

ITEM 12

Extracted from email dated 24th September 2020

Dear Sharon, Fran,

I'm just following up Mike's e-mail from last week, to congratulate on the work done to re-establish tennis at Hawarden and to invest in the courts in recent years – Tennis Wales are very grateful for this.

Also just to reaffirm, Tennis Wales would be very keen to work with Hawarden Community Council and Hawarden Community Tennis Club to look at gate access systems for the courts and also some potential marketing and promotion support to help sustain participation locally.

The key for us is that with securing a level of income the community council will be able to maintain a sinking fund for court cleaning, painting and eventual resurfacing. This way you can be confident that you won't have to find the funding above and beyond your annual budgets. It will also help with site security.

I do fully understand where there may be reservations and a desire to maintain free access, I feel it would be perfectly possible to maintain designated times/hours for free usage within court planning and for us to work with the tennis club to look at users having access to potential offers with coaching and events from time to time. We operate sites in other locations at as little as £4.50 an hour or a £39 subscription for a whole year in terms of unlimited family usage.

I would be really happy to have an explorative meeting with the community council to outline how we could work together?

Cofion Cynnes,

Jamie

Jamie Clewer

Head of Participation

Extracted from email dated 19th September 2020

Hi Sharon / Fran,

I hope you are both keeping well.

The Tennis Wales team consisting of Pam Griffiths and Luke Williams (Participation Development Partners) and Jamie Clewer (Head Of Participation) came to meet at Hawarden a few days ago.

They were very impressed with the work that we've done at Hawarden Community Tennis Club.

It's been fantastic working with the council and having the support to take the courts from an unplayable condition over 2 years ago to having 210 children attend a single open day, raise over £500 for Clic Sargeant and hundreds attending our coaching sessions.

We've also got a fantastic safeguarding officer who recently helped Pen-y-ffordd Tennis Club to get the highest grade possible in a recent safeguarding audit and she is working with me to ensure we can keep the same standards at Hawarden.

As you are aware, we are affiliated with Tennis Wales and the LTA which allowed me to set up the website and the court booking system for everyone to use at Gladstone, which is essential for track and trace and it doesn't look like anyone has had any problems with it.

Unfortunately, the coaching has been hit hard by covid this year, but I have recently started sessions again and I'm looking to recruit another coach who can continue the great work with me.

One of the things that I'm really concerned about is the future of the courts and the costs to maintain them. It's essential to have courts that are regularly maintained and painted for safety and to extend the life of the courts. They will need to be resurfaced which carries a huge cost and my fear is that the courts could then get abandoned and are unsafe to use.

We tried to run a membership based club at Hawarden to help with the upkeep of the courts, but even with 210 kids on the open day and a great offer people no one took up the membership offer up, because the courts are always free to play on, so why would they join.

Tennis Wales have a great plan to help generate much needed income for the courts via a gate access system working in collaboration with myself and Hawarden Community Tennis Club and the council.

They would fund for an electronic gate to be installed; this would enable us to then charge people a small fee per hour to use the courts. Players would book online and a new code is generated each time. There could also be very cheap subscription model (like a membership but not called that) which would give players a really great deal and then they could play as much as they want.

The most important thing that I wanted to put across is that the last thing we want to do is to make tennis unaffordable and to stop people from playing. We really don't want that. We could decide on a fee of how much to charge with the council, and we can also make the courts free or super cheap whenever we want.

This would bring in much needed income to safeguard the courts. The gate would also be great to stop the courts and nets being trashed by people on bikes and playing football on them. Often the courts are not used for tennis.

Tennis Wales have recently done something similar at Heath Park in collaboration with another coach, which has been very successful.

<https://www.tenniswalesinthepark.co.uk/select-your-park/heath-park/>

I've CC'D tennis wales in the email, feel free to get in contact with them. I'm sure you will have some questions. It would be great to have a zoom meeting with the council where Tennis Wales and myself can do a presentation.

And on a separate note - I'm aware another coach has been in touch regarding doing private lessons at Hawarden, but she is independent of me and not involved with myself or Hawarden Community Tennis Club

Thanks,

Mike