identified padel as a key strategy to attract new and diverse audiences, to reduce barriers-to-entry and grow overall participation of both tennis and padel.

The LTA's Padel Development Plan set out a phased approach, to integrate, build, accelerate, and scale padel throughout Britain. Read the LTA's 2023 padel recap [here](#).

Since 2021:

£6M INVESTMENT

THE LTA HAS INVESTED £6M TO GROW INFRASTRUCTURE

350 COURTS

NUMBER OF COURTS ACROSS GREAT BRITAIN HAS GROWN FROM 50 TO 350, A 600% INCREASE

129,000 PLAYERS

2023 SAW 3/4 OF VENUES REPORT AN UPLIFT IN PLAYERS TAKING ANNUAL PARTICIPATION TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH

Building on these developments, the LTA has now set out its plan for the growth of the sport over the next three years, outlined in the **LTA Padel Strategy 2024–29**.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

To grow padel by making it accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring.

- 1** Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation
- 2** Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000
- 3** Increase the number of padel courts from 350 to 1,000
- 4** Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700
- 5** Enable 10 players to break into the top 200 and 2 players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience

*The above targets have been set for the period of time between 2024-2026, these objectives and targets will be reviewed and updated for the period from 2027-2029.

FORECASTED GROWTH

2023

└ 350 COURTS

2024

└ 500 COURTS

2025

└ 700 COURTS

2026

└ 1000 COURTS



In order to achieve our mission and objectives we have identified six strategic pillars that will be the focus of our work over the coming years. These six pillars are:



INVEST

Invest in the visibility of padel and its infrastructure



GROW

Grow the player and fan base



ENGAGE

Engage, grow and motivate the padel workforce



DIVERSIFY

Develop opportunities to grow the appeal of padel



PERFORM

Create a pathway and support for players



LEAD

Lead padel in Britain to ensure it's safe, inclusive and sustainable

Under each of these areas we have developed a series of individual tactics that we will need to deliver against.

Over the following pages we set out these tactics and how they will contribute to our goal of making padel more accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring. What follows doesn't contain everything we'll be doing, but it does summarise some of the key areas we'll be working on to help grow the sport.



ACCESSIBLE

We're going to make padel more accessible to more people by working with the whole padel community. This means improving the support and engagement we give to local authorities, our member organisations, venues and operators across Britain. It also means using the plans we have in place to support the development of new facilities across the whole country.

For players, we'll be innovating and extending our competition offer, with a focus on local, county, and regional level competitions – so as many people as possible have a chance to start competing at the right level for them. We'll also be introducing a junior programme to identify the most promising young players and support them on their journey to the top of the game.

WELCOMING

Padel is already a welcoming sport for many, but there is more we can do to diversify the player population. Particularly so the sport appeals to more women, young people and those with disabilities.

As well as running programmes for these groups we will use a variety of competition formats to attract new audiences.

Alongside this we'll continue to support the coaching workforce, so that more people have access to high quality coaching.

Finally, we'll focus on increasing the public visibility of the sport through a wide range of investments in content, communications and commercial partnerships.



ENJOYABLE

To make the sport as enjoyable as possible for as many people as possible we need a strong workforce delivering padel on the ground. So we'll do all we can to attract, grow and diversify the padel coach and competition workforce to create more opportunities for people to both play and compete.

We'll also develop plans to recruit and deploy a new padel activator workforce, who will support opportunities to play across Britain.

We will work with our member organisations and padel venues to ensure a culture of everyday inclusion is embedded across the industry, and they adhere to best practice standards of safeguarding, governance and regulation.

INSPIRING

Bringing padel to the widest audience and supporting the best British players will help grow the sport and inspire a new generation of players. This is why we are committed to providing excellent support to our GB teams and players. One of the ways we will do this is to establish and support a network of performance training hubs across the country, as well as using our existing facilities at the National Tennis Centre and Nottingham Tennis Centre, to enable the delivery of high quality training environments for players.

We'll also look at how we can enhance the international and national level competitions we offer, as well as looking at the potential for major events in Britain, all of which play an important part in both player development and widening the appeal of the sport.



LTA | Lawn Tennis Association
100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London SW15 5JQ

www.lta.org.uk/padel

Appendix 2

Site Photographs



Location of Proposed Canopy Structure Looking South



View of Application Site from the North



Existing Tennis Courts & Associated Lighting



Existing Surface Car Park

END OF REPORT