

Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club



Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club

Ewart Recreation Ground

Hythe, Southampton

SO45 6AX

28th November 2025

Dear Local Residents,

Re: Proposed Double-Lane Cricket Net Facility at Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club, Ewart Recreation Ground

We are writing to inform you about our proposal to construct a **new double-lane cricket net training facility** at **Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club, located within Ewart Recreation Ground**. This development is part of our ongoing efforts to improve local sports provision and create opportunities for all members of the community to enjoy active, healthy lifestyles.

The proposed facility will consist of **two enclosed practice lanes** measuring 34m x 9m, with an **all-weather playing surface** and **protective safety fencing**, designed in line with the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) standards. The design and layout have been carefully planned to fit sensitively within the existing grounds and minimise any impact on nearby residents or other park users. Please see the photos of the proposed location and example of how the nets will look.

We recognise that Ewart Recreation Ground is a shared space, enjoyed by cricketers, families visiting the play park, dog walkers, and other local residents. We are committed to ensuring that the cricket nets **co-exist harmoniously with all other park users**, through careful siting, screening, and management of hours of use. The nets shall only be used in the summer months and not after 21:00hrs.

Moreover, the enclosed practice nets will improve the safety of all users of the park by enclosing the hitting of cricket balls during practice sessions. This means that dog walkers, families and other users of the park will be far less impacted by cricket practice. The new facilities might also allow greater flexibility in park usage during the summer months with greater scope for other activities to co-exist with cricket practice.

This project directly supports the priorities set out in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) adopted by the Parish Council, including:

Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club



- **Protecting and enhancing open spaces** while improving accessibility for recreational use.
- **Providing additional community and sports facilities** to promote health, wellbeing, and youth engagement.
- **Supporting the Parish's vision for a vibrant, sustainable community** with high-quality shared amenities.

By delivering this cricket net facility, we will:

- Enhance a local recreational facility — making better use of land already serving sport, while maintaining access for other park users.
- Foster youth engagement and sporting participation by providing modern, accessible infrastructure.
- Contribute to the Parish's vision of maintaining **high-quality community assets and open spaces** that support wellbeing and social cohesion.

We are keen to ensure this facility benefits the wider community as well as the club. Before finalising our plans, we would like to hear your views on the proposal — including design details, hours of use, and opportunities for broader community access (for example, local schools or other groups using the nets).

A **public consultation meeting** will be held on **Sunday 14th December, 10:00AM to 14:00PM** at the Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club Pavilion, where you can view the plans, ask questions, and share your feedback. If you cannot attend this meeting, you can alternatively review the proposal, and send comments via our online questionnaire (QR code below) or to hythe.dibdenc@gmail.com by Friday 19th December.

We believe this project will not only strengthen local sporting opportunities but also help deliver the Parish Council's wider vision for a healthier, more connected community — aligning directly with the NDP's emphasis on enhancing open spaces, developing community assets, and promoting accessible recreation, while **respecting the needs of all park users**.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal. We look forward to your feedback and to working together to provide a lasting benefit for all residents of Hythe and Dibden.

Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club



Yours sincerely,
Michael Bowman
Chairman, Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club



QR Code for the Questionnaire

Location B is the only ECB supported location on site:



An example of how the nets might look:

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