



MY NEIGHBOURHOOD



AGENDA ITEM NO.12

AVONMOUTH AND KINGSWESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

11th June 2013

Report of: *David Hudgell – Senior sports development Officer, sport and health development*

Title: *Dingle Close Community Tennis Association proposal for lease*

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RECOMMENDATION

To support the Dingle Close Community tennis associations request to take a 10 year lease on the tennis courts and green space at Dingle close in order to maintain and improve the area to retain this as a tennis surface for the future.

Context.

- 1. The courts, owned by the parks dept (is this true) have historically been open access.*
- 2. The courts have had limited investment over the years and whilst still useable they are in need of improvement. The maintenance of the green space around the courts is also an on-going cost to Bristol city Council and the residents group as part of the lease would be willing to maintain and manage the area to ensure it is an attractive space and does not become overgrown.*
- 3. A group of residents have recently formed a community tennis association, with the intention of maintaining and improving the tennis facilities and the surrounding green space specifically to improve the surface and fencing to ensure this facility is maintained for the future.*
- 4. Sport England has been running a recent 'Inspired Facilities' programme to allow community clubs to improve the quality of surfaces*

and courts that seems ideal for Dingle Close. As part of this programme clubs can bid for up to £50,000 to improve their club and to attract more people to use sporting facilities.

- 5. In order to attract this funding and other sporting funding a community club would need a 10 year lease to provide security of tenure to potential funders to ensure a return on their investment.*

Proposal

- 2. To lease the site at Dingle Close to the community tennis association to enable them to deliver improvements to the site and to ensure the long term future of the tennis courts for the people of sea mills.*

Risk Assessment

The main risk if the proposal moves forward is that the Group are unable to raise funds and the site deteriorates. To mitigate this risk break clauses will need to be considered as part of the asset transfer process

Equality Implications

The parks department will ensure that all equalities matters are considered as part of the process and that the Community Tennis Association also ensures equal access.

Financial

Costs will be negotiated between the Parks department and the tennis association.

Background Papers:

Sport England inspired facilities funding:
<http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/>