

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 September 2025 09:00:01 UTC+01:00
To: "Stefan Galyas" <stefan.galyas@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/25/1185

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 11/09/2025 9:00 AM.

Application Summary

Address:	Tennis Courts At St Francis Sports And Social Club Colwell Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4EZ
Proposal:	Temporary (36 months) permission for change of use of existing tennis courts to padel courts and associated works (Acoustic report received 21.08.2025)
Case Officer:	Stefan Galyas

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Customer Details

Address: Flat 21 Cavendish House, Southdowns Park Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I would like to register my objection to the proposed planning application on the following grounds Noise The application is for two padel courts and a practice / junior court in addition to a central area for socialising; this is clearly intended to be a substantial facility which will result in significant noise disruption for the residents of Southdown's Park, particularly at

peak periods. A quick google comes up with references such as <https://www.mediterrapadel.com/en/blog/22/managing-padel-court-noise-how-far-should-they-be-from-residential-areas-> which states "Padel courts are lively places, with the constant sound of the ball hitting the walls, rackets, and the court surface, combined with player interactions and cheering. These activities can generate significant noise, especially during peak usage times. On average, noise levels on a padel court can range from 70 to 90 decibels, comparable to the noise levels of busy traffic or a vacuum cleaner." This is certainly a concern and is unacceptable at any time of the day.

The submitted noise assessment predicts levels of 58dB at the face of the building; this will certainly be noticeable and will be highly annoying due to the repetitive nature of the sound of balls hitting carbon fibre rackets, glass walls and mesh fencing. I note that this "worst case" prediction of 58dB coincides with the location of my flat so this is what I will typically be experiencing. Furthermore, the noise assessment does not consider the rear gardens at Southdown's Park which are regularly used by the residents' private enjoyment and where the modelled noise levels appear to reach up to 70dB.

The modelling report is also incomplete in that there is no assessment of, or allowance made for, the accuracy of the modelling predictions; all models are subject to error in that they are only approximations of reality - the predictions are meaningless without some assessment of their accuracy. I would also question some of the modelling assumptions such as the glass walls being modelled as solid barriers with, presumably, no noise transmittance through the material. Is this reasonable?

The noise mitigation measures contained in the noise assessment report are, in my view, completely inadequate to address the issues and are unlikely to be enforceable.

Lighting

The proposal doesn't make much reference to lighting but, if these courts are to operate during hours of darkness as planned, then significant lighting will be required which, in turn, will result in significant nuisance to the residents of Southdown's Park - particularly to those residents occupying the flats in the higher levels of the building.

Inadequate Car Parking

The proposal does not provide any additional car parking spaces to those already available and those spaces are to be shared with the users of the adjacent swimming pool. At present, the spaces available are barely sufficient to cover the needs of the swimming pool alone. At peak times, there could be around 15-20 padel courts users (four for each of the courts, a few waiting and a few spectators) - the existing parking facilities will be unable to

accommodate this extra capacity.

This will inevitably result in padel court users using the private parking spaces reserved for the residents of Southdowns Park - causing considerable inconvenience.

In addition to the above, I question whether this facility is actually needed. Whilst it may be the case that padel may be a fast-growing sport, there are vastly fewer padel enthusiasts than there are tennis in the UK and there are already several padel courts available in the local vicinity. The existing tennis courts were very popular before the sports club allowed them to fall into a state of disrepair; I suggest a better use of the facility would be to simply refurbish the existing tennis courts.

Finally, I question why the application is only temporary. If this proposal is intended to be a first phase of a wider redevelopment as stated then the application should be considered as a whole rather than applying for planning permission incrementally.

Kind regards