

Hursley Tennis Court - Survey Results

A survey was conducted among Hursley residents aimed to gather opinions and suggestions for the repurposing of the old tennis courts.

To note:

- We had 98 responses to the surveys
- Many of these were for households, not individual responses.
- Respondents were permitted to select multiple options for repurposing.

Respondent Demographics

- **Age Distribution:**
 - Respondents include a mix of age groups: under 18, 18-35, 36-55, and 56-75.
 - The most represented age group is 36-55.
- **Gender:**
 - Responses were received from both male and female residents, with a balanced gender distribution.
- **Length of Residence in Hursley:**
 - Respondents have lived in Hursley for varying lengths of time, with most having resided in the area for over 10 years.

Preferences for Repurposing the Tennis Courts

- **Top Suggestions:**
 - **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA):** The most popular suggestion, with 61 votes, was to convert the space into a hard-standing play area for football, basketball, netball, and tennis.
 - **Gym or Fitness Area:** A significant number of respondents (26 votes) supported the idea of creating a gym or fitness area with a running track.
 - **New Tennis Club:** Some respondents (25 votes) favoured reconstructing the tennis courts and forming a new tennis club to manage them.
 - **Sensory Garden:** 19 votes were received for transforming the space into a sensory garden for relaxation and therapeutic purposes.
 - **Children's Play Equipment:** 13 votes were for adding more play equipment for children, such as a large climbing structure.
- **Other Suggestions:**
 - Options like doing nothing (9 votes), creating a splash park (8 votes), a bowling green (4 votes), and a community art project (3 votes) were less popular but still mentioned.

Willingness to Volunteer

- **Mixed Responses:**
 - Many respondents expressed a willingness to volunteer for fundraising, applying for grants, or physical work.
 - 39 respondents indicated "Maybe", 35 said "Yes", and 24 said "No".

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Risks and Challenges Identified

- **Cost:** Concerns about the significant cost of repurposing and ongoing upkeep costs were frequently mentioned. This may result in criticism further down the line if a MUGA is built and the money could have been allocated differently.
- **Security:** The need for secure fencing (including multi permanently open exits) and measures to ensure road and child safety was highlighted.
- **Anti-social Behaviour:** Potential for misuse of the space and anti-social gatherings was a concern.
- **Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance liability and the need for a dedicated maintenance schedule were noted.
- **Lighting:** Ensuring no light pollution for houses in the proximity and the need for dark skies for wildlife.
- **Building on green land:** The size of a MUGA, if it should include a football pitch, will require a section of existing grassed area to be covered with hardstanding, reducing the green area of the recreation ground.

Additional Comments

- Some respondents provided additional ideas or comments, such as the importance of making the area inclusive for all age groups, considering environmental impacts, and ensuring the space is accessible for people with disabilities.

Summary

The survey results indicate a strong community interest in repurposing the old tennis courts into a versatile and engaging space. The most favoured options include creating a Multi-Use Games Area and a gym or fitness area. Concerns about costs, security, anti-social behaviour and maintenance were also highlighted. The willingness of many respondents to volunteer for the project suggests a high level of community engagement and support for the initiative.