

4. BECKENHAM TENNIS CLUB PROPOSED TENNIS COURT EXTENSION

Officer responsible Parks & Waterways Manager	Author Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5112
---	---

The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to approve an application made by the Beckenham Tennis Club to extend their present leased area by one metre to the west and one metre to the east, for the length of the courts, which is approximately 73.5 metres. The Community Board has the delegation from Council to make this decision.

TENNIS CLUB APPLICATION AND CURRENT USE

The Beckenham Tennis Club has made application to Council to extend their court area by one metre both on the western boundary and eastern boundary (aerial attached). Beckenham Tennis Club has had an association with Beckenham Park for over 75 years.

The current membership of Beckenham Tennis Club is approximately 200. The courts are presently used seven days of the week, both formally and informally, members having access to a gate key.

At present the space between the sides of the courts and the wire netting is unacceptably tight and causes problems with people running into the netting. Both sides of the courts have hedges running along the boundary, so the extension of one metre both ends of the courts will not impact significantly on the park itself. There would be a major inconvenience for the Club if the courts had to be repositioned, as a drainage channel is set between the middle of the courts and therefore any change would mean the reconstruction of this drainage system.

COURT DEVELOPMENT

The Club is in the process of organising the resurfacing of the four courts. This will include the complete dismantling of the existing fences and the construction of new ones. The majority of this development is being funded by the Club, which is in the process of seeking the balance of funds required through external avenues. The Parks & Waterways Unit is assisting by removing the large hedge and fence along the western boundary.

The extension on the park side of the courts will be extending into an existing smaller hedge so there will be no impact on the sports fields which are currently used for cricket and soccer.

NEW LEASE REQUIRED

Legally, it is not possible to vary an existing lease agreement to accommodate an increase in the area being leased, and therefore a new lease agreement which covers the existing and additional areas of land to be leased will need to be entered into. As with any new lease on land held under the Reserves Act 1977, it will require public notification and the consent of the Minister of Conservation.

CONCLUSION

The Beckenham Tennis Club is an active and thriving sports club providing very good facilities for the local community. The Club's application for additional land to extend the tennis court area is easily justified. The Parks & Waterways Unit supports the Club's application.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board approve the Beckenham Tennis Club's application to extend its lease area by 147 square metres to enable the Club to extend its courts one metre on the eastern and western boundaries into Beckenham Park, thereby making a total lease area of approximately 2763 square metres, pursuant to Section 54 (1) (c) of the Reserves Act 1977 for a period of one day less than 20 years, subject to the following conditions.

1. Public notification and subsequent approval by the Minister of Conservation.
2. The Beckenham Tennis Club surrendering its present lease over the present site, which is dated 22 November 1985.
3. All necessary Resource and Building Consents being obtained by Beckenham Tennis Club before any alterations to the existing facilities begins.

4. The lease terms and conditions being negotiated by the Property Manager in consultation with the Parks and Waterways Policy and Leasing Administrator.
5. The leased area is to be maintained in a safe and tidy condition at all times by the applicant, or principal contractor.
6. All costs associated with the preparation and issue of the lease, site development and subsequent maintenance of the facilities are to be the responsibility of Beckenham Tennis Club.
7. The Beckenham Tennis Club is to liaise with the Parks and Waterways Unit's representative (Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, Beckenham) to ascertain site requirements prior to the letting of any tenders for the construction of the new facilities.
8. The applicant is to pay a \$2,000 bond to Council (via the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, Beckenham) before work commences on the site. The bond less any expenses incurred by the Council will be refunded to the payee upon vacating the site.
9. The approval will lapse if the Club has not made substantial progress towards the completion of the development within two years of approval being granted.

**Chairperson's
Comment:**

Since Council land is involved, it would fit with Community Board and Council objectives for youth and recreation that a tennis court be available for public use when not required by the Beckenham Tennis Club.