

**Westward Ho! Tennis Club
Proposed Development**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Need

- Following consultation with its members, Westward Ho! Tennis Club recognised the need for additional courts and indoor facilities. Unfortunately, there is limited capacity for expansion of the Tennis Club in its current location.
- The Club currently has a waiting list of Junior Players, and it will only be possible to meet this demand through expansion of the current facilities through the proposed new development.
- The club has therefore spent the last four years identifying a site for relocation that meets the growing needs and demands of its members.
- The proposed new facility will compliment the Tarka Indoor Tennis Centre in Barnstaple.
- The new facility will provide enhanced and affordable access to the people of Torridge, supporting tennis and other racket sports, for which there is currently only limited facilities available within Torridge.

2. Proposed Development

- The proposal is to provide a new facility with 4 outdoor tennis courts, 4 indoor tennis courts, and 3 squash courts. Badminton and Table Tennis will also be supported.
- The new facility will have the necessary supporting infrastructure to provide full access for those with special needs.

3. Location

- The Club has looked at the potential development of the site adjacent to the Swimming Pool, however, this site is not available to the Club.
- We have taken professional guidance on potential alternative sites within Northam; a pre-requisite of the planning approval on Avon Lane.
- This search identified two potential sites which were assessed by means of public consultation. Overwhelming support was received for the Silford Road site over and above the site at Tadworthy Road.
- As a result of this, the Club has moved forward with its proposals at Silford Road.
- The Club also evaluated the possibility of relocating to Lenwood Country Club, but unfortunately this is not large enough to meet our requirements.

4. Continuity

- The Tennis Club is not permitted to develop the Avon Lane site until such time as the new facilities are available to at least the same standard as is currently offered at the existing facility.
- This forms part of the planning approval on Avon Lane, and ensures continuity of available facilities.

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5. Club Constitution

- Westward Ho! Tennis Club is a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), and is run by volunteers.
- As a CASC, there can be no distribution of profit to members, and the Club is currently run, and will continue to be led, by a group of volunteers. No salaries will be paid to the Committee who lead the organisation.
- The Club will employ staff as required to operate the proposed facility, but these will be directly answerable to the Committee.

6. Accessibility

- The Tennis Club operates as a CASC – ensuring accessibility to the whole community

7. Affordability

- As a CASC, the Club must ensure that access to the facilities is affordable.
- As we are all aware, North Devon is one of the poorest areas in the UK, and this is recognised in our very low Club Membership Fee, which will continue as part of the new development.
- Membership Fees are currently approximately half of those in South Devon.

8. Traffic

- A traffic survey is currently in progress, which will be completed and submitted to the Public Highways Authority to ensure that the proposed development meets with statutory expectations.

9. Wildlife

- A survey is currently underway and will be provided as part of the planning application in order to ensure that appropriate protection is provided to wildlife and natural habitat.

10. Viability

- A full 5-year operating plan has been developed to ensure the viability of the proposed development. This has been scrutinised by the LTA, who have validated its contents on the basis of the projections.

11. Avon Lane

- Avon Lane has outline planning permission for 24 residential dwellings.

12. Programme

- Subject to successful consultation and further dialogue with Northam Town Council, the intent is to submit the planning application during August for consideration by Torridge District Council Planning Committee. The planning process will ensure that further statutory consultation is undertaken.
- Following this, a build programme will then commence, subject to the approval and satisfactory conclusion of any reserved matters.