



Brooklands Sports Club
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Planning Note for Upgrading Floodlights on Hockey Pitch and Tennis Courts

Introduction

Brooklands Sports Club (BSC) proposes to carry out upgrades to its floodlights used for sport to reduce its power consumption and reduce its carbon footprint.

The following works are proposed

1. Upgrade existing hockey pitch floodlights to provide up to 500 lux
2. Upgrade existing tennis courts floodlights to provide 500 lux
3. Provide additional floodlights to light two more tennis courts
4. Extend use of tennis courts floodlights to 22.00 hours Monday to Friday

All floodlights are currently halide lamps. These will be changed to LED lamps which have a much longer life span and have a more controlled light spillage.

Benefits

The upgrade of the floodlights will provide the following benefits:

1. Provide the recommended lux levels for playing hockey and tennis ensuring the safety of our members.
2. Provide flexibility on the use of floodlights on the hockey pitch.
3. Provide more opportunities for tennis to be played in the summer and winter evenings.
4. Comply with tennis league regulations for use of floodlights for the league fixtures.

Documentation

Lighting Report and Design

The following lighting report and design are included in the planning application -
LIGHTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT - FLOODLIGHTING INSTALLATION AT
BROOKLANDS

Drawings

The drawings included in this application demonstrate the following :

Dwg No 1 Site Location – shows the location of BSC and the houses that border the sports ground.

Dwg No 2 Existing Site Layout – shows location of existing floodlight masts.

Dwg No 3 Proposed Site Layout – Existing Floodlights Upgrade – shows which floodlights are to be upgraded.

Dwg No 4 Proposed Site Layout – Existing Floodlights Upgrade and New Floodlights – shows where additional floodlights are to be located.

Dwg No 5 Existing elevations and Proposed Elevations – shows perspectives from all directions and details of what lamps look like.

3D Interactive Moel

Bat Survey

A bat survey has been carried out to identify any potential effects of the upgrade of existing floodlights and the additional of floodlights. The conclusion was there would no significant impact. The report is included within the application - RHE.4271_Technical Note – Lighting Brooklands Sports Club, Sale

Hockey Pitch – Upgrade Existing Floodlights

The hockey pitch is used by the hockey and lacrosse sections for coaching during the week and for matches at the weekend.

Minimum levels for hockey coaching and matches is 350 lux. (See below statement from England Hockey). For National League Hockey matches 500 lux is required.

The first proposal is to change the existing hallide floodlights to LED floodlights with ability to change the lux level from 350 lux to 500 lux for National League Hockey matches and lacrosse premiership matches along with any representative matches either sport stages. In addition there will be the ability to only light one half of the pitch when coaching only requires one half.

Planning application 85978/FUL/15 permitted a change from 300 lux to 500 lux.

Extract from England Hockey website

For hockey, 350 lux is considered suitable for training and club competition, while 500 lux for high level non-televised national league and international competition. These guidelines are based on what players find acceptable to allow hockey to be played in a safe and suitable environment.

There will be no change in usage times as agreed in previous approved planning application 91999/VAR/17 - see below

During the hockey and lacrosse seasons which start in September and end in April the astro pitch is used every evening from 17.00 to 22.00 hrs Monday to Friday and every Saturday up to 18.30 hrs and Sunday up to 18.00 for matches. On Saturdays on no more than six occasions the usage of floodlights is permitted up to 20.30hrs. This in accordance with planning application 91999/VAR/17.

Tennis Courts Upgrade Existing Floodlights and Provide Additional Floodlights

At present the tennis courts are laid out in 3 banks of 3 Astroturf courts in line with floodlights to 2 courts on the first 2 banks of courts which is where the league matches are played.

The second proposal is to change the existing halide floodlights to LED floodlights providing a lux level of 500 as recommended by the Lawn Tennis Association – see below:

The LTA performance standards for artificial lighting within the prescribed areas of a tennis court are set out as follows:-

Standard	Maintained average illumination on P.P.A.	Maintained average illumination on T.P.A.	Uniformity within PPA Emin/Eav	Uniformity within TPA Emin/Eav
Recommended	500 Lux	400 Lux	0.7	0.6
Minimum	400 Lux	300 Lux	0.7	0.6

Principal Play Area (P.P.A.) - The area bounded by the doubles court lines.

Total Play Area (T.P.A.) - The PPA plus the run-back areas to a depth of 4.5M and the Side-runs to a width of 2.5M.

The third proposal is to add floodlighting to two additional tennis courts to enable the team tennis to be played on one or two bank of 3 tennis courts providing the flexibility to either have one or two team matches played on one night.

Senior team tennis matches in the North East Cheshire Lawn Tennis League (NECLTL) and the South West Manchester Tennis League (SWMTL) are played between mid-April and mid-September. 3 courts are required next to each other for each team. At present we have 1 team in the NECLTL and 5 in the SWMTL which means 2 teams playing on the same night on at least 1 day in the week so 6 courts are needed. In the NECLTL if home match's are to be played before the middle of May then we need to guarantee 3 floodlit courts which means playing across 2 banks and if another team is playing limits them to 1 floodlit court.

With 2 banks of 3 tennis courts all floodlit it would make the organisation of the match fixtures simpler and NECLTL and SWMATL home matches could be spread out across the season.

Having 3 floodlit courts on one bank for team play would open up other courts for coaching and members social tennis which is currently curtailed by our limited number of floodlight courts required for team tennis on match evenings.

Next season the plan is to have 6 teams in SWML and 2 in NEC. This will take the tennis section back to the pre-Covid number of teams. This will add further requirements for the use of tennis courts with floodlights.

This year floodlights have been required earlier in the evenings due to the very overcast conditions on some evenings. This causes issues there are only have floodlights on 2 courts per bank of 3. Climate change indicates this is likely to become worse.

The floodlit courts are much more in use during the winter months with a membership who play all year round and increasingly members are wanting to play on weekday evenings so the committee has to schedule the use of the 4 courts during the darker evenings to ensure fair use between social and coaching usage. There are 3 full time coaches and the tennis membership is growing so demand for use of the floodlit courts is increasing. Portable floodlights have been purchased in 2023 to use on courts 6 and 9 by the coaching staff. This was done following liaison with our neighbours on Westmorland Road. Note portable floodlights are not accepted by the NECLTC and SWML.

Monday evening the women have coached team practice using the portable floodlights them every week throughout the winter and coaches have used them on an ad-hoc basis during the evenings. Having the additional two courts floodlit would create further opportunities for coaching sessions utilising all 6 tennis courts.

During the Winter junior group lessons are held on Saturday afternoons. These have to be condensed onto 4 courts after 4pm. Additional floodlit courts would significantly improve the quality of these sessions.

The fourth proposal is to extend use of tennis courts floodlights from 21.45 to 22.00 hours Monday to Friday. This would allow all team matches to be completed in line with the NECLTL league requirements which are that floodlights are available until 22.00hrs along with giving the Tennis section more flexibility to arrange matches during the whole season i.e. from mid-April to mid-September. This will allow the tennis more flexibility to organise and increase team tennis as detailed preciously. The NECLTL league requirements are as follows :

13.8.1 Clubs which do not have floodlights available for all 3 courts up until 10pm must not agree to host home matches before 14th May for a match start time of 7pm. Matches can be arranged from the 27th April if both teams agree to a 6:30pm start time. Matches should not be arranged after 31st July. Refer to the relevant parts of Rule 22 and Appendix E.1.

22 Match Completion Time

22.1 All matches shall immediately finish no later than at 10pm regardless of the agreed start time and irrespective of (a) the score of any game and set being played at that time (which shall be disregarded in accordance with Rule 22.5) and (b) whether the home club has floodlighting. This includes any matches arranged to be played on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday. All matches shall finish no later than 10pm regardless of the agree start time.

22.4 Weekday evening matches must start at 7pm, or, if both captains mutually agree, 6.30pm.

Granting permission to have floodlights on all 6 courts would contribute to the health and well-being of the people of Brooklands's and the surrounding area by providing extra sporting provision.