

**DEPUTATIONS REFERRED FROM THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON
14 DECEMBER 2017**

Deputations received:

(i) Deputation: Hove Park Tennis Courts

I represent The Hove Park Tennis Alliance; we are a group formed of all the clubs that use Hove Park tennis courts extremely perturbed at the prospect of our astro tennis courts being handed over to a football only surface after 27 years.

We have been sharing this surface quite happily with local football clubs who use it in the winter under floodlights and then handed over to tennis in the summer, when demand for our sport is high and football has the whole use of the park to set up training or 5-a-side games.

Although it has been known for some time that the astro courts at Hove park were nearing the end of their life and becoming shabby, we were only informed about 5 weeks ago that the decision had been made to resurface the courts in a 3G surface,(funded completely by 106 development money) making it available for football only.

The agenda was driven by the Head of City Parks and subsequently sanctioned by Hove Park ward councillors Jayne Bennett and Vanessa Brown alongside the Chair of the ETS committee Councillor Gill Mitchell.

As existing users of this facility we have never at any stage been consulted regarding its future and would like clarification as to how and when the decision was made.

Since learning of the Council's intentions we have been frantically lobbying councillors, seeking press coverage and demonstrating. Our view is that we are being cast aside and a feeling of political will to see the demise of tennis at the expense of other sports, perhaps due to the misconception, 'that we must all be able to pay at a private club', however, nothing could be further from the truth, we are a real diverse group, the whole ethos of Parks league Tennis set up over 60 years ago was to promote players from different socioeconomic groups.

We are asking that a new multi-sports surface be laid so that we can continue to share this facility with footballers and why not other sports who may wish to use an excellent new surface.

Whilst Hove Park councillors have been sympathetic to our cause, they refer us back to Head of City Parks to answer our questions, who in our opinion dismisses our wish for multi-sports and hides behind bureaucratic barriers regarding the use of 106 monies and has wilfully neglected to collect funds from tennis to make finances from football look like the best option.

The lateness of the decision means that 106 money has to be spent by April 2018 leaving little time for opposition, as work is due to start in February 2018.

Supported by:

Mr N Dickson (Lead Spokesperson)

Jason Pither

Penny Telford

Don Lee

Michelle Roycroft

Georgina Gibson