

Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath.

10 September 2025

FAO: Planning Department Stefan Galyas.

Dear Sirs,

Planning Application : DM/25/1185.

Reference : PP-13997059

I would like to raise an objection to the above planning application; the building of three padel courts near to the Southdowns Park residential site.

It is planned to use these three courts from 8am to 10pm daily, Sunday to Saturday. Padel is a sport designed to be played as doubles consequently there could be up to 12 people playing on the courts at the same time.

It appears that most established courts are outdoors and are illuminated by 300W LED lights at each corner. These are designed for exceptional brightness. Manufacturers claim.

The noise generated by the players is said to be loud. The primary noise comes from the ball striking glass/mesh walls which is said to resemble gunfire and the impact of the ball striking the racquets which are solid. There are also the noises from the players, shouts, screams, clashes of equipment and shoes sliding on the surface. Apparently, science has shown that glass/mesh can significantly amplify sound.

These proposed courts are only approximately 100 yards from the main Southdowns Park residential blocks. The illuminated courts and the noise will seriously effect and be detrimental to their quality of life. Some of these homes have children, in many of them people will work from home and many will be retired.

As these buildings are Grade 2 listed residents will be unable to install double glazing or tinted glass to mitigate the effect of the noise or illuminations.

The gardens are frequented by many of the residents, some of which do not directly front onto the gardens. The peace and tranquillity for people using these gardens, or simply strolling around the site will be compromised by the noise turning a lovely place to read, BBQ, picnic etc. into a noisy unpleasant space.

There are around 200 accommodation units at Southdown Park, plus around 50 social houses and around 30 private houses. There are also a children's nursery and a block of flats. All this accommodation is Southdowns Park side of Colwell Road.

Having been involved with another Residents Association in Reading I know that sound travels a long way if the wind/atmosphere conditions are unfavourable. All housing on Southdowns Park will be adversely affected by the sounds and those overlooking the Downs by the illuminations. You also must consider there may be an issue with the hospital departments.

It appears to be the general practise by councils to allow these facilities in non-residential locations

All councils are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of its residents/tax payers. I would seriously propose that the Council reject the proposal to erect three padel courts on the Southdowns Park site.

Yours sincerely



7 Blenheim Mews, Southdowns Park, Haywards Heath. West Sussex. RH16 4SN