

March 2023

Discussion paper for new floodlights



Current halogen lights on courts 2&3 are expensive and are not satisfactory to play under. Some members have complained and the Feb 2023 club survey tells us that 78% of respondents see being able to play under lights as either very or quite important, whilst only 23% feel that the current lights are acceptable.

We were introduced by Tes to the Chair of Cringleford tennis club, who have recently replaced their halogen lights with LEDs. This is a 'standard' setup on poles across four courts. Their power usage is estimated to be around 20% of their old halogen lights and they are now able to offer free lights for all club activities. They funded them themselves, without any LTA support.

Nigel produced supporting documents for the planning application for our current lights, in xxx, and is happy to help out again this time. He produced a Design Access Statement for our initial plan to put LED lights on Court 1, and this is attached for reference.

Haringey do not seem to be a council where one can have an initial verbal discussion on a project – possibly because they are too busy – and there is a new online application process which clearly requires an ecological report to accompany the application. This takes away the option to put in an application and see what Haringey request.

Anecdotally, we know that the key ecological consideration is around bats.

We have been in touch with seven ecology / advisory firms and each has a slightly different take on how to approach things and a wide range of fee quotations, from £610 to £4,400

Summary of options and quotes updated as at March 2023

Contractor	Proposal	Details	Quote (incl VAT @ 20%)	Comments
Luminance Pro	New LED lights for Court 1	2 new posts 4 HiLux LED lights Associated cabling, controls and meter	£18,720	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplier of existing lighting. Hanley's existing power supply is sufficient for an additional court Luminance produce lighting spillage charts as part of their quotation Have also asked about floods on existing poles as suggested by LMX
	New LED lights for Court 4	6 new posts 6 HiLux LED lights Associated cabling, controls and meter	£32,058	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to confirm that our existing power supply would be sufficient
	New LED lights for Courts 2 & 3	4 HiLux LED lights Modification to existing wiring and controls and testing as required	£15,984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses existing poles May be able to provide power saving indications
ETC Sports Surfaces	New LED lights for Courts 1,2 &3	'Tweener' lighting system, attached to the top of existing fences – one down the side of Court 3, and one down the side of Court 1 Cabling and controls to interface with existing set up	£23,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally designed to light two courts but company confident that it works for three Based upon photographs, reasonably confident that our fences are strong enough, but this needs to be confirmed by a site visit The bend in the fence on the Highgate boundary may be an issue, requiring shorter units Need to clarify the control system and whether it re uses what we already have Do not produce lighting spillage charts but will do so for a fee As used by Our Lady of Muswell
	New LED lights for Court 4	'Tweener' lighting system, attached to the top of existing fences Cabling and controls as required	£17,400	
LMX	New LED Lights for Courts 2&3	4 x 800W 4K IP67 P45 Visor Fitting	£7,184 £6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses existing poles Need to confirm use of existing control system Produces 400lux – reduction to 300 would reduce cost
	New LED Lights for Court 1	2 X 1,200 W IP67 P45 Visor	£2,360	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitted on exiting poles between court 1&2 Need for planning permission ? Fitting cost included in above Need to confirm how independent control system would work
		<i>So total for all 3 courts:</i>	£15,544	
	New LED Lights for Court 4	LED lighting for Court 4 using their own linear lighting system, similar to "Tweener"	£5,000 - £6,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to confirm control system and adequate power supply

Summary of responses from ecology companies 1

Firm	Contact	Response / Suggested approach	Cost (incl VAT @ 20%)	Comments
Planology	Jo Leek	Jo is an advisor, who manages the planning process for clients, and handled the application for Georgians' new lights in 2021. She would do the same for us for a fee but told us over the phone that she had been surprised that Haringey were prepared to grant that approval based upon a very basic 'desktop' report, and suggested we put in a basic application and see what happens	N/A	Very approachable. Happy to get involved at a later date if Haringay have objections
Ecology Solutions	Simon Taber	Quoted back in October 2021 based upon what seems to be the 'standard' comprehensive approach: 1. A 'desk' study of the rules affecting the site and records of protected species, 2. An extended study and 'walkover' survey mapping all species/habitats and their ability to withstand potential pressures 3. Specific bat survey 4. Focus on other protected species	£2,580 (in 2021)	Have done work for Georgians and Highgate (re Brookside) but having quoted back in 2021, Simon has not responded to any of my follow up emails
Temple Group	Lucy	Don't have the capacity to take on extra work at this time	N/A	
Beewise Eco	Rita Smoldereva	I would suggest undertaking a nocturnal bat survey in May to identify which species utilise the site and if bats are still using the flight paths. By that time I am hopeful that new guidance on lighting will be confirmed by the Bat Conservation Trust as this might then indicate which flood lights would be good to use and how to compensate for light emissions. I have seen some tennis courts and golf courses have put up dense fabric screening to stop light spillage into the woodland which might be an option for your club. Preliminary Ecological Assessment Survey and report Nocturnal Bat Survey London Bat group Data (for report) Total	VAT free £350 £210 <u>£50</u> £610	Seems to be a sole trader and not part of a larger group, so rates are much cheaper, but potentially less experience and a less comprehensive report. On the other hand it does address what we believe to be the specific issue.

Summary of responses from ecology companies 2

Firm	Contact	Response / Suggested approach	Cost (incl VAT @ 20%)	Comments
Microbee	Sofia Calderon Draper (on behalf of ecologists)	<p>I propose 4x bat surveyors, so we cover enough trees around the court, given the presence of the adjacent woodland. We would work in 2 pairs, for health and safety reasons at night.</p> <p>If the client wishes to have less surveyors, then I do not recommend this as the report will not be robust in my view especially as we must prove if any bat tree roosts are present and where the main bat flight lines are.</p> <p>I am finding that council ecologists are being very strict with such studies and I have to ensure everything is covered properly as we will use infrared cameras too, which will need to be attended in an urban area</p> <p>I will also use my colleague, who is an expert on bats and lighting impacts and she will take light meter readings to help with the assessment.</p> <p>The report will take about 3x days to write as will be a joint bat assessment (daytime) and bat dusk survey document.</p> <p>All bat survey work would be done under my valid bat class 2 survey licence from Natural England, that covers all of the country.</p> <p>Includes: Bat assessment (daytime based) and bat dusk survey - Includes: 1x bat daytime visit by one ecologist to assess the trees and habitats around the tennis courts; 3x bat dusk survey visits with 4x bat surveyors with bat detectors; the report (3x days on this); night camera footage analysis; limited online bat desk study; and travel cost</p>	£4,438	Appears to be the 'belt and braces' approach but priced accordingly.
Adeptus	Danny Fisher	No longer have an ecology team, but recommended Arbtech		
Arbtech Consulting	Clare Murphy	<p>Site Survey, Desk Study, Mapping and Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of relevant ecological receptor datasets to include the BRD searches commissioned from your local records centre, and the DEFRA electronic database (MAGIC). • Preliminary bat roosting potential features assessment for all bat species including a ground based physical inspection of all external features of the tree[s] suitable for roosting (that are accessible). • Qualitative assessment of habitat value and roost suitability at the site. • Preparation of PRF report compliant to Bat Conservation Trust (2016) guidelines and BS42020 	<p>Depend on urgency</p> <p>2-4 weeks £827</p> <p>2-5 days £1,127</p> <p>1 day £1,559</p> <p>Possible small additional fee to holder of local biological records database</p>	Includes a review of possible roosting sites and likely species, but does not include a survey of actual bat activity, so their initial work may determine that further studies are required and they are not prepared to indicate up front how much these might cost.

Summary of potential funding providers

Provider	Type of financing	Eligability conditions / Objectives	Amount	Closing date ?	Other conditions
Aviva Community Fund	Grant	Promotes: 1. Climate action 2. Financial Wellbeing	Up to £50,000	None	
Sport England	Grant	1. Helps inactive and less active people become more active 2. Supports projects working with people living in areas of disadvantage as defined by indices of Multiple Deprivation areas 1 to 3	£300 - £15,000	30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the community the project is intended to support • Project should show how they've sought to reduce their impact on the environment. • Project must be ready to begin within 6 weeks
LTA	Interest free loan up to 10 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide covered or floodlit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year 2. Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue 3. Offer and increase both non-members play and usage and coaching opportunities 4. Grow the number of adults and juniors on the coaching programme 5. Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons via LTA's online booking system 	£25k or 60% of project cost (see later)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting upgrades to LED (but venues must demonstrate current floodlit court utilisation of 50%) up to £25k • New Floodlights up to £25k • New courts providing year round surfaces with floodlights or upgrading from seasonal use to year round use up to 60% of the project cost
	Grant	This is in fact the Sport England grant facility and has the same criteria	£300 - £15,000	30 June 2023	As above

The overall philosophy of Hanley LTC and the impact on health and wellbeing

With its older membership profile and traditional shale courts Hanley has become seen as a more friendly and accessible route into tennis, especially for mature players, whether beginners or returners, and prides itself in maintaining this inclusive and accepting approach, as compared with the more performance led profile of many other clubs. This opportunity to bring people into playing sport, who might not otherwise have done so, is, we feel, unique in the area and something which should be recognised and supported.

Increased membership and use of courts in the evening

In 2019, Hanley had some 61 adult playing members, but over the pandemic that has risen by 67% to, currently 102 and continues to grow. Whilst Hanley welcomes applications from every demographic, the club's shale playing surface means that it typically attracts more mature players (because it creates less stress on joints) and we estimate the average age of members to be around 60. Whilst those members who are retired can play at any time, those still in work will often prefer / have to play in the evening because in winter this represents a significant part of the available playing time.

Increased membership has resulted in a greater interest in the men's and ladies' teams, who play in the Middlesex leagues, and these matches are usually played in the evening. Three lit courts are preferred in order to be able to host matches.

Investment in the playing surface

Last year, the club invested in the resurfacing of the main block of three courts. The new surface has improved the cosmetic appearance of the club and may be expected lead to a further growth in membership and the associated revenues, and to accommodate that increased membership through a more robust playing surface.

To have only two courts lit however creates a poor impression and may be reasonably expected to continue to put off some prospective new members. It clearly limits the overall membership capacity of the club and compares poorly to all other surrounding clubs.

Marginal increase in overall light pollution from floodlights in the Shepherds Cot

The Shepherds Cot land contains three tennis clubs. Hanley, Highgate and Holly Park/Georgians (which is now privately run as one club). Highgate already has lights on all of its courts and has a current application for new lights on its shale courts close by at Brookside. Georgians recently received planning permission for new lights and predominantly all of its courts are now lit. Hanley already has lights on two courts, so the additional impact on the overall site of the two new lights which we propose here must logically be negligible.

Lighting management policy

Hanley's floodlights are controlled by a token system, which allows the lights to be on for only thirty minutes per token, which means that they can never accidentally be left on for an extended period. The system automatically imposes a curfew of 10pm.

Position of Hanley and adjoining woodland

The Woodland around Hanley covers land which used to be a large complex of tennis courts stretching up the hill towards Queens Wood and the land immediately adjoining the club was, in fact, until some time in the 1960s, one of our own tennis courts. This is therefore not ancient Woodland as Queens and Highgate Woods are.

The houses behind this woodland are at a higher elevation than the club and are more likely to be disturbed by light from the very much larger lit areas of the two other clubs on the site. They are in any case well screened by trees from our own courts.

The two new lights are only the width of a tennis court nearer to the boundary than the existing lights and the lighting overspill diagram provided by the contractors clearly demonstrates that penetration is not excessive.

Ecological impact

When our existing lights were installed, we also fitted a series of bat boxes in the surrounding woodland in order to mitigate any possible disruption, although we had not been able to identify any local species which was particularly susceptible to light levels. We do not expect any material additional impact from the two new lights, but Hanley will work with our colleagues in CREOS to ensure that any impact is identified and minimised, and we are of course happy to undertake such studies as may be required in order to confirm that the addition of these two lights does not in fact alter the existing situation. We are also in contact with Highgate and Georgians tennis clubs to share data and develop a picture across the whole Shepherds Cot site, of which Hanley is just a small part.

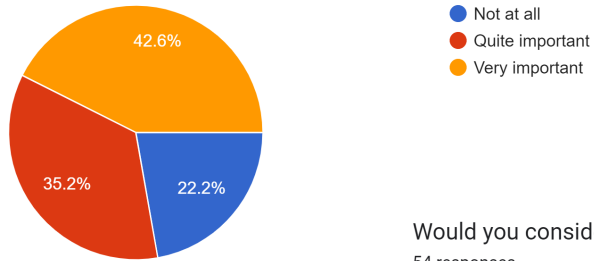
Summary and Conclusion

Hanley provides an essential route into sport, and the health and wellbeing benefits that it represents, which we believe to be unique in the surrounding area. Our ability to continue to provide this service to a growing membership base has become limited by only being able to offer play on two courts in the evening. We know of no other club which suffers such a limitation and request approval for this necessary upgrade in our facilities.

Survey Findings

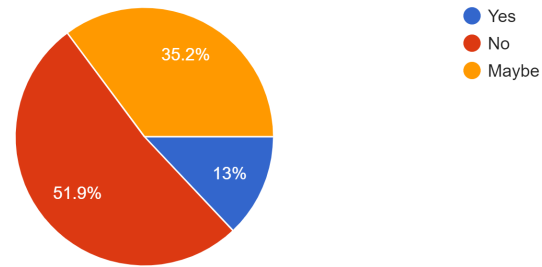
How important to you is being able to play under floodlights?

54 responses



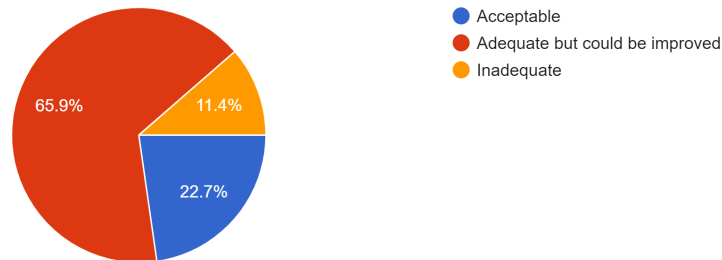
Would you consider a donation or loan to the club to go towards the cost of new floodlights?

54 responses



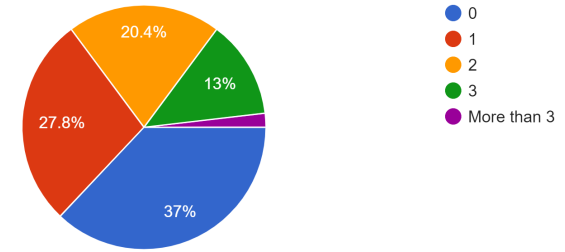
If you play under floodlight, do you think the quality is

44 responses



On average, how many times a week do you play under floodlights?

54 responses



Under what circumstances would you be prepared to see an increase in the annual subscription purely in respect of floodlights?

52 responses

