

Stefan Galyas

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 08 September 2025 12:02
To: Stefan Galyas
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 08/09/2025 12:02 PM.

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

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	2 Park West Southdowns Park Haywards Heath
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to provide comments on Planning Application DM/25/1185 regarding the proposed padel court development at the former tennis courts adjacent to St Francis Swimming Pool.

Whilst I support the principle of providing recreational facilities for the community, I have significant concerns about the adequacy of the acoustic assessment submitted with this application, particularly regarding the methodology used for noise measurement and the proposed mitigation measures.

****Concerns Regarding Measurement Methodology****

The acoustic assessment acknowledges that many properties, including my own, are in elevated positions with direct line of sight to the proposed courts. However, the noise measurements appear to have been taken from locations that may not accurately represent the impact on these elevated properties.

The assessment notes that measurements were taken at ground level positions, with the Southdowns Park measurement point at 1.8m above ground level. Given that many affected properties are situated on higher ground with clear sight lines to the courts, these measurement locations may significantly underestimate the actual noise impact that residents will experience.

The topography of the site means that properties positioned above the courts will not benefit from the same level of natural sound attenuation that ground-level measurements might suggest. The assessment's own acknowledgement that "the noise from the courts is likely to be audible outside the most affected Noise Sensitive Receptors" supports this concern.

****Inadequacy of Proposed Mitigation Measures****

The Noise Management Plan referenced in the assessment appears to rely primarily on behavioural controls, such as asking players to keep noise levels down. In my experience, such measures are rarely effective in practice, particularly during competitive play when participants are naturally focused on their game rather than noise considerations.

The proposed courts feature glass panels at the ends but mesh fencing along the sides, which provides minimal acoustic screening. For a development that could operate for up to 14 hours daily, more substantial physical mitigation measures should be considered, such as:

- Full-height acoustic barriers around the court perimeter
- Alternative surface materials with lower noise characteristics
- Enhanced landscaping or earth bunding to provide natural sound barriers
- Reduced operating hours, particularly during early morning and evening periods when ambient noise levels are lower

****Site-Specific Considerations****

The assessment compares the proposed development to existing padel facilities at locations such as the Triangle and Handcross, noting that these sites do not impact residential properties. This comparison actually reinforces the argument that this particular location may be inappropriate for such facilities due to its proximity to residential areas and the elevated position of many affected properties.

The acoustic consultant's own modelling shows that noise levels will be most problematic during quieter periods, particularly in the early morning and late evening hours (21:00-22:00). This suggests that the proposed operating hours of 07:00-22:00 may be excessive for a site in such close proximity to residential properties.

****Conclusion****

While I appreciate the desire to utilise the former tennis courts productively, I believe the current proposal requires more comprehensive acoustic assessment using measurement points that accurately reflect the elevated positions of affected properties, coupled with more robust physical mitigation measures than those currently proposed.

I would respectfully suggest that the application be refused unless these concerns can be adequately addressed through revised acoustic measurements and enhanced mitigation proposals.

Yours faithfully,



2 Park West, Southdowns Park

Kind regards