Smalley Lawn Tennis Club
Dobholes Lane
Smalley
Ilkeston 1st August 2026

Ref : Design and Access Statement

Dear Sir / Madam

Please find the application for Smalley Lawn Tennis Club floodlight application and also drawings and detailed lighting plans submitted by Midstream Lighting. See also the location plan for the proposed floodlights on the 2 existing hard tennis courts.

The tennis club is run by volunteers and has been based on the site since 1946. This year will celebrate 80 years of tennis in Smalley. The club is open to all in the community and has always been run at low cost to members to reduce financial barriers to anyone wishing to play tennis. Membership has been consistent over the years during summer months but has always dropped off during winter months due to lack of playing hours during the winter. Local schools have always used the courts during summer months at no charge,giving school pupils much needed exercise and the opportunity to play tennis. The local primary schools have limited outdoor space to play sports and they have always welcomed the opportunity to come to the club.

With this application we hope to continue to links with local schools and let them have the option to use the facilities during winter months. Having floodlighting will enable the schools to continue to come to the club in the afternoons during winter and also open up the opportunity to after school tennis during winter months and spring when the evenings are dark. The club is also looking to provide further opportunities for walking tennis which enables anybody whether they are life long tennis players,players who have had to give up or those completely new to the sport to give tennis a go keeping their mind and body active whilst meeting new people and above all having fun. This brings opportunities to older people who are most at risk of physical inactivity and new walking tennis groups to support women and older people from lower socio-economic groups,living with long term health conditions,living with disabilities and from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Winter is a tough time with long dark evenings and we hope using our facility will help a vast number of people in the local community.

We are fortunate to have a large car park which is shared with the cricket club which allows access to the tennis courts all year.

We appreciate there are some neighbouring properties at the rear of the car park but the proposed development for the floodlights is a considerable distance from the bottom of the

houses gardens.Looking at the plans supplied by Midstream Lighting there would appear to be no issues with potential light glare and light pollution into gardens.

Over the past 10 years or more there have been many issues with anti-social behaviour in the car park and we feel the club being used more in the evening during winter would have a positive impact in reducing this plus in the long term more local children will be involved in the club playing tennis and less likely to be involved in such activities.

The floodlights will not be on all the time only when required and we propose to limit evening tennis to a maximum time of 10pm which is generally accepted in most tennis clubs with floodlights. We estimate a majority of the time the lights being used after school and early evening with occasional use later on. Obviously during winter months all use will be subject to weather and therefore this will also add some restrictions to use. The lighting will not be on unless the courts are being used either by club members or we are adding the option of a pay and play facility for non members.

When our last planning application was submitted for a new club house in 2014 part of the planning at this time was to allow cabling for potential floodlights to be installed.

It has taken some time to come to this decision to move the club forward and we feel it is now time in our 80th year to celebrate tennis and provide more tennis playing hours to our local community.

The floodlights are only part of our plans for the club. We have funding applications for clubhouse repairs and court repairs going through, but our grant applications for floodlights often require planning consent before any monies will be granted.

We hope this letter helps the application and will be processed without delay so gaining the required funding to go ahead without delays.

Kind Regards

Simon Klugman
Chairman Smalley Lawn Tennis Club