



Canteloves Gardens Padel Court Engagement Feedback



Background



What is Padel?

Padel tennis is one of the fast-growing sports in the UK and introducing a padel court into a public park would help us expand and broaden our physical activity offer.

Currently most padel courts in the UK are associated with private racket or leisure centre/clubs. Therefore, the proposal for a padel court for a public park in Camden is exciting – as the sport has such a wide, accessible and fun appeal.

During 2024 officers carried out feasibility and site analysis to identify a suitable location for a padel court in one of Camden’s parks. Our finding (having taken specialist advice) was that Canteloves Gardens is the best location for this facility.

Canteloves Gardens was shortlisted because:

- Padel court would complement the other ‘active’ park facilities (sports pitch, skate bowl, outdoor gym)
- Central Camden location – equally attractive to local residents, families and those that work and study in the area
- Site based staff - an advantage for a bookable sports pitch
- The proposed location is shielded visually and acoustically.

How did we engage?



An online survey was hosted on We are Camden website from 28th November 2024 to January 24th 2025. [Canteloves Gardens Padel tennis court proposal - We Are Camden - Citizen Space](#)

Two pop-up engagement sessions were held in the park on 8th and 13th December 2-4.00pm to meet people, allow them to try out padel on the sports pitch and talk through the proposal.



We asked...



Whether you would support the proposal for a padel court at Canteloves Gardens, if you had any concerns, comments and we also asked for suggestions for the wider Park improvement project planned for later in 2025.

You said...



When asked if people supported the Padel proposal, at the end of the consultation period, 50.5% supported and 49.5% would not support the proposal. 217 responses to this question were received.

During the engagement period, there was a Camden New Journal article (23.01.25) which contained some inaccuracies about the Padel proposal and featured a 'save our sandpit' campaign featured on the front page. The article focussed on the removal of a free children's facility for a charged facility but did not reference Camden's willingness to enhance/ reprovide the sandpit, or the wider park improvement project planned for late 2025.

The CNJ article caused a swing in the engagement but levelled out as the survey closed:

Support for Padel court

	Yes	No
Pre CNJ article	54.1%	45.8%
Immediately after article	36.7%	63.3%
Final results	50.5%	49.5%

Those who were supportive wanted:

- ✓ Seating / picnic benches nearby.
- ✓ Affordable pricing for Padel Court bookings.
- ✓ More than one padel court (demonstrating the demand).
- ✓ They were also keen to see the sandpit re-provided.

The key focus of those who were not supportive was the perceived loss of the sandpit.

There were some clear shared priorities between those that supported the padel proposal and those who objected to it, including:

- ✓ Quality play facilities.
- ✓ Sand and natural play for young children.
- ✓ Picnic benches
- ✓ Ensuring the park delivers for a wide range of users.
- ✓ Proposed padel court be affordable.



What's next?



We have heard through the engagement how important a sandpit in the park is to local families and are committed to ensuring it is re-provided. Via the park improvement project, we will engage with people to work out the best location and design ideas for a replacement sandpit.

We would also ensure that the picnic benches are repositioned considerably so they can continue to be enjoyed. We would also extend and improve the wildflower meadow area, plant a new native hedgerow and plant 2-3 new trees if the padel court does happen.



The proposed booking fees for the padel court are £25 per hour, or £15 concession rate. Having benchmarked padel courts across London (average £37 per hour) the proposed fees are very competitive.

The proposed fees would mean a family/group of 4 (with one member being younger than 16 or over 60) could play for £3.75 per person. There would also be free court time allocated to local community centres during the day.

Using the results from the online survey, we will produce a design response and begin further public engagement about the wider park improvement project from June 2025. It is the clear that improved playground provision is very important to the community.



Essential repairs to the sports pavilion building are also planned, and will take place in the next few months, this will include improvements to the public toilet over the summer. Further improvements to the building will be included in the future park improvement project engagement.

Having considered the above points, we intend to further work up the padel proposal and apply for planning permission for the court.

