



Date: 10th January 2026

To:

Planning Department
Birmingham City Council

**Re: Planning Application Number 2025/06396/PA – Gracechurch Shopping Centre Multi-Storey Car Park (Proposed Tennis / Padel Courts)
8143447 Our Unique Identification Number Reference**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Visit Royal Sutton Coldfield Business Improvement District (BID) welcomes the opportunity to comment as a consultee on the above planning application.

The BID represents a broad range of 350 businesses across Sutton Coldfield town centre and works collaboratively with businesses, landlords, Birmingham City Council, the Town Council and other stakeholders to support a vibrant, accessible and economically resilient town centre.

The BID is broadly supportive of initiatives that introduce active, leisure-led uses into the town centre. The proposed development of tennis / padel courts on the upper level of the Gracechurch multi-storey car park has the potential to diversify the town centre offer, encourage increased footfall, and support longer dwell times, particularly outside of traditional retail trading hours. Such uses align with wider town centre regeneration objectives and the evolving role of shopping centres as mixed-use destinations.

However, the BID wishes to formally highlight a key concern regarding the proposed loss of 112 car parking spaces as a direct result of this development.

Car parking remains a critical piece of infrastructure for Sutton Coldfield town centre, particularly given its role as a sub-regional centre serving a wide catchment, including visitors who rely on car access for convenience, accessibility and inclusivity. Any reduction in town centre parking supply must therefore be carefully assessed within a wider strategic context.

As a Business Improvement District, we work proactively to increase footfall to support local businesses and to enhance the profile of Sutton Coldfield town centre. We recognise that the provision of adequate parking is a critical component of the overall visitor experience and essential to achieving these objectives.

The BID is particularly mindful that Birmingham City Council is simultaneously considering the potential designation of half of the Plantsbrook Car Park on South Parade as surplus land, linked to proposals involving the Elderslea site. This matter was recently discussed at Cabinet Property Committee, where councillors raised concerns regarding the cumulative loss of parking spaces, the associated impact on Council parking income, and the importance of taking a holistic view of town centre developments.



In this context, the BID believes it is essential that the impact of the Gracechurch proposal is not considered in isolation, but rather as part of a comprehensive assessment of overall town centre parking capacity, accessibility, displacement effects, and future demand.

In summary, Visit Royal Sutton Coldfield BID is supportive in principle of the proposed leisure use at Gracechurch Shopping Centre and recognises the potential benefits it could bring to the town centre. However, we strongly urge Birmingham City Council to ensure that:

- The cumulative impact of multiple developments on town centre car parking provision is fully assessed;
- Any loss of parking spaces does not undermine the vitality, accessibility or economic performance of the town centre; and
- Decisions are taken within a clear, coordinated town centre parking and regeneration strategy.

The BID remains keen to work constructively with the Council, Gracechurch Shopping Centre and other stakeholders to support positive development outcomes for Sutton Coldfield, and would welcome ongoing dialogue as these proposals progress.

Kind regards

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