

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 May 2025 20:45:47 UTC+01:00
To: "Katherine Williams" <katherine.williams@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/25/1057

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 12/05/2025 8:45 PM.

Application Summary

Address: Burgess Hill School For Girls Keymer Road Burgess Hill West
Sussex RH15 0EG

Proposal: Revision to floodlighting fittings and hours of operation.

Case Officer: Katherine Williams

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 12 Ferndale Road Burgess Hill

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour or general public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: While I understand the intention to increase access and use of sports facilities, I have serious concerns regarding the potential negative impacts on local residents, the environment, and wildlife from upgrading the existing floodlights to LED and extending their use from 7pm until 9pm on weekdays.

Impact on Residents:

Extending the usage time of external pitches-particularly into later evening hours-will undoubtedly result in increased noise levels from both sporting activity and associated vehicle traffic. For

residents living nearby or adjacent to the school this will reduce the quiet enjoyment of their homes. Prolonged noise, particularly after dusk, may lead to sleep disruption particularly for families with young children. For adults, there could be a cumulative negative impact on mental and physical wellbeing.

Light Pollution:

The increased use of floodlighting to accommodate longer pitch availability will inevitably raise levels of light pollution. Artificial lighting at night affects the character of the conservation area and can be disruptive for both humans and animals (e.g. impacting natural circadian rhythms). The seasonally darker evenings will be compromised by the persistent glow of high-intensity lights, which can travel significant distances depending on topography and weather conditions.

Ecological Impact:

The area surrounding the pitches supports a variety of nocturnal wildlife, including owls, bats, and other sensitive species. Many of these creatures rely on darkness for foraging, navigation, and protection from predators. Disrupting these patterns through increased lighting and human activity could have long-term negative effects on local biodiversity, potentially displacing these species or interrupting their life cycles.

Conclusion:

Since the original permission was given, nothing has changed to diminish the needs of the local residents and arguably the environmental and ecological needs have become more pertinent. Consequently, it is difficult to see how any increase to the specification and operational hours of the floodlights could be reasonably justified.

Thank you.

Kind regards