

Petitioner:	William Cocodia
Petition:	Plumstead Common Tennis Courts
Number of signatures:	298
The petition read as follows:	<p>"Plumstead Common Tennis Courts need to be revamped. The LTA put forward a proposal towards this project that would cost over £200k, bring about charges to use the courts and reduce the courts to 3.</p> <p>A local Community Group put forward their own proposal to keep the courts free with court resurfacing at less the £50k and still 4 courts</p> <p>The council put out a survey giving the locals only the LTA option</p> <p>It is worthy of note that this LTA option has been rejected by some authorities outside London, who understand how these free courts help their local residents.</p> <p>As a local in the community who would occasionally or regularly play the game, which would you choose?</p> <p>The proposal for reduction to 3 courts has been attributed to tree roots underneath the court surface which have created bumps on the court. From Analysis carried out, the tree roots would still need to be dealt with irrespective of the number of courts as they extend from the courts by the fence to the inner courts.</p> <p>We understand the importance of health and fitness to locals in the area, the demography and how financially challenging it is. Also understand that in an area like this one, with charges applied, a kid would rather kick a football than pick up a racket.</p> <p>Hence to encourage this sport that is loosing numbers and participants, areas like these should remain free</p> <p>So we want all residents of Plumstead, Woolwich, Thamesmead and environs to sign this petition compelling the Partnership and Programmes Team, under the Community, Environment and Central Services at Greenwich Council to review</p>

	its decision with the intention to charge for use of Tennis Courts at Plumstead Common as well as reducing the 3 courts"
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Cabinet Member:	Equality, Culture & Communities
Ward(s):	Plumstead Common
Directorate:	DCEC

Submitted to Council on:	21 February 2024
Presented by:	Councillor Issy Cooke

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 I am Councillor Ann-Marie Cousins, the new Cabinet Member for Equality, Culture and Communities.
- I.2 We thank Councillor Cooke for presenting the petition on behalf of William Cocodia, Chair of Hood Tennis group.
- I.3 The refurbishment costs were advised by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) technical colleagues. The decision to reduce the number of courts from four to three was based on their professional advice.
- I.4 As the Hood Tennis group are aware, the refurbishment of the courts at Plumstead Common and the other 4 sites, and a grant offer from the LTA, was conditional on implementing a sustainable pricing model.
- I.5 The pricing model was agreed at Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and again on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and included the following.
- 30% of total available court time to be allocated free of charge for community usage and activity per week
  - £30 Annual Household season pass (up to 5 people)
  - Free annual household season pass available for those receiving means tested benefits
  - “Pay & Play” flat rate of £3 per court, per hour
- I.6 The offer of 30% free court time is currently available at Plumstead Tennis Courts and the Hood Tennis group currently have 24 hours of free court usage every week on the courts.

- 2 **Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**
- 2.1 The pricing model will continue on all the refurbished courts across the borough.
- 2.2 There will be further publicity and promotion of the pricing model and the free court times available.
- 2.3 In addition, there will in the future free tennis coaching programmes and free tennis racquets given to participants to keep encouraging them to continue playing the sport with their families and friends.
- 2.4 There will be continued monitoring of the court usage at Plumstead Common and all sites to help shape any future tennis development opportunities.
- 2.5 Officers will continue to work with the Hood Tennis group and other groups to pursue the joint mission of getting more people playing tennis more often