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Ashtead Tennis Club gets set to expand

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Sport in Mole Valley is set to get a boost after plans for a new clubhouse, that will allow Ashtead Tennis Club to offer more to the community, was approved. The new larger facility will replace the existing block and will include accessible toilets, changing facilities and a larger social area.

The club plans to build its new Ashtead Recreation Ground headquarters with matching materials as its current block.

Officers at Mole Valley District Council's January 7 development committee said it would not harm the or overly impact the neighbourhood. The plans were widely praised as being good for Ashtead with the only real objections being three windows that faced a neighbouring property. The committee, however, heard these would be masked by fencing and trees

Councillor Chris Hunt: (Independent: Ashtead Lanes & Common) said: " The tennis club have obviously put an awful lot of work into this application. This is positive." He added: "Use of this new proposed clubhouse is an improvement to their current structure and most people will be looking towards the tennis courts rather than to the fence.

Cllr Phil Hammond (Liberal Democrat: Fetcham) said "Ashtead is a lovely place…so I'm sure the neighbours can resolve their issues. We give a lot of support to football, bowls, cricket and tennis clubs. We do a lot through our neighbourhood CIL. Updating their facilities is a challenge, getting accessible toilets and changing.

"The demographic of sports, the involvement of young people, women's sport; It's always changing and evolving and I think it's good that this council can support that. It's a good place, it's a busy place and I've seen what they do in terms of developing the sport but they also extend the sport with things like pickleball or easier forms of tennis. It's the sort of thing we need in our community."

Chris Caulfield LDRS

Ashtead Tennis Club (image Googe)

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