

Local park tennis courts in Southborough set for renovation

- Southborough Town Council and the LTA agree partnership to breathe new life into local park tennis courts in Southborough.
- The project will see over £35,000 of investment at the Pennington Recreation Ground.
- Investment comes from the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation's Park Tennis Project, being delivered by the LTA.

Southborough Town Council and the LTA have today announced a partnership to invest in and refurbish the public park tennis courts in Southborough. In total, two park tennis courts at the Pennington Recreation Ground will be renovated, with an investment of over £35,000 helping ensure that quality facilities are available for the local community.

The project is part of a nationwide investment by the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation, delivered by the LTA, to refurbish public tennis courts across Great Britain, and open up the sport to many more people. This investment will see thousands of existing park tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition brought back to life for the benefit of communities across the country through renovation works, and improved court accessibility with new gate-access technology and booking systems.

Park tennis courts are vital in providing opportunities for children and adults to get active, delivering significant physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits to participants. Accessible facilities in parks are particularly critical to opening up the sport to those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and women and girls.

Alongside the investment, Southborough Town Council and local tennis providers will also work with the LTA to deliver a range of activity. This will include weekly organized, free, park tennis sessions for all ages, playing levels and experience, where equipment is provided, meaning that people will not need someone to play with or their own racket. Local Tennis Leagues will also provide friendly, sociable, opportunities to get active through local competition.

All courts and sessions at the Pennington Recreation Ground will be available to book online via the LTA website [Search & book a tennis court | LTA](#) making it far easier to find and book a court or activity.

Work on site is anticipated to start at the end of May 2023 and be completed later this Summer.

Councillor Dianne Hill, Mayor of Southborough, said:

"Southborough Town Council is really happy to be working with the LTA on their Parks Tennis Project, which will breathe new life into the two tennis courts at the Pennington Recreation Ground in Southborough. All Council Members are united in wanting to improve the sports and recreation facilities that are owned by the Town Council. We look forward to a continuing partnership with the LTA and working towards greater accessibility into tennis. Our hope is to get the community more involved with outdoor sports and activities in these tough times, when exercise is so vital for our physical and mental health."

Julie Porter, Chief Operating Officer at the LTA, said:

"We are delighted to be working with Southborough Town Council to improve their park tennis facilities and provide more opportunities for anyone to pick up a racket and get active. This investment is part of the UK Government and LTA's Parks Tennis Project and will mean that courts will be available for people to use for years to come. We will also be working closely with Southborough Town Council to ensure that the local community have a range of accessible opportunities to get on court, and open up our sport to many more people."

- ENDS -



For LTA media enquiries please contact:

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ABOUT THE LTA:

The LTA is the National Governing Body of tennis for Great Britain. We are here to govern and grow tennis, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. Our vision is “Tennis Opened Up” and we’re on a mission to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. We work with schools, with volunteers, with coaches and with venues across the whole country. We also represent the interests of over 1,000,000 Members, men and women, girls, and boys, playing on more than 23,000 courts.

For further information about the LTA and tennis in Britain, visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @the_LTA.



For Southborough Town Council media enquiries, please contact:

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ABOUT SOUTHBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Southborough Town Council is predominately a land-owning Town Council located in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The Town Council own a lot of land in the Southborough area and some in High Brooms, including three recreation grounds, playing fields, allotments, and Southborough Common. The Council Offices are in the new Southborough Civic Centre in the heart of the community at 137 London Road, Southborough. The main authority for the area is Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

For further information about Southborough Town Council, visit www.southborough-tc.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @SouthboroughTC.