

Balcombe Cricket Club Planning Application for extending cricket nets

Ecological Survey position - 30th March 2026

Background

We understand the planning application needs an ecological survey. The current cost of such a survey seems to be approximately £1500. This would be additional to the current costs of the application which is approximately £1000, with significant effort by volunteers to the club.

In the last financial year the club made a surplus of £10,049. The current costs represent 10% of the surplus from the 2025 season. The cost of the survey would mean that we would be spending 25% on the application.

The English Cricket Board have offered funding for the project, but only if we can get planning permission to extend the nets to meet the updated safety requirements.

Paying a further £1500 for a survey as part of a funded project would not impact the viability of the club as we would be receiving other sources of funding. Paying £1500 if the project goes ahead will impact the ability of the club to operate.

The area

There is no obvious evidence that the area supports protected species. For example there are no bat roosts or badger sets.

The area will be subject to disturbance whether or not the nets go ahead as there are diseased Ash and pine trees in the neighbouring woodland.

The request is for an area of land 25m by 8m. The rest of the woodland will continue to exist and we have offered to plant some more native trees in the surrounding area to enhance the habitat as part of the work.

We accept that a survey by an ecologist might return different results to the foresters and surveyors who have helped prepare the existing materials.

Request

The club is a non profit making community club, and this project will enable the club to continue operating and provide benefits to the community that it provides. We think there is social value in this proposal to set against the impact on the environment.

In order to attempt to deliver this project we would kindly request that Mid Sussex Council considers the application without an ecological survey in the first instance.

If it is possible that the application would proceed subject to the survey, we can undertake that survey for final permission to be granted once we have clarified the availability of funds from the ECB.

Without this we will be stuck in a position where the club cannot afford the ecological survey, Mid Sussex Council cannot consider the application without the survey, and the ECB will not release funds to enable us to do the survey.