

Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club

Statement in respect of the Bulbourne Cross development.

Berkhamsted Tennis & Squash Club (“BLT&SRC”) wants to re-assure members & residents that, despite speculation on social media, there are no plans to develop the club’s site or relocate our facilities. The Club’s Council and Trustees are committed to remaining at our freehold site which is ideally located at the heart of the town. Close inspection of the recent proposals for the Bulbourne Cross development reveal that there are no plans to include tennis or squash facilities on the proposed new multi-sports hub.

Recently, Berkhamsted residents have received a document issued by Thakeham and Berkhamsted Sports Grounds Charitable Association (“the BSGCA”) about a significant housing development being planned on the eastern side of Berkhamsted. On the front of this communication, BLT&SRC is named as being a beneficiary of the BSGCA’s support. This statement seeks to clarify the details of our relationship with the BSGCA and their proposals.

BLT&SRC own the freehold of the majority of its Broadwater site and has no plans to sell their land. However, many people will not be aware that a small area of the club’s premises between the service road to the clubhouse and the boundary with the football club is leased from the BSGCA. This leased land houses the ITC, outdoor courts 6a and 6b and the car park and is shown by the red boundary line in Figure 1 (attached). In this respect the relationship between BLT&SRC and BSGCA is primarily one of Landlord and Tenant.

This strip of land is secured under a 50-year lease signed in 2005 and the BSGCA has no plans to sell this land. However, consistent with their aims to improve sports and leisure facilities in the town, the BSGCA is considering the potential benefits for sports arising from the sale of the Berkhamsted Football Club site (which runs adjacent to ours). As stipulated by their charitable objectives, all proceeds arising from any proposed sale would be used to fund the development of sports and leisure facilities in the town. Initially, funds would be used to build a modern football stadium and other sports facilities on a 10ha site as part of the Bulbourne Cross development. It is also reasonable to assume there would also be a legacy fund available to support local sports clubs in the town for many more years to come. If you would like to know more about how the BSGCA supports local sports and leisure clubs and specifically their support for the Bulbourne Cross development, we direct you to their website at www.bsgca.org

In addition to the Landlord and Tenant relationship, BLT&SRC is a member of the BSGCA and for many years officers of the Club have sat on the BSGCA board of directors. The Club has benefitted from grants and loan funding from the BSGCA under its charitable mandate.

Neither BLT&SRC nor its officers have any direct interest in the Thakeham proposals. The Club Council will not be making any specific comments about the potential benefits to local sport that might arise from the Bulbourne Cross development. As a community sports club, we do not consider it is appropriate to become involved in the politics relating to DBC’s plans for building developments.

However, if any members or residents have any questions about the club’s relationship with the BSGCA, please feel free to contact me. Or alternatively, Paul Forster (BSGCA Chairman) or Jan Cowper (BSGCA Secretary) who are both members of BLT&SRC.

Mike Hawkes
Chairman (Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club)
chair@bltsrc.co.uk

Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club
Statement in respect of the Bulbourne Cross development.

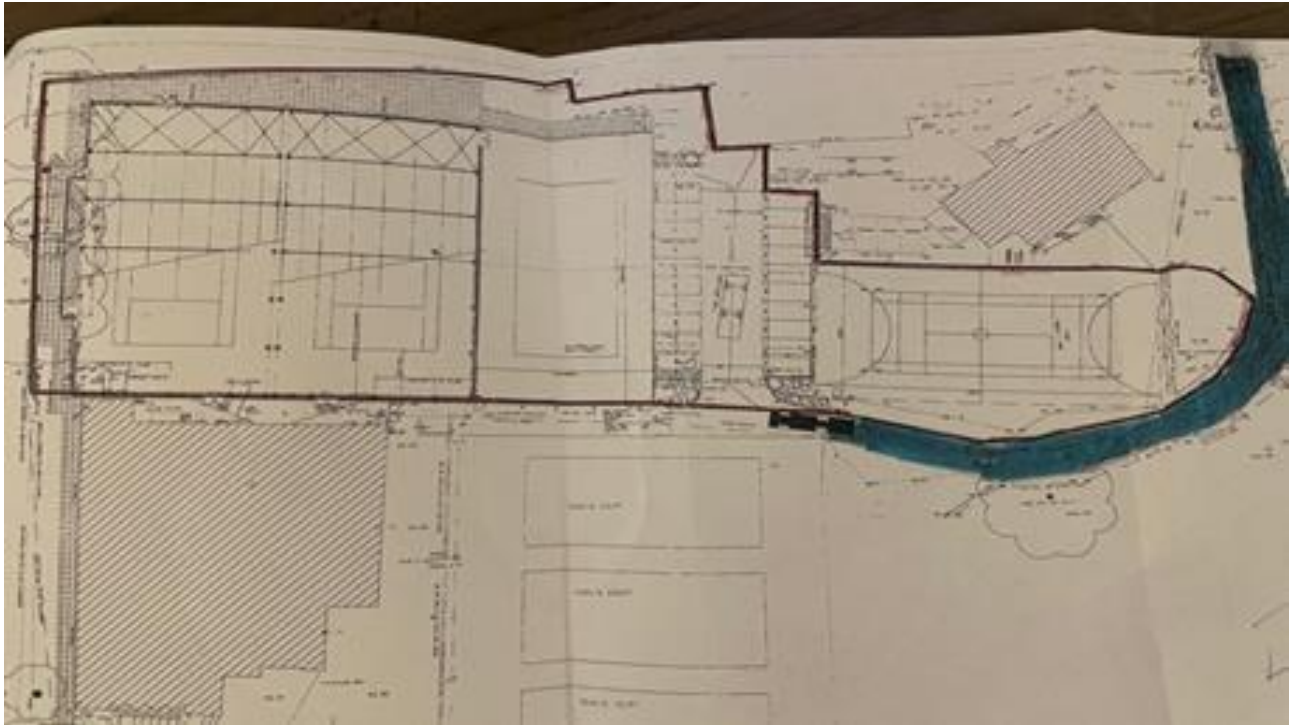


Figure 1