

Petition to save the grass tennis courts at Oldway as an enclosed dog exercise area – Council 20 July 2023

213 Signatures

We the undersigned petition the council to Keep the fences surrounding the old grass tennis courts at Oldway to allow continued use as an enclosed dog exercise area.

Oldway Mansion and the tennis courts have fallen into a state of disrepair, a disgrace as any local would know. One good thing to come from it was the old grass tennis courts forming a natural enclosed dog exercise area, open to all.

It is probably one of the most used spaces in Oldway, perfect for SAFE and comfortable exercise for nervous, anxious, and possibly reactive dogs. It is highly cherished by hundreds of locals and is one of the few fantastic local free facilities for dog owners.

Now, the council in consultation with SwisCo are removing the fences to make it open for 'general access', as it is 'surplus to requirements' according to the council's 'playing pitch strategy'.

A few problems - 1) it IS open for general access as it stands, 2) it has not been a 'playing pitch' ie tennis courts for many years, 3) there has been ZERO public consultation over the use of this space.

There is nothing else like it in Torbay, and it is a disgrace to let the council and SwisCo come to such a conclusion. Please show your objection to their plans by signing this petition and make it heard that we, the local council tax paying residents, demand this space is kept for use as it is, unless some reasonable and justifiable plans for repurposing are presented and subject to public consultation.

The Oldway Gardens Volunteer Group keep the gardens to a level that makes it a pleasure to visit - don't let one of the gems and unique points be taken away.