

## **Tennis in Sydney Gardens**

Tennis is an important feature within the Gardens, but it isn't the only aspect. We are looking to widen participation and enjoyment in the Gardens and that means we need to provide a broader range of activities for families.

Yes, there will be a loss of the bottom tennis courts, but there is a commitment to keep the top two and to refurbish the courts.

We asked the Lawn Tennis Association to look at tennis provision across Bath, including Sydney Gardens. They had concerns about the bottom three courts. Not only in terms of the current condition of the playing surface (roots from adjacent trees lifting up the tarmac), but also all three courts did not have sufficient space at either end to accommodate the regulation run off area. Of most concerns was the boundary wall along Beckford Road, which was within the playing area.

As space is limited within Sydney Gardens, the LTA concluded that there was only adequate room for 2 or 3 courts; and have advised the council that it would be very unusual to provide more than three courts in a park of this size anyway. Having looked into this in more detail and tried to fit a third court in at the top of the Gardens, we have concluded that unfortunately we can only fit in two courts in this area (constrained by the underground reservoirs to the south of the existing courts).

When put into the context of tennis provision across Bath, the LTA's view was that there are other parts of the city (where there currently is an absence of courts) that should be more of a priority in terms of funding and support and will be working with the council to help develop new tennis provision in the south west of Bath.

BathNES is looking to improve tennis provision across the city and is considering a new bookable service, where courts can be booked on-line in advance and accessed via a keypad. As part of the Sydney Gardens Project the newly refurbished top two courts would be part of such a scheme ensuring that the courts are available through pre-booking.

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