

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 27 September 2021</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Romilly Park Tennis Courts
Purpose of Report:	To advise Cabinet of objections to the proposal to issue a lease to Tennis Wales for the tennis courts located in Romilly Park
Report Owner:	Report of the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Accountant Environment and Housing Legal - Committee Reports Operational Manager - Accountancy Operational Manager, Property Neighbourhood Services Manager Local Ward Members
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Following the Cabinet report in January 2021 and the subsequent advertisement of the proposed disposal relating to the tennis courts in Romilly Park, objections have been received in relation to the proposals.</li> <li>- The objections relate to plans to apply charges for the facilities that were previously accessible without payment. Fees were previously set for the use of all public tennis courts but due to the costs involved in collecting fees they have not been applied for several years. Fees will be collected via an app that will also advise players of availability and offers.</li> <li>- The grant offers from Tennis Wales and Sport Wales to fully refurbish the courts are conditional on Tennis Wales managing the facilities in the future. The grant on offer is likely to be offered to another Council if not accepted by the Council. The condition of the courts at present is also a concern and the refurbishment would protect them for future generations.</li> <li>- Tennis Wales motivation for investing in the courts is to encourage more tennis usage. Where these schemes have been implemented across Wales they have seen an increase in participation. Free use will be offered at certain times and other courts in Barry operated by the Council will continue to be free to use.</li> </ul>	

- All funds generated by the Courts in Romilly Park will be re-invested by Tennis Wales to maintain the courts or for further Tennis development work in the Vale of Glamorgan.

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet notes the objections received relating to the disposal of Romilly Park tennis courts by way of a lease to Tennis Wales.
2. That having considered the objections and, for reasons contained in this report, Cabinet approves the disposal of the land to Tennis Wales by way of lease for 7 years.
3. The authority is granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to execute the lease.
4. That a media release be produced advising of the reasons for the decision including confirmation that free use of the tennis courts will be available at certain times.
5. That the Objectors be notified of the Cabinet's decision.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To advise Cabinet of the objections received.
2. To ensure that the tennis courts at Romilly Park remain fully operational for the foreseeable futures with the benefit of grant support from Tennis Wales and Sport Wales.
3. To complete the legal documentation required to grant the lease for the tennis courts to Tennis Wales.
4. To publicly advise the full circumstances for leasing the tennis courts to Tennis Wales.
5. To confirm the Council's position.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 As part of its sustainable approach to the provision of outdoor sports facilities, Cabinet approved a 7 year lease, subject to the consideration of any objections, for the tennis courts at Romilly Park to Tennis Wales on Monday 25 January 2021 (Minute No. C455). As the lease involves the disposal of public open space via lease it was necessary to publicly advertise the proposal. It was detailed in the Report that should any objections be received once an advert was placed in the local press these would be reported to, and considered by, Cabinet.
- 1.2 The notice for the disposal of the tennis courts by way of a lease to Tennis Wales was advertised in the Barry and District News for two consecutive weeks on 29th April and 6th May 2021 in accordance with 123(2A) of the Act. The notice was also published on the Council's website.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The proposed disposal of the Romilly Park tennis courts to Tennis Wales has attracted a significant amount of local interest and a number of objections have

been raised to the proposed disposal which are detailed at Appendix 1. The Council has responded to the individual objectors to provide more details of the scheme in a letter and hopefully answer most of their concerns. This letter can be seen at Appendix 2.

- 2.2** The following points have been raised within the objections:
- **Charging for use of the tennis courts and public use**
- 2.3** The courts will be available for anyone to book within park opening hours, operating on a not for profit basis with a small fee to contribute to a sinking fund to ensure a high level of court maintenance.
- 2.4** The Council has set fees and charges for all of its public tennis courts but in recent years has not collected fees as it was uneconomic to do so as the cost of labour would have been greater than the revenue received. The proposals put forward by Tennis Wales include using new technology via the Tennis Wales app - ClubSpark booking platform that enables customers to pay for courts remotely on a computer or mobile device and then access the facility using a unique code sent to them via email. This scheme has been widely implemented across Wales, including recently at Llantwit Major, where courts were also freely accessible.
- 2.5** Free to use tennis courts that exist across Barry, including Millwood and Gladstone Park, will continue to offer free access. The tennis courts at Romilly Park will also be free to use at certain times, that Tennis Wales will advertise, as one of their primary objectives for investing in these courts is to encourage new players. It is likely that the majority of this free use will be a combination of community access programmes such as 'Tennis for Free', Family free tennis weekends and through links with education sites such as school events & festivals.
- 2.6** The funding offered by Tennis Wales is restricted to public tennis courts and should the Cabinet decide not to progress this scheme it is likely that this grant would be offered to another Welsh Council. Tennis Wales have also confirmed that obviously they want the courts to be used as much as possible and fees will be set to encourage this. Tennis Wales have also stated that by introducing charges they have evidence of greater use of facilities as customers are able to check on the ClubSpark booking platform about court availability and Tennis Wales have been able to run promotions to encourage use of facilities at quiet times.
- **Cost of refurbishment and maintenance of the Courts**
- 2.7** Clearly the incentive for implementing this arrangement at Romilly Park is the grant aid on offer from both Tennis Wales (£45,000) and Sport Wales (£30,000), which together with match funding from the Council, that has arisen from the underspend on the refurbished sports hall at Barry Leisure Centre, will enable the courts to be fully refurbished and maintained for the future. Tennis Wales have confirmed that all revenue raised at Romilly tennis courts will be used for

the maintenance of the courts or for tennis development work in the Vale of Glamorgan.

- 2.8** It should also be noted that the tennis courts at Romilly Park are in a poor condition and require investment. The proposed scheme builds on the Council's partnership approved to future leisure provision such as its management arrangement for leisure centres and its recent self-management model for bowling clubs.

- **Formal Process**

- 2.9** A Council may dispose of land held by them in any manner they wish subject to section 123 of the Local Government Act. As this is a short-term lease of only 7 years, the requirement for best consideration does not apply.
- 2.10** The Council has followed the process of the disposal of public open space under section 123 and notice of the disposal of the tennis courts by way of a lease to Tennis Wales was advertised in the Barry and District News for two consecutive weeks on 29th April and 6th May 2021 in accordance with 123(2A) of the Act. The notice was also published on the Council's website. This has allowed residents to raise any objections and have their concerns considered by Cabinet.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** Long Term: Refurbishing the tennis courts at Romilly Park is long-term investment that has the ability to provide health benefits to the Community as well as sustaining the facilities for the foreseeable future.
- 3.2** Prevention: Remaining fit and healthy is one of the best ill-health prevention measures known. Investment in tennis demonstrates the Council's commitment to long term health objectives for its residents.
- 3.3** Integration: Tennis, like most sports, provides many social benefits including reducing social isolation.
- 3.4** Collaboration: The proposals for the refurbishment of the tennis courts are heavily focused on collaboration between Tennis Wales, Sport Wales, The Barry Community Tennis Club, The Vale Tennis Academy and the Council.
- 3.5** Involvement: Barry Community Tennis Club has been requesting improvements to the facilities at Romilly to enhance their club activities for several years. Unfortunately, the Council has not had the funds to upgrade the facilities due to its many other commitments.
- 3.6** The proposals in this report are aligned to the Corporate Plan.

## **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 4.1** The total cost of the scheme is anticipated to be £150k. This will be funded from a £45k grant from Tennis Wales, a £30k grant from Sports Wales and a virement of £75k from the Barry Leisure Centre hall floor scheme underspend as costs were lower than anticipated.

### **Employment**

- 4.2** There are no direct employment implications associated with this report.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.3** The proposed lease has been advertised as a proposed disposal in accordance with the requirements of s123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.4** As per S123(2A) the objections to the disposal of Public Open Space are to be considered by Cabinet when determining whether to proceed with the proposed disposal.

## **5. Background Papers**

None.

## Appendix I

Reference	Content
1	<p>FAO: ██████████ Subject: Romily Park Tennis Courts I am a local resident, I use the tennis courts at Romily Park often. I am very disappointed to learn that the council intends to allow the courts out to tender to Tennis Wales. I come from a background within Sports development and am currently a Project Manager within the industry. I understand the benefits that come with an external non profit partnership, but I also see the detrimental impact this has. This is clearly a cost cutting exercise by the council. I worry about the economic barrier that will be raised by the issue. 'Reasonable' would encompass charges set similar to 'Legacy Leisure'. Due to Barry's demographic any charge would become an economic barrier for children and adults. Other sources of funding whether external or internal for the courts would be more beneficial for the community. Inclusion should be at the heart. This creates more barriers.</p>
2	<p>Dear ██████████</p> <p>We wish to object strongly to the proposal that Romilly Park tennis courts are to be leased to Tennis Wales. It is our understanding that if these proposals go ahead members of the public would be charged to use the facilities. Do you honestly believe that this is an appropriate course of action? We witness adults and youngsters making use of these tennis courts on a regular basis. No doubt some of these people wouldn't be able to afford the fees Tennis Wales is likely to charge. Do you think, in the current climate and where people's access to leisure facilities has been seriously curtailed, this is the right thing to be doing? It will become a facility that only the comfortably off will be able to afford to use. We find this proposal shocking, sickening and sad. A classic example of "taking from the poor to give to the rich". We have every empathy for those people who have taken pleasure in using the tennis courts over the years, and who may no longer be able to do so. We really feel that this is very bad timing for such a proposal and shows a lack of understanding, and empathy, from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</p> <p>We trust our thoughts on this matter will be taken into account when making your decision.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
3	<p>Good morning ██████████ my name is ██████████ and I have lived in Barry my whole life, I personally got fond memories of being able to go to Romilly Park Of playing Tennis as a kid. Getting kids into sport is difficult enough as it these day so little facilities, so making the courts chargeable in my opinion would restrict development in this town further, Use the tax payers money to resurface the courts anyway as this town is already dying from the past decisions of the Town council. I travelled from court Road to Romilly park courts on my bike most days as a kid to play tennis. So feel strongly opposed to this proposal.</p> <p>The Holton Road shops are run down and town centre looks awful! The local leisure centre sold off and again run down, the hydro slide i used to ride is now condemned and an eye sore to the town. Stop taking things away and make Barry great again. By taking things away we are causing the teenagers (our kids by the way) who get bored and get into antisocial behaviour and possibly turn to drugs. The lockdown and pandemic has been hard enough on this local community so things like this have to stop! Selling off the sole of Barry and having a concrete jungle of houses and high rise flats with no attractions or future ambitions of the</p>

	<p>town council. Who need to look at the bigger picture instead of their future big bank balances. How many of the towns councillors live in Barry, I'm not on about the whole of the civic offices, the decision makers the so called top dogs? I'm only asking because I can then see if they really do give a ##### about this town. Please take time to respond personally and not with a fob off generic email I would like my questions asked answered.</p>
4	<p>I have seen the notice for the intended plan of leasing open access tennis courts to Tennis Wales and want to express my objection to this plan.</p> <p>If the resurfacing of courts is needed and is going to cost £70,000 of tax payers money then I think it is a disgrace to expect to charge the public to use them. Essentially paying twice for them.</p> <p>I myself use open access courts to play tennis with my family and if it wasn't for them being open access and free, then I'm unsure that I could keep using them due to the cost involved.</p> <p>By implementing a charge to use, this would deter individuals and more importantly children from using them which I feel would be an absolute shame. By proving open access courts you are allowing children to continue having this sport as an option and also introducing new users to the sport.</p> <p>Emphasis should be placed on encouraging fitness and wellbeing and I feel that by implementing a charge to use this will deter users from this sport.</p> <p>I hope that my comments can be formally noted and considered as part of the process.</p>
5	<p>I wish to raise an objection with the Vale Of Glamorgan Council to the proposed lease of the Tennis Courts at Romilly Park, Romilly Park Road, Barry to Tennis Wales under the terms laid out in the 'Romilly Park Tennis Court Refurbishment' report.</p> <p>My main objection points being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There has been no consultation with the local residents on the proposal. The proposal has not been widely publicised. Further information needs to be publicly shared, for example what kind of booking system will there be and what kind of fee will the public be expected to pay? How long will a session that is booked last?</li> <li>2. The proposal seems to favour and benefit the Barry Community Tennis Club and Vale Tennis Academy over members of the public who wish to simply book a court to be able to play tennis. I believe access to Romilly Tennis Courts should be prioritised for public use. However, upon reading the report this does not seem to be the case. Why is the Vale Tennis Academy being favoured by Tennis Wales and the Vale of Glamorgan Council? What happens when I want to book a court but these two groups are running their members sessions? I haven't seen presence of the Barry Community Tennis Club on the courts for sometime. I am concerned the investment is funding the tennis club rather than giving the public full access to what would be quality tennis courts. Who is profiting?</li> </ol>
6	<p>I'm just getting in touch to share my objection to the new proposals to lease and charge for the use of the tennis courts in Romilly Park. This just seems like the latest in a long line of council decisions to chip away at the remaining leisure activities that the town has left. I was actually playing on the courts on Tuesday and they are perfectly functional. Whilst I do not necessarily object to refurbishment in the long term, the proposed leasing, booking and payment system for the courts is completely unnecessary. I have lived in the area for over 30 years. If refurbishment is needed, let the incredible amount of new council tax</p>



	<p>the council receives from the thousands of new homes over the island pay for it. I see very few other town investments from this, other than a few new bus stops and very wide pavements.</p>
7	<p>I saw the public notice that the VOG Council is intending to dispose of the public tennis courts at Romilly Park and lease then to Tennis Wales.</p> <p>As a local resident who uses the park and courts regularly, I have a number of questions which are not covered by your notice and I wanted to ask if you can shed any light on them please.</p> <p>Renovation: I understand the courts are to be renovated. At what cost and is this being paid for by council tax taxpayers?</p> <p>Control of the courts: if the courts are being handed over to Tennis Wales can you confirm if they will still be available to the general public and if they will remain free for public use?</p> <p>I would be happy for the courts to be available with a booking system if that is all that is being proposed, however if the proposed scheme is similar to ones that are running in Cardiff then I assume that there will be charges attached to using public facilities.</p> <p>I strongly object to existing public facilities, which are currently free to everyone, being privatised (presumably for profit or to recoup your cost). If taxpayers money is being used to renovate the asset and then handed over to a private body you are making us pay twice.</p> <p>There are only 8 public courts in Barry (pop 50,000 +) and there is a strong argument that we need more public facilities not fewer. The transfer of these facilities (3 courts) to a private body represents 37.5% of all public facilities available in the town.</p> <p>My wife and I use the courts regularly with our two children and they are a popular resource for local residents and visitors alike. Access to public facilities for the improvement of public health in the community is one of the reasons why we have public parks and recreational spaces. The privatisation of this public asset would be a grave mistake and would run contrary to The Well-being of future generations act (Wales) 2015.</p> <p>If you can provide some clarity on precisely what your intentions are re: disposal I would be most grateful.</p>
8	<p>I strongly object to the Council leasing the tennis courts to Tennis Wales on a permanent basis in Romilly Park. It is vital for the community to have access to free facilities in our parks to encourage exercise. Not everyone wishes or is able to pay for lessons. Freely accessible tennis courts in Romilly , and, I think, there are some in Gladstone Park as well, should be maintained as community asset and not be privatised. I would not object for a private operator to rent sessions on the tennis court as long as they provide affordable lessons, but leasing the courts is a step to far.</p>
9	<p>I wish to lodge my opposal to the planned removal of the free use to the tennis courts from Romilly Park. These courts enable tennis at a grass route level and ensures there are opportunities for all to embrace a sport which can be exclusive and prohibitive. Free access to a court is an incentive and should be</p>

	<p>supported. The courts have enabled youth of all generations to practice tennis skills often fostered from watching Wimbledon. Following after of lockdown it would not be fair to prevent the people of Barry to have access. We need to encourage people to engage in sport and activity and therefore should be promoting its use and providing opportunities. There are very few opportunities for young people to use facilities for free, we as a council should be encouraging all people to get fit, irrespective of age. This policy prevents equal opportunities and as such should not be allowed to proceed.</p>
10	<p>I wish to lodge my opposal to the planned removal.of the tennis courts from Romilly Park</p> <p>These courts enable tennis at a grass route level and ensures there are opportunities for all to embrace a sport which can be exclusive and prohibitive. Free access to a court is a incentive and should be supported.The courts have enabled youth of all generations to practice tennis skills often fostered from watching Wimbledon.Following after of lockdown it would not be fair to prevent the people of Barry to have access. We need to encourage people to engage in sport and activity and therefore should be promoting its use and providing opportunities.This policy prevents equal.opportunities and as such should not be slowed to proceed</p>
11	<p>I am writing to object to the plan to introduce booking and payment for use of the Romilly Park tennis courts. I think the free, spontaneous access is vital. Particularly for teenagers. In the obesity crisis and with children spending so much time gaming, easy access to tennis is essential. I'd be happy to see one that requires payment of necessary to fund maintenance and one left free and open for children.</p>
12	<p>I have seen the notice for the intended plan of leasing open access tennis courts to Tennis Wales and want to express my objection to this plan.If the resurfacing of courts is needed and is going to cost £70,000 of tax payers money then I think it is a disgrace to expect to charge the public to use them. Essentially paying twice for them.I myself use open access courts to play tennis with my family and if it wasn't for them being open access and free, then I'm unsure that I could keep using them due to the cost involved.By implementing a charge to use, this would deter individuals and more importantly children from using them which I feel would be an absolute shame. By proving open access courts you are allowing children to continue having this sport as an option and also introducing new users to the sport.Emphasis should be placed on encouraging fitness and wellbeing and I feel that by implementing a charge to use this will deter users from this sport. I hope that my comments can be formally noted and considered as part of the process.</p>
13	<p>I'm writing to formally object to the councils plans to remove from public access the above tennis courts.These courts have been freely used for years and my children, along with countless others enjoy the ability to play tennis in a free setting.Leasing the courts to a third party would put the use of the courts and the game of tennis further out of reach of the poorer sections of our town at a time when we should be prioritising outdoor activity and public health.There are very few free tennis courts in Barry, some of which are poorly maintained or positioned and to remove one of the few free assets we have would be a ridiculous decision.I hope you reconsider your decision, perhaps consider opening this up to debate rather than making a rash decision.I look forward to your reply,</p>
14	<p>I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposal to lease the tennis course in Romilly Park.</p> <p>They are a well used local facility that are currently funded through the not insignificant council tax that we pay to live in this area. In normal times I regularly enjoy using the facility with my friends and family and am looking forward to continuing this as the COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease.</p>

	<p>We are all aware of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, and having easily accessible facilities such as this within walking distance of many homes plays an important part in this. Anything that makes the facility less accessible, in terms of cost or times that it is available is not in the best interest of the local community, hence my objection.</p>
15	<p>I'm writing to object to the proposed disposal of the tennis courts at Romilly Park to Tennis Wales. I object for the following reasons: Inadequate consultation has been carried out with local people. People have not been fully informed of the details of the proposed disposal, so without further information have no choice but to object. It appears (from the January cabinet report found via a Google search) that in the future the public will have to pay to play on what are currently free tennis courts (as stated on the council's website). I am concerned that this will discourage the casual use of the courts, particularly by young people who may not have access to the online booking system or the resources to pay to book a court. This will favour organised people with money – who could look elsewhere to play tennis should they choose. I am a member of Barry Athletic Tennis Club, and am very concerned that there has been no consultation with our tennis club regarding the proposals which are likely to impact our club. It is quite possible that the introduction of new high quality courts in Romilly Park, which as pay and play courts will be potentially cheaper to use, will discourage people from joining our club. Is it the Vale council's intention to put another tennis club out of business? Barry Community Tennis Club has only been in operation for a few years, and its Facebook page shows that it hasn't run any activities since August 2020. Barry Athletic Tennis Club has been active for decades, including (when allowed) over the last year, and has recent increased interest in membership and an active committee. I'm concerned that the Vale of Glamorgan Council would make a significant financial investment in promoting a tennis club that has been largely dormant in recent times, at the possible expense of a well established and active club. I am concerned that the lease of the courts to Tennis Wales, with use by the Vale Tennis Academy, has been agreed without a formal procurement process, although admittedly I am not fully informed on this as the council has chosen not to consult local people fully! Were other tennis companies consulted or given the opportunity to bid to coach on the courts before this decision was made? Tennis Wales are effectively buying control (by donating funds) of these council owned courts, in which the council is investing a significant amount of taxpayers' money, and the use of the courts by the public will now be limited and will cost money. I hope that full consultation with local people will be undertaken before this decision is made.</p>
16	<p>I wish to lodge my opposition to the planned removal of the tennis courts from Romilly Park. These courts enable tennis at a grass roots level and ensure there are opportunities for all to embrace a sport which can be exclusive and prohibitive. Free access to a court is an incentive and should be supported. The courts have enabled youth of all generations to practice tennis skills often fostered from watching Wimbledon. Following after lockdown it would not be fair to prevent the people of Barry from having access. We need to encourage people to engage in sport and activity and therefore should be promoting its use and providing opportunities. This policy prevents equal opportunities and as such should not be slowed to proceed.</p>
17	<p>I strongly object to the proposal to lease the tennis courts at Romilly Park. This will be effectively a privatisation of a public amenity. Children and adults of Barry use the amenity for much needed physical exercise and wellbeing. If people have to pay and join Tennis Wales, it will discourage and prevent a large proportion from using the courts. At the moment we can all just turn up and play. It encourages all ages to have a go at tennis and have fun as a family. If fee paying is introduced,</p>

	<p>many families will be put off and many won't be able to pay. The courts are currently well used so leasing it will not promote further use or benefit the area. Please reconsider this proposal with the wellbeing and long term benefits of Barry residents in mind not the short term cash generating idea.</p>
18	<p>May I say first and foremost - I object!! am writing to express my astonishment upon hearing of the Vale Council's proposal to privatise the "Free To Use" Tennis Courts at Romilly Park. As a local resident (████████), for many, many years I have watched friends and family, neighbours and various other local residents enjoy this facility as I walk my dogs. I understand that this amenity was part and parcel of the original development of Romilly Park gifted to the local community by Robert Forrest on behalf of the Romilly Estate. As such, there must surely be a question as to the legality of your proposal in the absence of the relevant permissions from the community. For many years, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has wilfully and blatantly reduced the number of facilities and amenities available to the residents of Barry disposing of them for short term monetary gain. I hear that, once again, "lack of funds" is your time-honoured reason for the proposal. Given the enormous increase in the Vale's council tax revenues over the last twenty years as a result of the unending residential developments throughout Barry but particularly in the Docklands, I find that excuse hard to accept. What are you doing with those revenues? Whilst on the subject of the Docklands redevelopment: whatever happened to the facilities and amenities we were told were "baked-in" and agreed between the Council and the developer(s) as part of that deal? All we've seen are homes, homes and more homes - and an Asda Superstore! Why is the Council so toothless? If, however, you intend to continue to claim "lack of funds" for the disposal of these much-loved "Free To Use" Tennis Courts at Romilly Park, may I suggest that in the first instance you review the Council's bloated salaries, attendance allowances and expense accounts and do the right thing by cutting there first. It is most unfortunate that this Council has a track record of making decisions to the detriment of its electorate and not for its benefit. It would be most refreshing to see you do the right thing and reduce your own personal benefits before you, once again, disadvantage this community with another of your short-sighted and mean-minded cuts. I find your proposal totally unacceptable, completely disgraceful and an insult to my fellow hard-working and long suffering residents of Barry, Yours in astonishment.</p>
19	<p>I have just been made aware of e councils plans to lease the tennis courts in Romilly Park to Tennis Wales who will then charge the residents of the Vale to use the facility, In times when there is a clear need to encourage activity amongst the borough residents I think the idea of charging to use the courts is a hugely negative step. With obesity high and on the rise the council should instead focus its efforts in promoting the existence and use of the courts. I strongly object to these plans and instead would like to see plans and proposals to raise general levels of activity in the area.</p>
20	<p>I have been made aware of the council's imminent plans to refurbish and lease the tennis courts to Tennis Wales, meaning when my daughter is old enough to play tennis with me and her father or her friends we would have to pay for use the facilities there. I am extremely opposed to this action. Romilly Park is an area we use almost daily. She attends at ██████████ Nursery and I know in fine weather they often utilise the park too. I see the courts being used by families and young people every time we visit and and have always been proud of the excellent facilities the council have provided. I feel very sad that this will not be the case for her in a few years time and feel that this action will disproportionately affect young people meaning that tennis will be a sport the vale council believe that only the wealthy should be able to access. I hope that the council will rethink this action as it would be a huge loss to the area.</p>

21	I would like to lodge an objection to the councils plans to lease the tennis courts at Romilly Park.I and many others are disgusted that the council is proposing to use taxpayers money to resurface and upgrade these facilities, only to then lease them and charge local residents to use the facilities they have already paid for. I have no objection to plans to upgrade the tennis courts or implement a booking system but the use of the courts should remain free and accessible to all. The leisure provision for our children in this area is practically non-existent already and the council should be ashamed of itself for even considering such a proposal. After the last year, the council should be leading the way in ensuring that our community has inclusive amenities that support general well-being, not profiteering at the expense of the local residents it is supposed to serve.
22	Following the notice that the VoG are intending to lease the tennis courts to Tennis Wales I would like to ask a couple of questions, raise concerns and essentially object to this plan. Personal : As a local resident and teacher in a local school I, and my family use these facilities regularly and even more so since external facilities have been valued with COVID. The prospect of having to 'plan' outside recreation (due to booking/fees) will likely reduce the likelihood of us engaging in tennis and reducing our activity levels . Renovation: At what cost to tax payers are the courts being renovated? Tennis Wales: is it true that tennis Wales will be taking over the courts? Will the courts remain free to public use ? There is a strong argument that we need more public facilities, not fewer.In times like these where children and families have been inactive for extended amounts of time due to covid and disadvantage on the rise, it is imperative that free facilities do not price families out of exercise and activity. Please accept this objection as an objection from myself and my extended family who also live locally and are cc'd in to this email.Tennis Wales: is it true that tennis Wales will be taking over the courts? Will the courts remain free to public use ? There is a strong argument that we need more public facilities, not fewer.In times like these where children and families have been inactive for extended amounts of time due to covid and disadvantage on the rise, it is imperative that free facilities do not price families out of exercise and activity. Please accept this objection as an objection from myself and my extended family who also live locally and are cc'd in to this email.
23	I would like to add my name to the list of people objecting to the Council's plan with regard to the above.
24	I'm writing to object to the plan of leasing the Romilly Park tennis courts. These courts are extremely popular to many locals including ourselves. It's awful to see that slowly all our leisure facilities are being lost while our council tax rates continue to go up. I'm extremely disappointed that the council now feel they have to lease the tennis courts to a private company who will no doubt start charging people to use the well loved facility. Shame on you Council. Our children need places to exercise and fall in love with sport but yet you do the opposite by giving them less places to exercise. Holme view has been left to fall apart and the slide in the pool hasn't been working for years - I could go on and on but I will leave it there. Please do not let this happen
25	I strongly object to the leasing of the Romilly Park tennis courts to Tennis Wales. The courts are a public facility, regularly used by locals. To propose a scheme where we would have to pay for the use of public land is against what you should be standing for. They should be accessible to all without any private interests or fins I am impediment

26	I'm writing to object to the plan of leasing the Romilly Park tennis courts. These courts are extremely popular to many locals including ourselves. It's awful to see that slowly all our leisure facilities are being lost while our council tax rates continue to go up. I'm extremely disappointed that the council now feel they have to lease the tennis courts to a private company who will no doubt start charging people to use the well loved facility. Shame on you Council. Our children need places to exercise and fall in love with sport but yet you do the opposite by giving them less places to exercise. Holme view has been left to fall apart and the slide in the pool hasn't been working for years - I could go on and on but I will leave it there. Please do not let this happen.
27	I am writing to announce my formal rejection to the proposal of disposing of Romilly park tennis courts. My name is ##### and I am a resident in Barry. The motion put forward will be damaging to those who would want informal and free use of the courts, such as children.I hope you reconsider this proposal,
28	I have read that you intend to lease the tennis courts at Romilly Park to Tennis Wales who in turn will charge for using them. This is outrageous given the fact you'll use local tax payers money to resurface it and then an outside company charge us for using it. Health now, more than ever matters and I think it's just money grabbing to now after all these years charge for using this well known, well used local facility. You really should re consider given the backlash this might cause.
29	keep the tennis courts at Romilly Park in the public domain and desist profiteering from public assets
30	I'm writing to formally object to the councils plans to remove from public access the above tennis courts.These courts have been freely used for years and my children, along with countless others enjoy the ability to play tennis in a free setting.Leasing the courts to a third party would put the use of the courts and the game of tennis further out of reach of the poorer sections of our town at a time when we should be prioritising outdoor activity and public health.There are very few free tennis courts in Barry, some of which are poorly maintained or positioned and to remove one of the few free assets we have would be a ridiculous decision.I hope you reconsider your decision, perhaps consider opening this up to debate rather than making a rash decision.I look forward to your reply,
31	I'm writing to express mine and my children's disappointment to hear about the public use of Romilly Park tennis courts being closed down. It was a real blessing to realise only recently that we were able to use these. Having lost all my gigs and not been able to teach face to face due to Covid it was a real blessing having a place to take the kids to play tennis for free. I'm sure this is a case for many people with lockdown making it difficult for families to keep a healthy, active lifestyle. I'm sure if you consider the cost of what they may do if they have no way of affording a way to entertain themselves in another way it will offset the revenue gained from renting out the tennis courts. I believe it to be a positive contribution to our lovely town and would most happy to assist in some way to keep them open.They could be used for small events such as mini music festivals/ food festivals etc. I would be happy to assist with this if necessary. There are many struggling musicians in Barry now that would appreciate more outdoor events in which they could market themselves. And most probably food market businesses, nail and hair braids, face painters etc...If you are really in need of the extra revenue may I suggest that you have passes so that families that are struggling/ on benefits have certain times which they are able to use themPlease don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like a hand organising some events.

32	<p>Hi, Please can you explain the implications of the proposed leasing of the tennis courts at Romilly Park to Tennis Wales? Does this mean there will no longer be public access? The courts are regularly used by the public, particularly by local children and young people, and I would object to them being unavailable. They are a valuable resource for the local community, and should be available for all, for free. I look forward to hearing more detail about the proposals</p>
33	<p>Trust you are safe and well.</p> <p>As [REDACTED] has now kindly confirmed that the Club has withdrawn their objections to our proposed works at Romilly Tennis Courts I haven't included your comments in the appendix of the proposed Cabinet report detailing the objections.</p> <p>I trust this is acceptable but if you do still wish your comments to be included please let me know by return.</p> <p>Regards</p>
34	<p>I am writing to the recent proposal to the General public tennis courts, Romily Park, Barry. It is appalling that this has not been brought to the Community of Barry and outer community of the Vale of Glamorgan sooner. It would be shameful to turn the tennis courts over to private public hire no matter what the charge would be to hire them. The tennis courts are currently available to ALL residents and non residents of our lovely Town and further a field. There are not many things left in the Town that are free and available to everyone. Barry and other communities have lots of families on low incomes and charities that use the courts from time to time or even on a regular basis. Our young people can currently turn up to the courts and meet for a game or mess around at the courts without the worry of payment. If this was to change how would the lower income families or people that struggle with monies pay for this? How do you expect the Young People to pay for this when they have no income themselves due to being in school or college? The impact of the well being of those that currently use on a regular basis having it potentially taken away. Why should charity groups have to pay to use the courts, charities use them to help teach young people about tennis as a sport/hobby, the area is also used to teach them to respect our environment and area to enjoy the free things available. By making these public paying tennis courts you are destroying community spirit, leaving the courts empty from young people, families, charities etc, as they don't have an income or facilities to pay. Sport, fitness and good mental health needs to be encouraged and having some free amenities is a great way for this to continue. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.</p>

Date/Dyddiad xxxx 2021  
Ask for/Gofynwch am David Knevet  
Telephone/Rhif ffôn  
e-mail/e-bost contactonevale@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk  
My Ref/Fy Nyhyf  
Your Ref/Eich Cyf

The Vale of Glamorgan Council  
The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg  
Yr Alpau, Gwenfô CF5 6AA

[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)  
[www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk](http://www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk)



## Appendix 2

DearXXX

Re: Romilly Park Tennis Courts

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to providing the best possible facilities for its residents to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. This objective is shared by both Tennis Wales and Sport Wales who are key partners in the proposed refurbishment of the Courts at Romilly Park. The project is firmly committed to increasing the number of people regularly playing tennis at this much-loved location.

The planned improvements to the Tennis Courts at Romilly Park is a joint project between Vale of Glamorgan Council and Tennis Wales with significant financial assistance also from Sport Wales to renovate the courts that will safeguard their future use. At present the surface of the courts is extremely worn and their renovation is essential to ensure tennis activity is secured at the site for the long term. By working in partnership with Tennis Wales the Council is keen to encourage more people play tennis on a regular basis at a quality facility. The refurbished courts will be available for anyone to book within park opening hours, operating on a not for profit basis with a small fee to contribute to a sinking fund to ensure a high level of court maintenance. Any surplus beyond the sinking fund will be reinvested into tennis activities at Romilly Park or to offer wider tennis activities across the Vale of Glamorgan. Through booking courts, you will never turn up and not be able to play or have to wait, a booking and gate access system also helps to deter vandalism on the site. You will not need to be a member to play on the courts; you can choose to subscribe to use them if you become a regular user that will provide an even cheaper way to play. Subscribers receive no benefits or preferential access to courts beyond anyone who simply wants to casually book, but it does offer a potential cost saving depending on how often you play.

Tennis Wales will also proactively engage local community groups to provide free access tennis opportunities all year round that will encourage more people to play. An extensive community coaching programme will also operate from the courts enabling more people to play the sport. The renovated courts will provide a long-term home for Barry Community Tennis Club, which offers regular, local opportunities for people to play and socialise.

A fee has always been previously set to use the Tennis Courts in Romilly as well as the other public courts across the Vale of Glamorgan but has rarely been collected as it was not economic to do so. The use of technology now



makes this possible. Alternative public tennis facilities will remain accessible across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Knevet', written in a cursive style.

David Knevet  
Operational Manager Healthy Living & Performance  
Rheolwr Gweithredol – Byw'n Iach a Pherfformiad