



JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

9 MARCH 2022

Report Title: Creation of Petanque Courts
Report of: Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: To seek feedback from the Committees on the creation of Petanque (boules) Courts on land adjacent to the Lower Road, East.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - N/A

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To provide advice and feedback to the Trustee Board, who will consider the issue at their next Board meeting.

2. Background

- 2.1 For several years a group of local people have met to play Petanque (Boules) in the Fairground Car Park. The group avoid playing on days when the car park is in use.
- 2.2 In 2019 the Trust was approached by a local community group about the possibility of creating a permanent four-lane Petanque Court in Alexandra Park. Whilst the Trust was supportive, a suitable permanent location for the size requested could not be found. The Fairground Car Park is well used throughout the year as a multi-purpose operational site and is an unsuitable location for a permanent Court.
- 2.3 In 2021 the local players approached the Trust again. This time the proposal was for a two-lane Petanque Court. The group had also raised money to fund the Courts creation.
- 2.4 The Trust reassessed the new proposal and suggested the location shown on the map in Appendix 1 (map of overflow car park location). Both parties agree that the location is suitable. The proposed site also has plenty of exposure to passers-by to generate interest, with lots of viewing space around the new court and its location will not block access to the steps that give access to the sports club access road and lower park area.
- 2.5 Although the location is used by the Trust during event days and weekly by the Park Run it is felt that the Court can be accommodated alongside these uses.

2.6 The area is also sometimes used as an overflow car park for the Sports Club. However, this is not part of the club's leased area and will be unavailable for this use in the future if the Petanque Court is created.

3. Petanque Court Proposal

3.1 The proposal is to create two Courts adjacent to each other in total measuring c. 8m by 16m. The Courts are at ground level, bounded by sleepers, slightly raised above the level of the ground. No excavation is required.

3.2 The Courts would not be surrounded by fencing, as they sometimes are in other more formal Park locations, to avoid enclosing areas of the Park unnecessarily and to reduce the ongoing maintenance costs to the Trust. The Courts would not be lit. Plans and example pictures are provided at Appendix 2 (show plans for the design size and layout in location).

3.3 The Courts would be open to any member of the public to play on any day of the week. Playing on the Courts would be free of charge. No special times are reserved for any group of players and no booking system will be in operation. However, there would be times when the Courts are deemed out of use such as when events are being held or hosted in the Park and the area is fenced off.

3.4 A small, location-appropriate, information board is planned to explain what the Courts are and the game of Petanque.

3.5 The local group of Petanque players are in the process of becoming a constituted group registered with the English Petanque league as the Hornsey Petanque Club. The Club will provide the funding but also advise the Trust on the design and installation and support the Trust in monitoring the condition of the Court.

4. Petanque as a sport

4.1 The broad appeal of petanque covers a wide demographic, particularly those that are not always engaged with sport. The English Petanque Association is committed to ensuring this highly accessible sport can be enjoyed by all. As the National Governing Body for the sport in England they are officially recognised by Sport England. Members of the World governing body, the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) and the European governing body, the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP), they are also members of the Sport + Recreation Alliance. *see footnote 1

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The creation of Petanque Courts sits within the functions, powers and duties of the Trustees as set out in the 1985 Act of Parliament:

- Page 2, sections 8 & 11 – making all provisions necessary to ensure that Alexandra Park and Palace remains a place of public resort and recreation and other public purposes, taking in to account the contemporary needs of the public

- Page 5 section 4 and Page 13 section 17(v) – The Trust can let part or parts of the Park (not exceeding 40 acres) and Palace for up to 22 years in line with the Board’s main duty; restrictions apply.

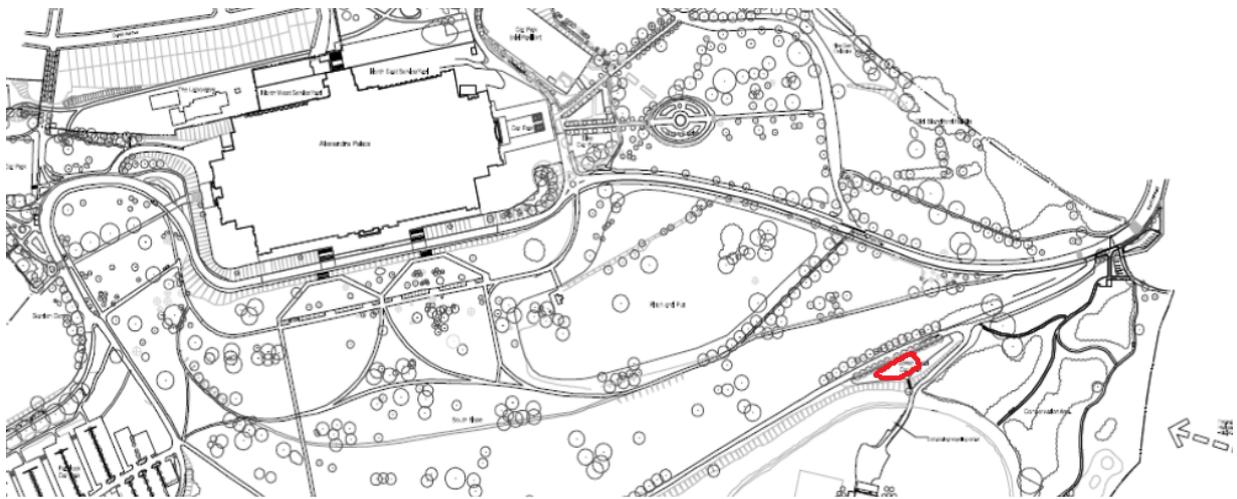
5.2 The Council’s Head of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

6. Use of Appendices

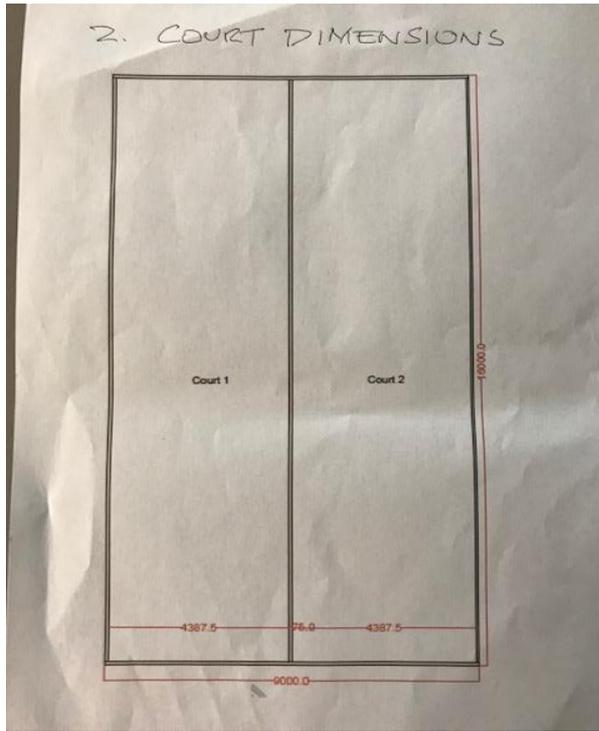
Appendix 1 – Maps showing proposed location / overflow car park

Appendix 2 – Design, size, layout plans

Appendix 1 – Site location



Appendix 2 – Design, size, layout plans



Court Dimensions (approximately 8m by 16m)

Image of site location



End