OMAGH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Report to Members: Proposed Facilities development and Funding Plan

Special General Meeting: 8.00pm Wednesday 4th November 2026

1. Introduction

As members are already aware, Omagh Lawn Tennis Club has secured funding of **£300,000 from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC)** towards the proposed programme of improvements to the club's facilities. Following completion of the tender process, the Committee is now in a position to confirm the overall project cost and outline the proposed funding arrangements required to move forward with the development.

The total cost of the proposed works has been confirmed at **£550,000**, in line with the project cost presented to members at the club's Annual General Meeting in May.

The Committee believes that the project represents an important investment in the long-term future of Omagh Lawn Tennis Club. The proposed improvements will enhance the club's facilities, introduce new sporting opportunities and create potential for increased participation, membership growth and additional income.

The club currently has £110,000 of its own funds available to contribute towards the project. After taking account of the FODC funding and the club's own contribution, an additional £140,000 will be required to complete the development.

The Committee proposes to meet this shortfall through a combination of bank borrowing, voluntary interest-free loans from members and fundraising.

This report outlines the proposed development, the current financial position, the proposed funding strategy and the resolution being put to members at the forthcoming Special General Meeting.

2. Proposed Development

The project will deliver a significant upgrade to the club's facilities, including the following improvements.

Roofing over Courts 2 and 3

The installation of a roof over Courts 2 and 3 will provide greater protection from the weather and increase opportunities for year-round tennis. This investment will improve the usability of the courts and provide members with more consistent playing opportunities throughout the year.

Construction of a padel court

The introduction of a padel court will allow the club to offer a popular and growing sport. This has the potential to attract new participants, broaden the club's appeal and create additional opportunities for membership growth.

Construction of a pickleball court

The addition of a pickleball court will provide another sporting option for people of different ages and abilities. Pickleball is an accessible and developing sport that could attract new members and encourage greater participation within the local community.

Car park improvements

The proposed works will include tidying up and improving the car park, creating a more welcoming and practical arrival experience for members and visitors.

Fencing upgrades

Existing fencing will be upgraded where required to improve the appearance, functionality and overall standard of the club's facilities.

Collectively, these improvements will represent a major step forward for Omagh Lawn Tennis Club, enhancing the existing facilities while providing additional sporting opportunities for the future.

3. Project Cost and Current Financial Position

The tender process has now been completed, with the total cost of the proposed development confirmed at £550,000.

This figure is in line with the project cost presented to members at the Annual General Meeting in May. The tender process has now confirmed the cost of delivering the proposed development, allowing the Committee to assess the funding position and determine the additional finance required to proceed.

The current financial position is set out below:

Funding / Expenditure	Amount
Total project cost	£550,000
FODC funding secured	£300,000
Club's own funds	£110,000
Additional funding required	**£140,000**

The club therefore has £410,000 available towards the project, leaving a funding shortfall of £140,000.

The Committee recognises that this is a significant financial commitment. However, it believes that a combination of borrowing, member support and fundraising offers a practical way to bridge the shortfall and deliver the proposed improvements.

4. Proposed Funding Strategy

The Committee proposes to raise the additional £140,000 through three main funding streams.

4.1 Bank Loan

The club will explore securing a bank loan to provide part of the additional funding required.

A bank loan would allow the club to spread the cost of the development over a number of years rather than having to raise the full amount immediately. The amount borrowed will depend on the level of funding secured through member loans and fundraising.

Any borrowing will need to be carefully assessed, taking account of the interest rate, repayment period and the club's ability to meet repayments from its future income.

The Committee will seek suitable terms and ensure that the proposed borrowing is affordable and sustainable for the club over the longer term.

4.2 Interest-Free Loans from Members

The Committee proposes to invite members who are willing and able to do so to consider providing voluntary, interest-free loans to the club.

This would provide an opportunity for members to support the development directly while allowing the club to access funding without incurring the interest costs associated with commercial borrowing.

Any member loan scheme would be subject to clear written terms covering the amount loaned, repayment arrangements, the expected repayment period and the circumstances in which repayment would be made.

Participation would be entirely voluntary. The amount that could be raised through this route is not yet confirmed, but the Committee believes that member support could play an important role in reducing the club's reliance on external borrowing.

4.3 Fundraising, Sponsorship and Donations

The third element of the proposed funding strategy will be a programme of fundraising activities.

The club will explore opportunities to generate additional income through fundraising events, sponsorship, donations, local business support and other suitable initiatives.

Members will be encouraged to contribute ideas, participate in fundraising activities and help identify potential sponsors and supporters within the local community.

A successful fundraising programme would reduce the amount the club needs to borrow and help protect the club's financial position in the years following completion of the development.

The precise contribution from each of these three funding streams will be determined as the funding plan develops.

5. Financial Management and Risk

The Committee is conscious of its responsibility to ensure that the proposed investment is financially prudent and in the best interests of Omagh Lawn Tennis Club.

Although the FODC award provides a substantial foundation for the project, the additional funding requirement means that careful financial planning will be essential.

The Committee will need to consider:

- The affordability and repayment terms of any bank loan.
- The level of interest-free member loans that can realistically be secured.
- Realistic fundraising and sponsorship targets.
- The club's ongoing operating costs and its ability to meet future financial commitments.

- The need to manage any unforeseen costs arising during construction.
- The terms and conditions attached to the FODC funding, including any requirements relating to project delivery, eligible expenditure and timescales.

The Committee will seek to ensure that the funding arrangements are appropriate and that the club's financial sustainability is protected throughout the project.

Members should be aware that, while the tendered project cost is currently £550,000, any unforeseen additional costs would need to be managed carefully.

6. Benefits to the Club and Wider Community

The Committee believes that the proposed development represents a significant investment in the future of Omagh Lawn Tennis Club, both in terms of facilities and long-term financial sustainability.

The anticipated benefits include:

- **More year-round tennis:** Covered courts will provide greater protection from the weather and improve playing opportunities throughout the year.
- **Additional sporting opportunities:** Padel and pickleball will broaden the range of activities available at the club and attract new participants.
- **Potential membership growth:** The improved facilities and wider sporting offer may attract new members, increasing membership income.
- **Additional revenue opportunities:** The introduction of padel and pickleball, alongside improved tennis facilities, will create opportunities to generate income through court bookings, coaching, competitions, social activities and other events.
- **Improved club environment:** Car park and fencing improvements will enhance the overall appearance and functionality of the site.
- **Stronger financial position:** The Committee believes that investment in these facilities has the potential to enhance the club's financial position over the coming years. Increased participation, membership growth and additional income from the new facilities could help strengthen recurring income, support the repayment of any borrowing and reduce the club's reliance on traditional income sources.
- **Long-term sustainability:** By expanding the club's activities and making better use of its facilities, the development could provide a stronger financial foundation for future maintenance, improvements and investment.

The Committee recognises that the project will involve a significant initial financial commitment. However, it believes that the investment has the potential to generate lasting benefits, both financially and operationally, helping Omagh Lawn Tennis Club become a stronger, more sustainable and more attractive sporting facility for the local community.

7. Special General Meeting — Wednesday 4 November 2026

A Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held on **Wednesday 4 November 2026** to allow members to vote on the proposed facilities development and the associated funding arrangements.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend the SGM and participate in this important decision.

This is a significant project for the future of Omagh Lawn Tennis Club, and it is important that members have the opportunity to consider the proposal and express their views.

For members who are unable to attend in person, votes may be submitted by WhatsApp or email.

All votes submitted by WhatsApp or email must be received no later than 6:00 pm on Wednesday 4th November 2026.

Members wishing to vote remotely should refer to the **separate document outlining how to submit their vote by WhatsApp or email**.

The Committee encourages all members to participate in this important decision regarding the future of the club.

8. Resolution for Members to Vote On

The Committee proposes that members vote on the following resolution:

"That the members of Omagh Lawn Tennis Club approve the proposed facilities development, at an estimated total cost of £550,000, comprising the roofing of Courts 2 and 3, construction of a padel court and a pickleball court, improvements to the car park and upgrades to fencing.

Members acknowledge that £300,000 in funding has been secured from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) and that the club will contribute £110,000 from its own funds, leaving a further £140,000 to be secured.

The Committee is authorised to pursue and secure the additional funding required through a combination of bank borrowing, voluntary interest-free loans from members and fundraising, and to enter into the necessary construction contracts to deliver the project, subject to the funding arrangements being secured and the relevant terms and conditions of the FODC award being satisfied.

The Committee is further authorised to take the necessary steps to progress and deliver the development, acting in the best financial interests of the club."

Members are asked to vote either **FOR** or **AGAINST** this resolution.

Approval of the resolution will authorise the Committee to progress the project, secure the additional funding and enter into the necessary construction contracts, subject to the conditions set out in the resolution.

9. Next Steps Following the Vote

If members approve the resolution, the Committee will proceed with the necessary steps to deliver the project.

These will include:

1. Finalising the proposed funding package, including bank borrowing, member loans and fundraising.
2. Securing the necessary finance to cover the £140,000 funding shortfall.
3. Confirming that the conditions attached to the FODC award are satisfied.
4. Finalising arrangements with the appointed contractors and entering into the necessary construction contracts.
5. Managing the project through delivery, monitoring costs and keeping members informed of progress.

The Committee will continue to exercise appropriate financial oversight to ensure that the development is delivered responsibly and in the best interests of the club.

10. Conclusion

The £300,000 funding award from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council provides an important foundation for the proposed development at Omagh Lawn Tennis Club.

The tender process has confirmed a total project cost of £550,000, in line with the figure presented to members at the Annual General Meeting in May. After taking account of the FODC funding and the club's own contribution of £110,000, an additional £140,000 must be secured.

The Committee believes that a combination of bank borrowing, voluntary interest-free loans from members and fundraising offers a potential way to meet this requirement and deliver the proposed improvements.

While the development will require a substantial initial investment, the Committee believes that the new and improved facilities will create opportunities to grow membership, increase participation and generate additional income through tennis, padel, pickleball and associated activities.

The Committee believes this investment has the potential to strengthen the club's financial position over the longer term, providing additional income to support operating costs, meet financial commitments and reinvest in the club's facilities for the benefit of future generations.

The Committee is asking members to support the project by approving the resolution at the Special General Meeting on **Wednesday 4th November 2026**.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend. Those unable to attend may submit their vote by WhatsApp or email, provided it is received by **6:00 pm on Wednesday 4th November 2026**. Please refer to the separate document outlining how to submit your vote remotely.

This is an important decision for the future of Omagh Lawn Tennis Club. The Committee believes the proposed development offers an opportunity not only to improve the club's facilities, but also to expand its income-generating potential and build a stronger, more financially sustainable organisation for many years to come.

The Committee looks forward to members' engagement and support as the club moves towards this exciting stage in its development.

Omagh Lawn Tennis Club Committee