

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 September 2025 12:40:52 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 08/09/2025 12:40 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: 8 Kendall Court Southdowns Park Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	We are writing to object to Planning Application DM/25/1185 - temporary change of use of existing tennis courts to Padel courts at St Francis Sports and Social club, Haywards Heath. We have many concerns about this proposal, not least of which are the increased levels of noise and of light pollution associated with these plans.

The tennis courts in question are adjacent to Southdowns Park, a Grade II listed property and area of peace and tranquillity. Our understanding of the proposal is that Padel games will be played all day long, seven days a week and that Padel can be incredibly noisy. We don't believe that the acoustic tests have been carried out in a controlled and meaningful way and therefore do not give a true reflection of the noise disturbance that residents will be subjected to. They seem to have also disregarded the additional noise caused by spectators, rightly enjoying the games taking place.

Many residents are night workers at the adjacent Princess Royal Hospital so will be sleeping during the day and additionally we are only allowed single glazed windows due to the status of Southdowns Park.

The introduction of flood lights suggests that games will continue late into the evening exacerbating the noise disturbance for those of us who are day workers. The lights will also disrupt an area that tends to have dark skies at night and will cause additional disturbance to residents.

Parking is an issue at Southdowns Park - residents have their own permitted space and a handful of visitor's spaces are available for the entire development. Swimming pool users currently only have a few spaces allocated to them, so introducing additional need from the Padel players and spectators will put pressure on the swimming pool parking, potentially leading to players erroneously using the visitor's spaces in Southdowns Park. A facility that we pay for in our maintenance fee.

We are also concerned on the impact this will have on the bowls club. Bowls, by its nature is a peaceful pursuit that requires concentration from the players and a constant barrage of noise from the adjacent courts will disrupt play and potentially lead to bowlers leaving the club. This would be a great shame. The bowling green is a beautiful feature of Southdowns Park, and its players are always quiet and respectful. The juxtaposition of incredibly noisy Padel courts literally right next to the long-established bowling club would be a terrible shame.

We note from the application that this is a temporary creation of the Padel courts for 36 months ahead of moving them down to the sports field and would ask why the courts cannot be built in the intended space now rather than causing all this unnecessary disruption.

In summary, we object to Planning Application DM/25/1185 and believe that the proposed development would be detrimental to Southdowns Park on many levels.

Kind regards