

Our ref: 1131k/RAB

28th November 2025

Head of Sustainability & Planning
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Civic Centre,
Castle Street,
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Proposed Installation of a Freestanding Canopy Roof to Existing Sports Enclosure at
Land part of Former Trinity Church, Wesley Place, Merthyr Vale**

We are instructed by C & R Lettings Limited to seek the planning permission for the above proposed development. The application submission seeks approval for the construction of a freestanding roof canopy to be erected over an existing sports surface off the side of the former Trinity Church at Wesley Place, Merthyr Vale.

The sports enclosure falls off the western flank of Wesley Place, close to the junction with Cardiff Road (A4054). It forms a level surface set some 2.5 metres below the adjacent highway level, and is accessed from the front by a set of stone steps which fall onto Wesley Place through a set of iron gates. Those gates together with a set of iron railings denote the frontage edge of the site, with the former Chapel building set to its southern side. The former Chapel is now an artists' studio, having long since performed any religious services at the site.

The rear perimeter of the sports surface backs onto an elevated section of retaining wall facing a rear service lane, which overlooks the main railway line. Merthyr Vale Station actually lies only some 30 metres to the north-west, with the rear lane also accommodating a day nursery.

A pedestrian ramped access leads up from this rear lane to the sports facility which appears to have been formed back in 1997 by the "Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Youth and Community Project". They acquired planning permission to change the former "derelict garden" of the Church to an "astro-turf pitch." Planning permission 52/P/96/0440 refers.

The sports enclosure is equipped with a perimeter wall and chain-link fence rising to 3.0 metres in height, and has floodlights installed on columns at both ends. The surface also is marked out for 5-a-side football and basketball use, with football goal posts and basketball hoops at either flank.

Off the northern side of the court lies a short terrace of three dwellinghouses, being two-storey facing Wesley Place, but three-storey at the rear, with lower ground floors opening out to

modest rear garden areas, and to rear service lane access, marked with a row of detached garages.

The location of the site is shown by an extract from the Ordnance Survey Map below at Figure 1, whilst a Google Earth aerial image is shown as Figure 2.

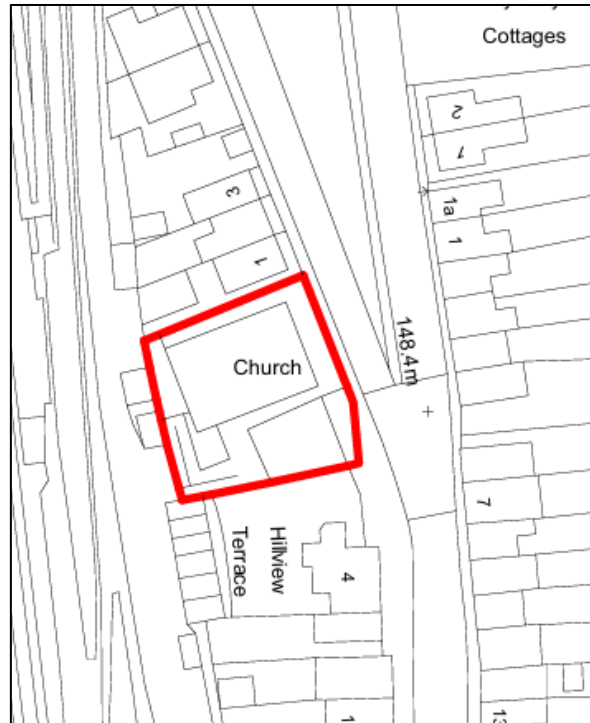


Figure 1 – location plan of former Trinity Church and sports enclosure

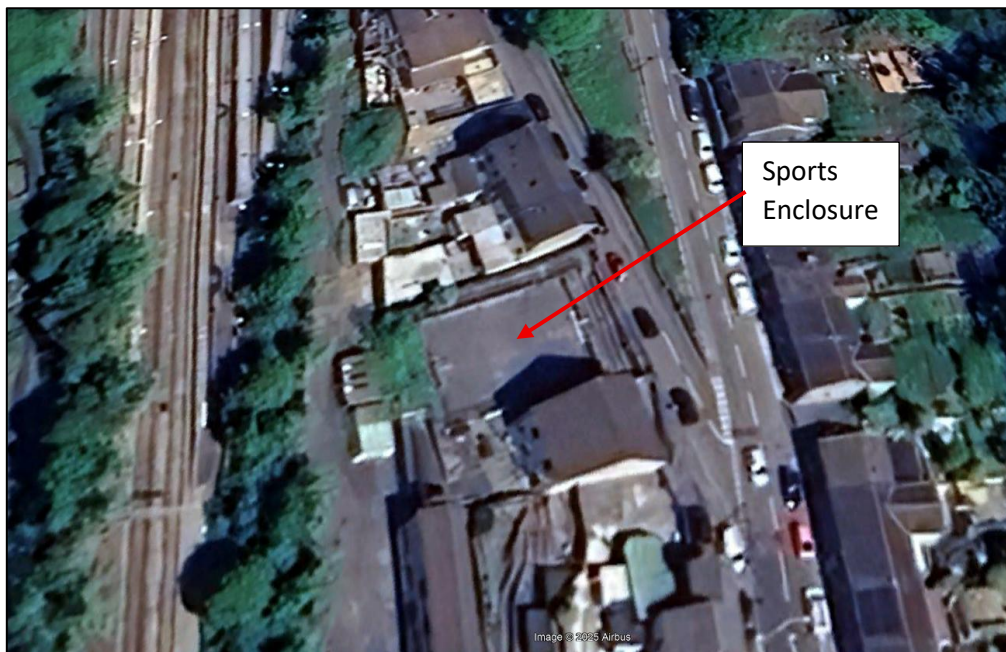


Figure 2 – Google Earth aerial image (March 2023)

The proposals seek to use the sports enclosure for padel tennis, retaining the form and scale of the existing court, and merely relaying the surface to the same court levels. The perimeter fencing will be retained as shown in Photos 1, 2 and 3 below, which illustrate the court's below road position, together with a surfaced path around the playing area, which is to be retained to allow a buffer with the adjacent buildings.



Photo 1 – view of court from Wesley Place



Photo 2 – view of former Church and side elevation of neighbouring house at No. 1 Wesley Place

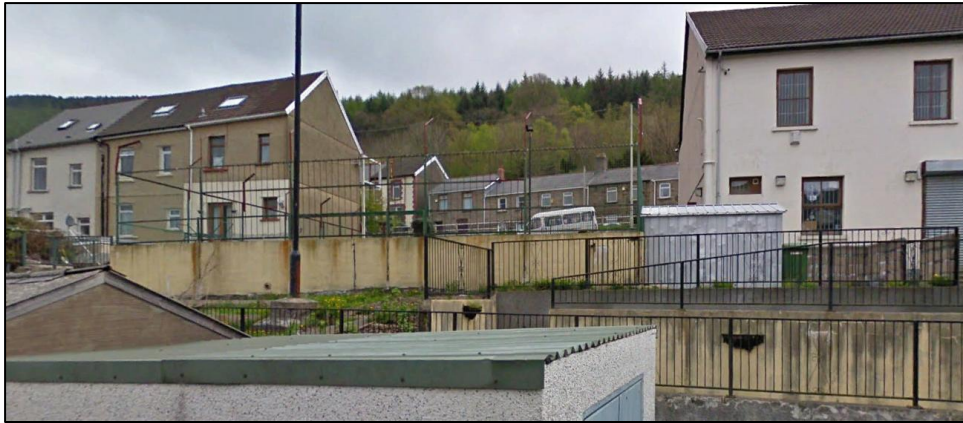


Photo 3 – view from rear service lane and extent of perimeter fencing and pedestrian access

The proposals seek to erect a freestanding canopy over the court area to provide users with a dry shelter whilst playing padel tennis. The canopy will be domed in form, rising to an “eaves” height of 2.97 metres, and “domed ridge” of 6.2 metres high, as depicted at Figure 3 below.

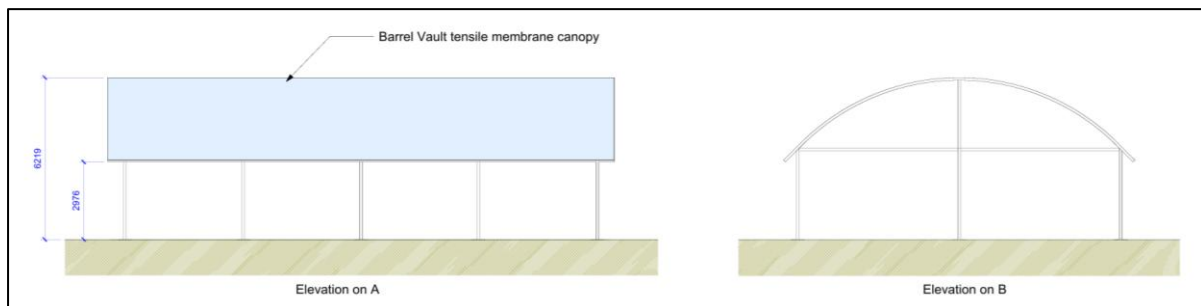


Figure 3 – elevations of proposed roof canopy

The canopy will be made from manufactured tensile membrane supported by a steel frame to the corners and mid-points of the court.

The height of the structure should be compared to the adjacent building which rise to several metres above the proposed height of the roof canopy.

Moreover, it should be noted that the neighbouring dwellinghouse does not have any openings to the side gable overlooking the court area, and thus there is no inter-visibility between residential occupiers and court users.

The use of the sports enclosure for padel tennis will therefore very much operate in the same manner as if football or basketball was being played, albeit now proposed under a roofed canopy to provide a more “all-weather” playing experience.

The relevant LDP Policy in this respect is **SW11 “Sustainable Design and Placemaking”** which seeks that proposals –

- 1. be appropriate to its local context in terms of scale, height, massing, elevational treatment, materials and detailing, layout, form, mix and density;*
- 2. integrate effectively with adjacent spaces, the public realm and historic environment to enhance the general street scene and create good quality townscape;*

3. not result in an unacceptable impact on local amenity, loss of light or privacy, or visual impact, and incorporate a good standard of landscape design;

The proposals will be visible in part from Wesley Place, but the large bulk and scale will be at below road level, and thus not immediately apparent to passers-by.

The canopy will be more readily identifiable from the rear, but from the adjacent railway line, and set against a backdrop of higher buildings off either flank and elevated properties at Cardiff Road above, and opposite the site.

The proposal is unique in form, but in the context of the alternative of an open court area visible to all passers-by the impacts will be relatively modest. Furthermore, it will appear as rejuvenating this part of Merthyr Vale.

We therefore submit that the proposals can be seen to be in compliance with LDP Policy SW11.

Should you require any further details or clarification upon the application, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

R A Banks

Richard A. Banks
Director

Enc.

Cc clients