



Date: February 2026
Service: Place & Economy Team

Dear Sir/Madam,

Marine Gardens, Worthing, Putting Green
~ Expression of Interest ~

Proposed licence for the provision and operation of golf putting at
Marine Gardens, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 5EF

I: The Offer

Worthing Borough Council (WBC) seeks a commercial operator to provide a golf putting service to the public, on the southern section* of Marine Gardens, via a concession licence. WBC would like the putting to be available to members of the public by Easter 2026 or sooner.

Marine Gardens is situated within a Conservation Area** and contains listed buildings and has a long history with putting and bowls. A Council allocated Park Ranger oversees care of the site alongside an active Friends of Group (fomg.co.uk) The Pavilion at Marine Gardens is home to Marine Gardens Bowling Club (www.marinegardensbc.co.uk) which has a growing membership. Marine Gardens is an attractive area and natural corridor to the beach. Marine Gardens Cafe (marinegardensrestaurant.co.uk) is a popular destination, loved by locals and visitors alike of all ages is situated alongside one of the main footpaths, through the gardens.

The putting green is owned and maintained by WBC but it is expected that any future operator would assist Council staff with green maintenance. Grounds work is carried out by WBC staff and FOMG across Marine Gardens all year round and operators accept that the grounds are not fenced off at any time. A small room (within The Pavilion) comes as part of the concession licence and some putting equipment is included as part of the offer. Use of the existing equipment is not mandatory and any equipment is used at the operator's risk and must be covered within the successful applicants' public liability insurance.

* See Appendix One and Two and [Marine Gardens - Adur & Worthing Councils](#)

** [Worthing Conservation area - Marine Gardens character appraisal 2024](#)

WBC welcomes proposals from interested golf putting operators who will be able to:

- Regularly open the green on week days and weekends
 - winter/ summer schedule is anticipated - times will be published on the Council website
- Make putting accessible for as many people as possible
- Offer a mixture 'turn up and play' and pre-bookings for games
- Help WBC maintain a high-standard of putting green and equipment (specification to be agreed)
- Use new technology to make putting fun and interactive (not something we're insisting upon from the start)

WBC recommends that any respondent to this EoI visits similar putting grounds within the wider Sussex area.

WBC will continue to maintain the green and perform seasonal maintenance around the site. However, it is expected that any operator will be able to enhance the green to provide a higher standard of putting, in due course. WBC acknowledges that the site has been laid to lawn for over a year and that in order to achieve a higher standard of playing conditions on the green, WBC and the new operator will have to work together over a period of time to carry out remedial work, leading to a higher standard that can be maintained to an agreed future specification.

Operators who can offer weekly mowing during the growing season with a cylinder mower to a height of 5/6mm and in winter as required to a height of 6/8mm would be appealing.

At the appropriate time, WBC would welcome a conversation and agreed specification which includes matters such as;

- scarifying / grooming
- hole cutting
- fertilizer application
- pike and over-seeding
- top dressing

A water supply is present on site and if needed, can be utilised, at additional cost to the operator. WBC does not water the green.

A concession licence will be allocated on a rolling basis to start, but WBC would like to see a longer-term agreement in time with the right operator. Key performance indicators to be established and monitored and discussions to take place.

Finally, WBC appreciates that income generation from putting alone may not be enough to make the operation viable. Therefore, WBC invites applicants to consider other activities and attractions which either compliment putting or location, respecting the special nature and setting of the site.

2: Licensing Notes

- This opportunity will be included in the Leisure/Arts/Crafts Category, priced at £1,440.00 for the Summer Season in 2026. Concession Licence Fees are available on our website at:
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/land-and-property/seasonal-concessions/apply/#concession-licence-fees>
- An admin fee of £55.00 will be applied to the issue of a licence at the point of completion
- A concession licence is personal, and will be issued to an individual operator, not to a business
- No planning consent is required if the use remains as current (ie: for putting)
- Where relevant, additional consent may be required for ancillary activity to complement the main putting concession via the Commercial Activity Team
- Consultation with key local stakeholders may be required, although it is not expected to delay the issue of a licence
- Any costs associated with submission of an expression of interest are not the responsibility of Worthing Borough Council

3: Applications

WBC welcomes applications from all interested parties with the capability to make putting happen successfully at Marine Gardens. The site is public and we advise interested parties to visit the site and see the area for themselves. There is no template for applications and expressions of interest should be made in written English, covering:

- Your broad aspirations for the site, covering the requirements within this document
- How you:
 - intend to implement your plan
 - work well alongside the other onsite stakeholders
 - will maintain the green and equipment
 - will make putting as inclusive as possible
 - provide any added value to WBC
 - might combine putting with another complimentary offering
- A business plan (details, forecasts, pictures)
- Any application references with contact details
- Examples of previous or current relevant work

Applications must be received by 12:00 noon on 18/02/2026. Late or incomplete expressions of interest will be rejected.

Please send applications to the Place & Economy Concessions Team by email to: concessions@adur-worthing.gov.uk.

Please note:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks for your time in considering this exciting proposal and we look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Thank you.

Matthew Marchant

Commercial Manager

Place & Economy Team

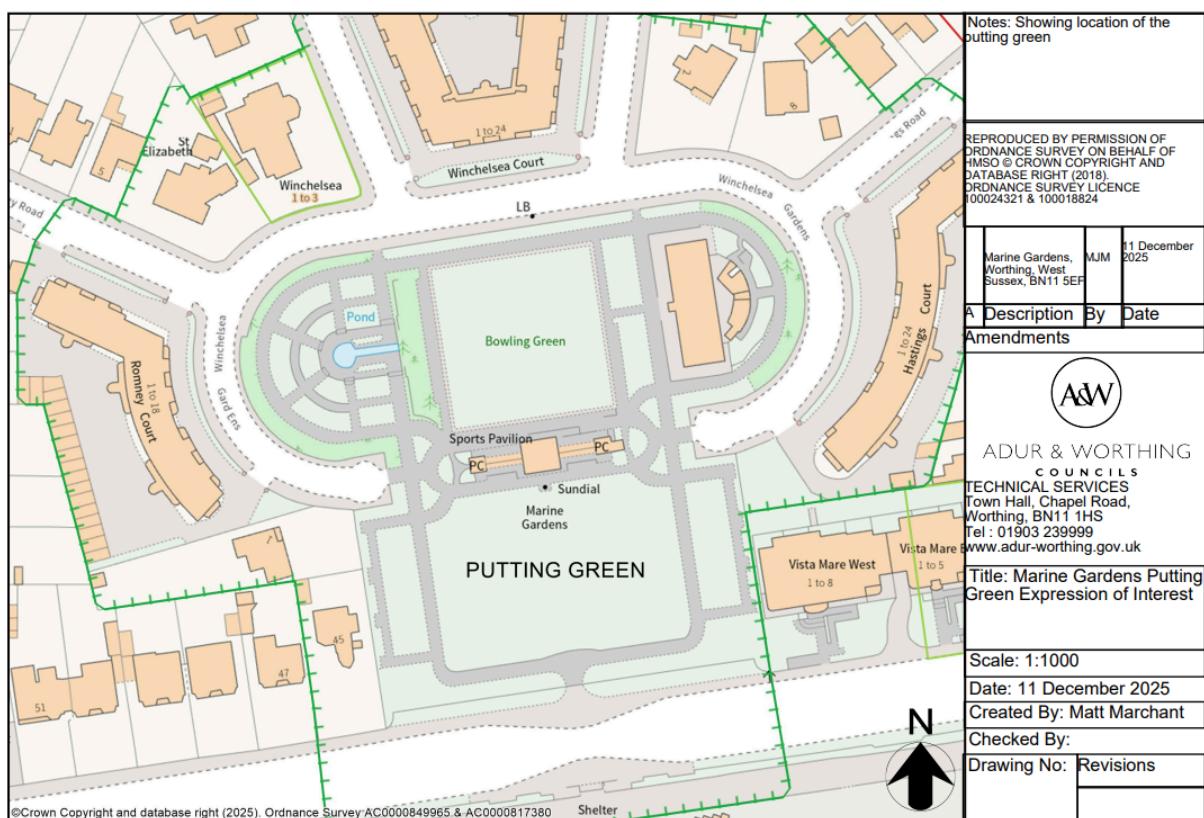
Worthing Borough Council

Tel: 01273 263027

Email: concessions@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Appendix One

Map (see below) showing the location of the Marine Gardens Putting Green. The green perimeter line illustrates the boundary of the Conservation Area.



Appendix Two

Please note: Photos taken March 2025

Picture 1 - Marine Gardens southern entrance from West Parade. Views to and from this location have protected status.



Picture 2 - Southern Pavilion (listed). Putting has traditionally been operated from this office.



Picture 3 - View once inside Marine Gardens from the southern entrance. Sight lines to the pavilion and surrounding north-side flats enjoy protected status.



Picture 4 - Marine Gardens putting green, view from the west.



Picture 5 - Marine Gardens putting green, view from the north-east



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