

## **SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE (“SCC”)**

The above, which will impact Eton Fives, is the major part of a larger development. The planning application includes both the “SCC” and the new aquatic centre and sports hall.

### **Timetable as explained by Ian Mellor – Buildings & Facilities Director**

June 2018	Planning application will be submitted
Autumn 2018	Planning consent expected
Early Summer 2019	Construction of Pool Site begins
Summer 2019-Easter 2020	Wotton House refurbishment
Summer 2020	School Sports Centre construction start date
Michaelmas 2020	Pool site anticipated completion date
Michaelmas 2022	“SSC” planned completion date

### **Comment re Eton Fives**

- The above dates cannot be relied upon because there are bound to be unforeseen issues
- Eton have firmly committed to keeping 8 courts open at all times – except during the summer when courts are not needed.
- The 8 courts will be either courts 1 to 8 and courts 9 to 16
- If there is no slippage in Eton’s timetable, we should work on the following assumptions
- Only 8 courts available (with difficult access and limited facilities) for the following periods
  - Michaelmas 2020
  - Lent 2021
  - Michaelmas 2021
  - Lent 2022
  - Probably Michaelmas 2022

We should not under estimate the disruption effect to Eton Fives during the building phase and we should not completely rely upon Eton's commitment to keep 8 courts open. **They will if they can.**

But, the post development outcome will be terrific and be really good for Eton Fives. There will be an ETON FIVES CENTRE and pleasingly Eton has committed to the refurbishment of all the courts. In the course of our discussions the Provost expressed shock and horror that the courts and roofs had defects and had not been properly maintained.

Discussions are continuing on the layout of the ETON FIVES CENTRE, video streaming, court refurbishment plans, viewing facilities etc.

The big Sports Hall opposite courts 9 to 16 will be 3m beyond the yellow runback line. Ideally, it might have been a further metre away from the courts but we have done our best on this in the negotiations. The distance between Courts 1 to 8 and the new building will be more than ample.

### **Court Refurbishment Plans**

The Eton commitment is unequivocal and shortly there will be a new floor in Court 2. This will be a carbon copy of what has been installed at Charterhouse and experimental. The go ahead needs further consultation by Mike Hughes with experts. Other courts will be done if it is deemed a success. It is generally thought that we should be cautious in tampering with surfaces unless we are certain that such action will lead to an improvement. The elimination of damp and leaks is critically important to the future of these priceless courts. So, the re-roofing /lighting replacement etc is a top priority and is being investigated. It will probably happen in two phases.

Eton started from a position of not understanding the issues but now they are being incredibly helpful and constructive. They understand the importance of this development to the game that carries their name. They also understand that there will be **pain before gain!**

I am very grateful for the support that Eton and others are giving.

**Simon de Zoete**  
**March 2018**