

## **Appendix B – Ardagh Tennis Courts**

### **Internal**

Discussions internally with Parks and Property have been held.

1. Parks are supportive of retaining six of the tennis courts for inclusion in the wider parks tennis operating model, acknowledging they have a commercial value in support of the ongoing sustainability of high quality tennis courts across the city.
2. Property acknowledge that six courts are to be retained by the Council

### **External**

Discussions have been held with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

3. The LTA support the Council retaining six of the tennis courts at the Ardagh site for their inclusion in the wider parks tennis operating model.

Discussion have been held with the Ardagh Community Trust (ACT)

4. The ACT's preference is to retain all 11 courts for inclusion in their community asset transfer, however on the basis the Council wants to retain six for inclusion in the wider parks tennis model the ACT are willing to compromise on their position.

Officers met representatives from the ACT and ward councillors, including consultants from Sporting Assets appointed to support ACT on a number of occasions to discuss the Council's preference to retain the courts as part of a proposed wider parks tennis model. During various discussions with the ACT and ward Councillors, the ACT were only accepting of the Council retaining a maximum of four courts for tennis.

The date of those meetings is as follows:

**City Hall: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017, 8.30-9.15am**

Attendees: Kevin Slocombe, Guy Fishbourne, Councillor Eleanor Combley, Councillor Tom Brook

At this meeting the concept of retaining some of the courts for a wider parks tennis model was discussed with ward Councillors.

**City Hall: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 1-2.00pm**

Attendees: Kevin Slocombe, John Bos, Guy Fishbourne, Councillor Tom Brook, Councillor Eleanor Combley, Emma Reffold, Simon Cowley, Sam Thompson (ACT), Rob Savage (ACT), Julie Jones (Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

This meeting was called by the Council in the interest of progressing the Ardagh CAT and associated proposals especially the issue of tennis to discuss some of the challenges which needed addressing and opportunities which existed. The concept and proposal that the Council retain some of the courts was tabled and how this would help support the wider proposed tennis model which was looking to be progressed across some of its other parks. Potential funding opportunities were discussed mainly related to grants from the Lawn Tennis Association. At this meeting the ACT mentioned the work that Sporting Assets were doing for them in support of their business plan and how it would be good for the Council to meet them in order to see whether there was a way which could achieve a win: win scenario where the sports courts were concerned. Both the ACT and Council were keen to achieve an outcome which included sports and leisure delivery with the strategic aims of Sports and BCC being met along with the sustainable, community and social delivery objectives of ACT.

No agreement was sought or reached in terms of a final position relating to the cities tennis offer and the ACT at this meeting.

**City Hall: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 11.15 -12.15pm**

Attendees: Nicky Roche (Sporting Assets), Guy Fishbourne

At this meeting Sporting Assets were keen to gather information with regards to sporting demand. The proposal of the wider parks tennis model was discussed with Sporting Assets and how a strategic approach wanted to be taken by the Council and LTA in order to deliver, co-ordinate and sustain the development of tennis and its facilities across parks, including the Ardagh. It was explained how the Council wanted to retain a number of the courts at the Ardagh for this purpose and how their inclusion in a wider

model would provide the potential for cross subsidy in the event throughput and use was greater in some areas of the city than others. It was explained how this approach would help support equitable provision across Bristol's parks

**City Hall: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017, 12-1.30pm** Attendees: Steve Strong (ACT) Rob Savage (ACT) Julie Jones (Lawn Tennis Association) James Deem (Lawn Tennis Association) Guy Fishbourne, Councillor Asher Craig

At this meeting the LTA stated that as the National Sports Governing Body they were interested in protecting and developing tennis at the Ardagh. The LTA stated how they wanted 8 courts retained for tennis but that the Council's proposed compromise of 6 courts was a workable option. The proposed compromise to retain 6 courts exclusively for tennis was between the LTA's preference to retain 8 courts and the ACT's to retain just 4 exclusively for tennis. It was explained how the Council felt their inclusion in a wider model would provide the potential for cross subsidy in the event throughput and use was greater in some areas of the city than others. It was explained how this approach would help support equitable provision across Bristol's parks. This was not a position the ACT were willing to accept at the time as they were concerned this approach would undermine their business plan and philosophy for the site.

**Ardagh: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 5.00pm**

Attendees: Kevin Slocombe, Sam Thompson (ACT) This meeting was to discuss how 6 courts being retained for exclusively tennis at the Ardagh contributed towards the wider parks model.

**City Hall: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 2-3.00pm**

Attendees: Guy Fishbourne, Councillor Asher Craig, Richard Fletcher, Julie Jones (LTA), James Deem (LTA)

**City Hall: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 11-12 noon**

Attendees: Guy Fishbourne, Councillor Eleanor Combley

This meeting was arranged in order to discuss the projected financial modelling around the wider parks tennis offer and how the inclusion of courts at the Ardagh supported this. Cllr Combley made reference to how at a previous meeting attended by the ACT the financial model had been presented and that the ACT felt there were flaws in the model concerning income and expenditure. It

was agreed that with all financial modelling there is an element of risk and that assumptions are made. It was explained that the potential existed for the ACT to benefit from a combined city tennis offer on the same site whether this was through the potential to operate the courts or through a possible specification which enabled a small income contribution towards grounds maintenance of the wider site. Cllr Combley was clear that this would not be the ACTs preferred option.

**City Hall: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, 5-6.15pm**

Attendees: Steve Strong (ACT), Sam Thomson (ACT), Rob Savage (ACT) Hilary Sudbury, Fiona Wright, Gemma Dando, Richard Fletcher, Guy Fishbourne, Asher Craig, John Bos

At this meeting the ACT was informed that the Council would retain six courts for the City's wider tennis offer and that a report was being prepared for Cabinet to recommend an 'in principle' decision on future financial investment. The ACT expressed their frustration and dissatisfaction with the whole CAT process. Because of this stated position option four in the ACT business plan was then discussed as it was this option which excluded six courts from the wider community asset transfer.

Since the outcome of the Call In committee the Council has met Sam Thompson from the ACT

**City Hall: 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Attendees: Sam Thompson (ACT), Sally Hogg (BCC) Guy Fishbourne (BCC) David Hudgell (BCC)**

At this meeting it was confirmed that 'in principle' and subject to following the correct procurement regulations the ACT could be appointed as the operator for the six courts. It was acknowledged that the City tennis offer could co-exist with the wider site and that opportunities existed for further discussion about how this might work along with co-ordinated ground works when the time is right. In the event the ACT did not operate the courts it was agreed that 'in principle' a small income stream could be specified and contributed towards grounds maintenance of some of the wider site.

City Hall: 7<sup>th</sup> August 11-12noon

Attendees: Sam Thompson (ACT), Cllr Asher Craig, Cllr Eleanor Combley, John Boss, Guy Fishbourne

This meeting was held to discuss some of the remaining issues which concern the wider CAT process but it was acknowledged again that the ACT were satisfied with the current position concerning tennis at the Ardagh and its contribution to the wider city offer.