

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES**

**DATE:** 12 December 2013

**REPORT OF:** Cabinet Member for Community, Business and Culture  
Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, Parks and Highways

**LEAD OFFICER:** Head of Sport and Fitness

**SUBJECT:** Development of beach volleyball courts on existing tennis / netball courts at Broom Road Recreation Ground

**WARDS:** Hampton Wick

**KEY DECISION?:** NO

**IF YES, IN FORWARD PLAN?:** YES/NO

### **For general release**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider a proposal to convert the existing tennis / netball courts at Broom Road Recreation Ground to beach volleyball and to be managed by Teddington Sports Centre.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.2 As above.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That approval be given for the development of beach volleyball courts, subject to securing funding as outlined in Section 4.
- 2.2 That the beach volleyball courts be managed by Teddington Sports Centre.

#### **3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 The 2 tennis / netball courts at Broom Road Recreation Ground are in poor overall condition and further deterioration is inevitable without significant financial investment.

The courts are currently managed as part of the Will to Win tennis contract, under the Parks and Open Spaces Framework – however, because of the condition of the courts and difficulties in managing the site, charges are rarely collected from users.

- 3.2 A new multi-use games area was provided on Broom Road Recreation Ground as part of the rebuilding of Teddington School and this provides 3 tennis / 2 netball courts. These facilities are available for use by the community out of school hours

and are managed by Teddington Sports Centre. Charges for these courts are in line with charges across the Council's Sport & Fitness Service and for courts managed by Will to Win across the rest of the Borough.

- 3.3 Beach volleyball is an Olympic sport and as part of the Olympic Legacy, Volleyball England is looking to develop a network of beach volleyball centres across the country. The only beach volleyball facility in the Borough is at Barn Elms (London Borough of Wandsworth). However, though this is used to some degree by local clubs, it is not in a convenient location, nor does it provide sufficient capacity to meet the needs of local clubs.
- 3.4 There is strong demand for a new beach volleyball facility in Teddington and key users would be Richmond Volleyball Club, Teddington Volleyball Club, Teddington School and other local schools. Richmond Volleyball Club currently has 350 members, 220 of whom are aged under 18. With the provision of this facility Richmond Volleyball Club expects to expand its membership by 20%.
- 3.5 The new courts would also be programmed for use for beach tennis, which is a new form of the game being promoted by the LTA. Also at certain times, the facility would be available as a free play beach, similar to the very popular facility provided at Champion's Wharf in Twickenham.
- 3.6 Converting these courts to beach volleyball is a very cost effective means of renovation. No works are required to the court surface or sub-base and sand is simply placed on top of the hard surface. The courts would also require the upgrading of some areas of fencing and the installation of equipment.
- 3.7 The courts would be managed by Teddington Sports Centre, who would be responsible for bookings, safety checks, maintenance and promotion of the facilities.
- 3.8 The advice from Planning Officers is that planning consent would not be required for conversion of the courts to beach volleyball and this would be deemed "permitted development".

#### **4 FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The estimated cost of the conversion of the courts to beach volleyball is £50,000 inclusive of professional fees.
- 4.2 The London Marathon Charitable Trust has agreed a grant of £25,000 to be ratified at its Board meeting in January 2014.

The balance of funding would be raised as follows:

£10,000 from Parks Improvement Programme  
£10,000 from Sport & Fitness revenue budget  
£5,000 from Richmond Volleyball Club

- 4.3 The estimated cost of retaining the courts for tennis / netball is £54,000. However, there is little prospect of attracting external funding for this as this is upgrading of an existing facility rather than the provision of a new facility.
- 4.4 Teddington Sports Centre would be responsible for managing the courts. Charges would be made for peak time use, e.g. evenings and weekends, and estimated first year income is £5,000, which would more than offset the costs of maintenance of the courts and equipment.

4.5 The following performance indicators and targets have been agreed with the London Marathon Charitable Trust:

- Overall annual attendances 16,770, comprising:
  - 10,010 club volleyball
  - 4,032 school users
  - 1,768 casual users
  - 960 Teddington Sports Centre holiday programmes
- Increase in membership of Richmond Volleyball Club from 130 to 170 adults and from 220 to 250 juniors.
- Number of coaches supporting the growth in programmes. Target for Richmond Volleyball Club to increase from 13 to 17.
- All clubs using the facility will be Clubmark accredited or working towards accreditation.
- Teddington Sports Centre will undertake diversity monitoring to ensure that the profile of users is similar to the make up of the local catchment area.

4.6 It is proposed that the Council's Sport & Fitness Service enter into a Service Level Agreement with Richmond Volleyball Club to cement their partnership in this project and to ensure their accountability for meeting targets related to their activity.

4.7 Performance in relation to these targets will be reported to the appropriate Cabinet Members on a 6 monthly basis.

## **5. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The beach volleyball courts would be procured in line with Contract Standing Orders.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are not considered to be any specific legal implications relating to this proposal.

## **7. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

7.1 Consultation was initially carried out in December 2012/January 2013. However, the response rate was low and a number of people commented that the Christmas period was not the best time to carry out consultation.

The top line results showed that 12 people responded to the proposal, 10 objecting and 2 supporting the proposal.

7.2 Further consultation was undertaken during November 2013, partly because of the low response rate to the original consultation, but also to reflect changes to the proposal to include beach tennis and use at times as a leisure beach. Information about this consultation was available via the Council website and there was promotion in the local press and on noticeboards at Broom Road Recreation Ground. Members of the Teddington Sports Centre Liaison Group were directly informed about the consultation and membership of this group includes representatives from the four local resident associations.

The top line results showed the following:

<i>To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to convert the tennis / netball courts in Broom Road Recreation Ground into 3 new beach volleyball courts?</i>	<b>Nos</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly agree	151	69.6
Agree	27	12.4
Neither agree nor disagree	6	2.8
Disagree	9	4.1
Strongly disagree	23	10.6
No response	1	0.5
	<b>217</b>	<b>100</b>

The survey also demonstrated that people would like to see the facility available for beach tennis and as a play beach in addition to beach volleyball. There was also strong demand for the facility to be free of charge at certain times.

In addition, there was strong support to retain some free community use of the other tennis / netball courts on Broom Road Recreation Ground.

A number of objectors commented that further use of these courts would exacerbate parking problems in the area. Currently, any parking problems occur during the winter months, i.e. during the hockey season. The peak season for use of the beach volleyball courts is from April to September, which largely falls outside of the hockey season. At these times, there is spare capacity in the Teddington School / Sports Centre main car park and this will be easily able to accommodate the maximum 12 users of the beach volleyball courts.

These comments will be considered when the programme for the new courts is developed and the pricing policy is determined.

## **8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Consultation December 2012/January 2013
- Beach Volleyball Proposal Consultation 1-30 November 2013 Top Line Results
- Feasibility Report – Total Turf Solutions, September 2013
- How to build and beach volleyball court – technical guidance notes – Volleyball England

## **9. CONTACTS**

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