

TENNIS PLAN IN LOGJAM

Club waits 2 years

IT may be the oldest lawn tennis club in the world, but the Birmingham venue also boasts another record - having the city's oldest planning application!

The Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Club is the cradle of tennis and many a champion has played on its hallowed turf in Westbourne Road.

But staff members have been waiting almost two years to renew planning permission for floodlighting on four courts.

Priority

Secretary Bob Holland said: "There is nothing controversial about the application, but we can't believe it's taking so long.

"I've been told by someone within the planning department that it's their longest outstanding application and they are treating it as a priority, but even so they can't even

BY POPPY BRADY

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guarantee it will be settled in August.

"We actually got planning permission some years ago but it lapsed due to a change of voluntary officers and we reapplied in 2002.

"No residents are objecting because there are not really any neighbours around the site."

Coun Deirdre Alden, a prospective parliamentary candidate for the Conservatives, said: "In the words of John McEnroe, you cannot be serious. There is nothing controversial about this application at all."

A council spokeswoman said: "The application is sensitive because it is in a conservation area and adjacent to the historic Botanical Gardens. Hopefully it will be discussed in August."



■ **DELAY SETBACK: The Edgbaston Lawn Tennis Club**

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