

WISHEL LAWN TENNIS CLUB – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

Woking Borough Council has received a grant application from WisheLawn Tennis Club, a small Club which promotes tennis to people of all ages through coaching, competitions and informal play. The Club has approximately 150 members of whom half are aged under 18. The Club dates back to 1952 and has two floodlit courts and a clubhouse. The floodlights were installed in 2010.

The proposal submitted by the Club is to replace the existing court lighting with low energy LED lighting systems. The new lights will have the benefits of reducing energy consumption, lowering the Club’s energy bills and improving the night-time visibility for players.

In view of the benefits that will be achieved, and the Club’s emphasis on families and young people, it is recommended that the application should be supported and that a one-off grant awarded. The Council’s criteria for capital applications states that the Council will fund a maximum of 50% of the costs unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. It is not considered that exceptional circumstances exist which would justify an exception to the criteria and accordingly it is recommended that the grant should be limited to a maximum of £11,133.

It is noted that the Club does not currently have policies around equal opportunities and safeguarding. It is therefore proposed that a condition is added advising the Club to work with the Council’s Community Development Team in order to adopt suitable policies for equal opportunities and safeguarding.

Recommendations

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| The Executive is requested to: | RESOLVE That a grant of 50% of the costs of replacing the lighting units at WisheLawn Tennis Club be awarded up to a maximum of £11,133. |
| Reason for Decision | To support the Club in its endeavours to improve the playing facilities and reduce the Club’s costs through the adoption of energy efficient flood lighting. |
| Legal Authority | S19 (Misc. Provisions) Local Government Act 1976 |
| Conditions | <p>Accounts. The Organisation must submit accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required.</p> <p>Monitoring Information. The Organisation must submit monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award. E-mail requests will be sent to the applicant.</p> <p>Publicity. Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> |

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| | <p>Joint Working. WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.</p> <p>Invoices / Receipts. In order to claim an element of the funding, the Organisation must submit paid invoices or receipts relating to equipment purchased or services provided.</p> <p>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Following the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the Council expects the support of partner agencies in identifying people at risk of homelessness as early as possible to maximise the opportunities to prevent such. Partner agencies / organisations are expected to be engaged in joint working arrangements to assist in finding suitable housing and support solutions, and where appropriate to undertake and respond to the new 'duty to refer'. Groups which do not support this new legislation and way of working positively may put their Council support at risk.</p> <p>Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities. The Club to work with the Council's Community Development Team in order to adopt suitable policies for equal opportunities and safeguarding.</p> |
| Performance Indicators | <p>Activities. The Organisation to provide details of activities and events held.</p> <p>Publicity. The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p> <p>Statement of Use. The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p> |
| Future Support | <p>The support is provided on a one-off basis for a specific project and does not have any ongoing, revenue implications for the Borough Council.</p> |

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendation.

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

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| 1.0 Summary of Application | |
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| 1.1 Status and Aims | <p>Wishel Lawn Tennis Club was formed in 1952 on a site located within walking distance of Woking Town Centre alongside to Woking Park, providing community tennis to all. The Club has two courts and a clubhouse and seeks to provide affordable tennis to all ages, abilities, and social groups. The Club strives to maintain competitive, team and tournament level play in singles and doubles, whilst providing a strong social ‘turn up and play’ atmosphere all year round at daily club sessions.</p> <p>The Club places great emphasis on junior tennis, enabling players to develop their full potential in all age groups and abilities through coaching and attending the Club.</p> |
| 1.2 Employees | 1 – a part-time cleaner (1 hour each week). |
| 1.3 Volunteers | The Members of the Club (see below) act as volunteers for the activities undertaken. The operational management of the Club is undertaken by volunteer members including the roles of Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary, Tennis Captain and Junior Coach. |
| 1.4 Clients/Users | See Members. |
| 1.5 Members | <p>145, comprising:</p> <p>73 male</p> <p>72 female</p> <p>Approximately 20 ethnic minority.</p> <p>125 resident in Woking</p> <p>71 members are Seniors (over 18) and 74 are juniors.</p> <p>Members are charged £155pa for Full Adult Membership or £15pa for Junior Membership. There are concessions for Family, Mid-Week, Student, Parent and Junior, and Associate Memberships.</p> <p>The Club operates an inclusive membership policy and aims to provide a full range of tennis activities to meet the requirements of existing and new members. The Juniors have a structured coaching programme and the Club is looking to introduce inter club tennis into their programme.</p> <p>For adults the range of activities includes social tennis, sessions for those wishing to take up or return to playing tennis, club tournaments, matches against other clubs in the Woking area and coaching on a group or individual basis.</p> |
| 1.6 Sum Requested | £22,265 (Capital) |
| 1.7 Project | <p>The Club has applied for funding to replace the existing floodlights with modern LED lighting to improve the light quality on the courts and reduce the Club’s energy consumption.</p> <p>The project will use the existing infrastructure of power cables and lamp standards replacing only the existing fittings and LED units.</p> <p>Any grant awarded would be used as a contribution towards the</p> |

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| | floodlight replacement costs. |
| 1.8 Cost breakdown: | The cost will arise from labour and replacement of LED fittings and lighting units. A quote of £22,264.80, including VAT, has been received from the Club. The quote is based on the supply and installation of four 400w and eight 600w asymmetric LED floodlights |
| 1.9 Community Benefit | The main beneficiaries of the proposal will be existing and future members. |

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| 2.0 Financial Background | |
| 2.1 Budget | <p>At the time of the application, the Group held £23,067 in the bank.</p> <p>In accordance with Lawn Tennis Association’s guidance, the Club sets aside a sum each year to meet the cost of maintaining the courts (annual cleaning, repainting approximately every 5 years and replacing the court surface every 10-15 years). The sum set aside each year is currently £3,600 and the Club Resurfacing Fund will have a balance of £13,200 at the end of this financial year.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2020/21 which shows an anticipated income of £10,935 against an anticipated expenditure of £6,660, resulting in an anticipated surplus of £4,275 of which £3,600 will be transferred to the Reserve Fund.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes subscriptions (£9,400), Tiger Tennis contribution (£900), match fees (£300), tournament fees (£120), and other costs (£215). Items of expenditure include tennis balls (£800), insurance (£800), court and external maintenance (£1,800), and clubhouse cleaning costs (£900). Additional expenses include electricity (£1,000), water rates (£350) and Lawn Tennis Association and League subscriptions (£260).</p> |
| 2.2 Accounts | <p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2018 which show an income of £10,988 (£10,928 in 2017) against expenditure of £5,960 (£5,704 in 2017/18), resulting in a surplus of £5,028 (a surplus of £5,224 in 2017/18). The sum of £49,546 was carried forward at the end of the 2018 year.</p> <p>The Club undertakes some fundraising activities, including the sale of used tennis balls and tennis competitions.</p> |
| 2.3 Support over the past five years | New Application. |

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| 3.0 Assessment of Application | | |
| 3.1 Key Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution ○ Registered Charity ○ VAT Registered ○ Equal Opportunities Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No No No |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safeguarding Policy ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously <p>*Mandatory rate relief and discretionary rate relief. The Club has recently applied to Woking Borough Council's small grants scheme for assistance in purchasing a ball hitting machine.</p> | <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes*</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p> | <p><u>Elsbeth Andrews, Development Officer for Volunteer Woking</u></p> <p>Wishel provides affordable tennis activities both social and competitive tennis close to the centre of Woking. They provide affordable tennis to all ages, abilities, and social groups. The Club is applying for capital grant of £22,265 to cover the cost of replacing the lighting to energy efficient led lighting. We feel the Club moving to energy efficient LED lighting is sensible and in the long term will be very cost efficient. I would be happy to support the grant up to £11,133 (50%) as long as it meets standard requirements.</p> <p>The Club recently obtained advice from the Woking Borough Council Funding Officer on other potential sources of funding for this project and is understood to be seeking match funding from them, with particular reference to the Lawn Tennis Association which is offering 50% funding for exactly this type of project.</p> | |
| <p>3.3 Assessment</p> | <p>Wishel Lawn Tennis Club has applied for a one-off contribution towards the costs of replacing the lighting units for the two tennis courts. The Club is a founder member of the Woking and District Tennis Leagues and plays competitive inter club matches at different clubs within a 15 mile radius of Woking. The proposals would see the existing twelve lighting units replaced with LED lights which will provide better lighting for tennis and will be cheaper to operate.</p> <p>Planning permission for the existing floodlights was awarded in 2008 and, following a fundraising drive, the purpose built low-level lights were erected in May 2010.</p> <p>The floodlights enable all members to enjoy even more court time during the winter evenings and facilitate midweek club play and additional junior coaching and time on court. The upgrading of the floodlights will enable the Club to provide tennis at a satisfactory level for all of the members.</p> <p>The Club operates a Junior Tennis coaching programme Monday to Saturday with all week day activity taking place after school and using the floodlights during the winter months. Similarly senior tennis activities run Monday to Thursday and require the use of floodlights from September to April.</p> <p>Wishel Lawn Tennis Club provides affordable tennis activities – both social and competitive tennis – close to the centre of Woking. The</p> | |

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investment in the floodlights will enable the Club to continue to provide an excellent facility for existing members and also one which will hopefully attract new people to the sport of tennis.

The application is for a one-off contribution towards the costs of replacing their existing floodlighting with energy efficient LED lights which will also provide a better playing environment for the members. It is recommended that the application is supported and that a one-off grant of 50% of the costs up to a maximum of £11,133 should be awarded, recognising the Club's emphasis on tennis for all, a strong social 'turn up and play' atmosphere and the encouragement for young people to join (with an annual membership cost of only £15 for those aged under 18).

REPORT ENDS