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## **Proposal to Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council**

### **Request for Additional Land to Expand Northaw & Cuffley Lawn Tennis Club (N&CLTC) with Padel Courts**

At Northaw & Cuffley Tennis Club we have been exploring other facilities we can offer in addition to tennis, whilst remaining within the realms of rackets sports. From speaking with various members and non members of our community it became apparent very quickly that the fast growing sport almost all ages were interested in having available to play, was Padel.

With this in mind, N&CLTC respectfully requests the allocation/lease of adjacent council owned land at King George V playing fields to enable the development of padel courts as part of our existing tennis facility.

This expansion will:

- Increase community participation in physical activity
- Broaden access to inclusive and social sport
- Support youth, older adults and beginners
- Strengthen the long-term sustainability of the club
- Deliver additional community value from public land

Padel is one of the fastest growing participation sports in the UK offering a highly accessible format that complements traditional tennis.

#### **Why Padel?**

Padel:

- Is easier to learn than tennis
- Appeals strongly to 18-45 age group (currently underrepresented at N&CLTC and most tennis clubs)
- Encourages social play and mixed ability participation
- Requires less space than tennis
- Has strong female participation rates
- Creates new revenue streams

National governing bodies including the Lawn Tennis Association are actively supporting padel expansion as part of a wide strategy to increase racket sport participation.

## **Community Need**

Having looked at the local area and approached 3 different padel organisations, they have been able to advise from their experience that adding padel courts usually:

- Provides a modern, accessible entry point into sport
- Increase casual participation
- Create new intergenerational opportunities
- Offer low barrier physical activity option

With our existing clubhouse facilities new padel members would be able to join an already thriving social community and use the changing rooms and kitchen amenities.

And local trends show:

- An increased demand for bookable court space
- Waiting lists for coaching programmes
- Limited local access to padel facilities. There are 2 courts at Old Owens Sports Grounds, however these are not covered and so not able to be fully utilised.
- Rising interest from younger adults and families

## **Land Requirement**

We request use of approximately 1125 square metres located adjacent to our existing boundary. Please see the attached map with our existing grounds marked in black and the required new area marked in yellow.

This would provide us with enough land to build 4 padel courts and can be sensitively screened with appropriate landscaping.

We are open to:

- A long term lease arrangement
- A long term lease arrangement adding on to/in line with our existing lease
- Peppercorn rent structure

## **Financial and Delivery Plan**

N&CLTC will:

- Engage with preferred Padel company to build and maintain courts, a % of income or profits payable to N&CLTC (detail to be agreed)

Should this route be unsuccessful, N&CLTC will:

- Fund raise through grants and Sport England applications
- Explore support from the Lawn Tennis Association padel development programme
- Cover all construction, maintenance and operational costs
- Manage bookings and programs

No capital investment would be required from the council.

Estimated timeline:

- Planning and consultation 3-6 months
- Construction 12-16 weeks
- Operational launch 12 months from approval

### **Community Benefits to the Council**

This proposal aligns with council objectives including;

- Increasing physical activity levels
- Supporting mental wellbeing
- Activating public space
- Encouraging youth engagement
- Strengthening community cohesion
- Delivering social value from council owned land

Projected outcomes:

- New school and youth partnerships
- Inclusive programming
- Employment opportunities (coaching and facility manager)

### **Environmental and Neighbour Considerations**

We commit to:

- Noise impact assessment
- Sensitive court orientation
- Landscaping buffers
- Sustainable LED lighting

Padel courts are enclosed and we would be putting forward plans to include a canopy helping to reduce noise and neighbour disturbance.

### **Long Term Vision**

This expansion would future proof the club for the next 10-20 years (possibly more), ensuring it remains:

- Financially sustainable
- Attractive to younger generations
- Inclusive and diverse
- A key community sports hub

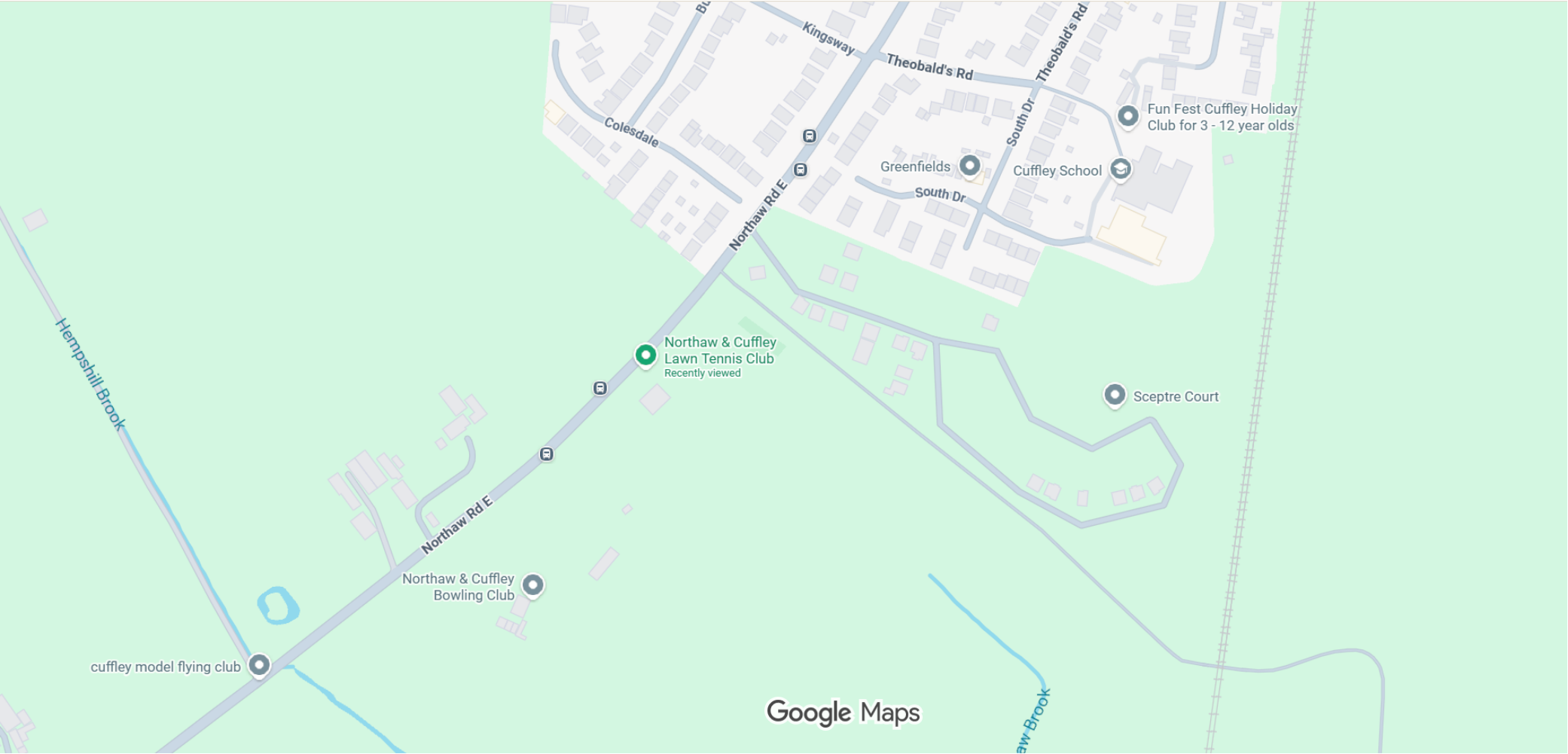
We believe the expansion of padel courts will unlock substantial long term public benefit.

### **Request**

We respectfully request:

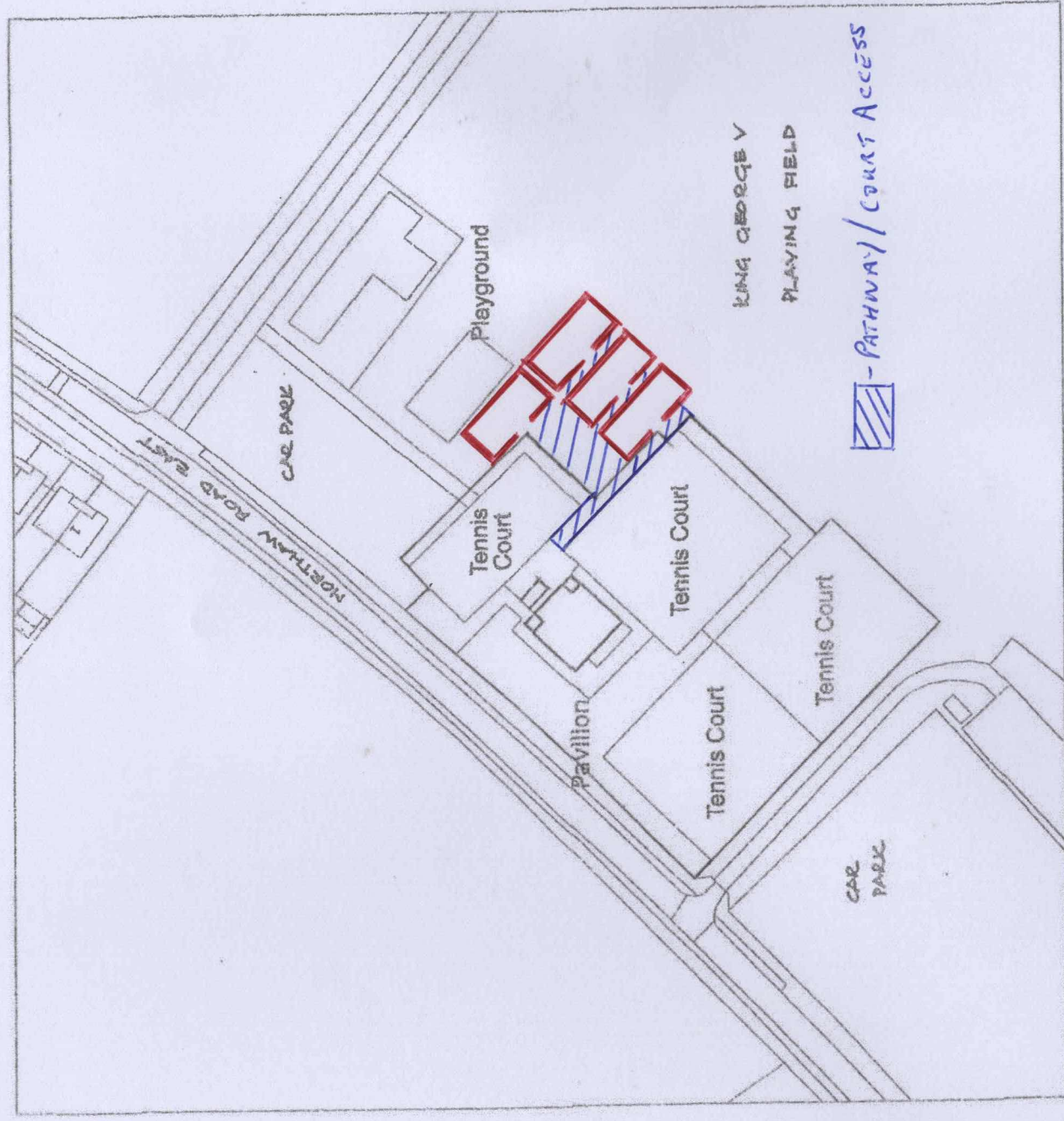
- Approval in principle to explore land allocation
- A meeting with council officers to discuss feasibility
- Guidance on planning and lease pathway

We looked forward to working collaboratively with the council to deliver an enhanced community sports provision.



Imagery ©2026 , Map data ©2026 50 m

NORTHAM AND CUFFLEY  
TENNIS CLUBS BOUNDARY



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Northaw &amp; Cuffley Lawn Tennis C



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Existing area is marked in black.

Required area 45 m x 25 m, 1125 m<sup>2</sup>