

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park	4 th February 2013
Subject: London Marathon Trust Funding for the Refurbishment of Tennis Courts at West Ham Park	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update on funding received by the Tessa Sanderson Foundation and Academy from The London Marathon Trust of £100,000 towards the refurbishment of tennis courts at West Ham Park at no cost to the City of London Corporation.</p> <p>Through guidance and expertise provided by the Lawn Tennis Association, a tender package has been produced and five companies have been invited to bid for the work. The works will commence in early spring 2013.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report. 	

Main Report

Background

1. For two years, the Tessa Sanderson Foundation and Academy (TSFA) has provided free tennis coaching to the young people of Newham using the tennis courts at West Ham Park. There are 24 active tennis courts within the Borough and West Ham Park houses half of these.
2. In December 2011, TSFA was successful in bidding for funds from the London Marathon Trust (LMT); a grant of £100,000 was received towards the refurbishment of tennis courts at West Ham Park.
3. In July 2012, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) on behalf of the TSFA and in consultation with the City of London Corporation appointed a company called Sports Facility Planning and Design Ltd (SFPD Ltd) to undertake a condition survey of the tennis courts. A site inspection report was produced at

a cost of £1,000 which was borne by the LTA.

4. The survey identified technical recommendations and budget options that would allow the refurbishment of between three and six courts, depending on the condition of their sub base, to bring the courts in line with LTA compliance for the provision of tennis facilities.

Current Position

5. As part of the funding received from the LTA, SFPD Ltd produced a tender package to obtain suitable quotations for the necessary works. The requirements of the City Surveyor and local site policies have been taken into consideration when preparing the tender documentation. The tender package was released on the 7th January with a deadline for returns of 5.00pm on the 18th January 2013. Five companies have been invited to tender and are all members of the Sports and Play Construction Association.

Proposals

6. The tender returns will be assessed by SFPD Ltd, who will advise the TSFA and the City Corporation on which contractor provides the best value for money for carrying out the refurbishment of the courts. Although ideally we would seek to maximise the benefit to the park by spreading the available funds over six courts, given the age of the courts and the likely state of repair of the sub-base (as yet unknown), it is more likely that the funds available will cover only three courts to the required standard.
7. Work will commence at the end of February 2013 (subject to weather conditions) and are envisaged to take approximately six weeks. Whilst the work is being carried out, six courts will remain available for use by the public.
8. As the funding has been provided to the TSFA from the LMT, a draft license agreement has been drawn up between the City Corporation, the TSFA and the contractor (to be appointed) which states that all works are to be carried out solely at the expense of TSFA.
9. The licence will be finalised once the contractor has been appointed and will cover details including access arrangements, health and safety requirement and reinstatement provisions to protect the City's interests. Whilst on site, City officers in partnership with the TSFA staff will ensure that the appointed contractor complies with the terms of the license agreement. In addition to daily monitoring, formal partnership meetings will take place on a weekly basis throughout the duration of the works.
10. At the end of 2012, the TSFA produced a business plan, formalising its vision for more structured tennis coaching provision in partnership with West Ham Park. The plan looked at the potential hire of a set number of courts at set

times with the aim of expanding the current coaching provision to include older players and those with physical impairments. Such an approach is welcomed but the plan is not yet finalised and officers have offered a number of constructive suggestions to help complete the plan. When in a suitable format, the proposal will be the subject of a separate report to this committee.

11. Whilst it is the City's intention to enter into formal tennis coaching partnership with the TSFA following approval of their business plan, it should be noted that the receipt of funding capital for refurbishment is not conditional on entering into a future partnership agreement.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. The refurbishment of the courts supports four of the five community strategy themes:
 - Supports our communities – by encouraging well-being and participation in volunteer activities
 - Protects, promotes and enhances our environment – by encouraging use and enjoyment of City open spaces
 - Is vibrant and culturally rich – by promoting and encouraging activities for all
 - Is safer and stronger – evidence suggests increasing legitimate use in open space creates a safer environment
13. The refurbishment of the courts links to the three of the five aims identified in the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2012-15:
 - Quality: Provide safe, secure and accessible open spaces and services for the benefit of London and the Nation
 - Inclusion: Involve communities and partners in developing a sense of place through the care and management of our sites
 - Promotion: Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living

Financial Implications

14. In his 20-year maintenance plans for West Ham Park, the City Surveyor has budgeted for £111,000 in 2014/15 and a further £80,000 in 2015/16 for refurbishment works to the tennis courts and associated structures. Although these sums are substantial, it is unlikely that they will be sufficient for the full structural works necessary to all 12 courts.

The additional £100,000 funding from the TSFA is therefore a welcome contribution to assist with the future planned preservation of the Tennis Courts.

15. Structural maintenance and repairs of the tennis courts will continue to be carried out by the City Surveyor from his existing revenue budgets, but short to medium term costs are likely to be reduced because of the additional investment in structural quality as a result of this project. Day to day maintenance costs (cleansing, etc) will continue to be provided by West Ham Park staff, as at present.

Corporate Property Implications

16. Providing the refurbishment is to a suitable standard, there are not considered to be any additional asset maintenance implications.

Conclusion

17. The partnership that West Ham Park has with the TSFA has enabled us to benefit from a welcome contribution of funding to maintain our assets at no additional expense to the City of London Corporation, and to improve our facilities for the future provision of sport in the park.

Appendices

None

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