

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 September 2025 14:47:48 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 2:47 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

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Customer Details

Address: 6 Park West Southdowns Park Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I am writing as the owner of a property at Southdowns Park which I have held for over 20 years, to object to the planning application for the construction of three padel courts on the former tennis court site. Please note I am a very keen padel player myself and am often playing at The Triangle in Burgess Hill. While I appreciate that sporting facilities are in demand, I believe this proposal is inappropriate for this setting and would cause a

significant and unacceptable impact on the residential amenity and character of Southdowns Park.

1. Noise and Residential Amenity

- Padel is a fast-paced sport generating constant sharp impacts, often compared to repeated door-slamming.
- Unlike tennis, where rallies are typically shorter and less frequent, padel rallies tend to involve many more ball strikes per point, producing a rapid and repetitive sound profile.
- The applicant's acoustic assessment is not representative: measurements were not taken from the most exposed residential locations, nor at a realistic height above ground level, particularly in relation to Cavendish House and other nearby dwellings on elevated ground.
- Even if the average decibel levels fall within guidance, the intrusive character and relentless frequency of the noise must be considered. Sustained exposure for up to 14 hours a day, 7 days a week (8am-10pm), would be highly disruptive and fundamentally at odds with the tranquil environment that defines Southdowns Park.

2. Character of the Development

- Southdowns Park is a unique historic conversion with landscaped grounds and a peaceful, semi-rural character.
- Introducing a high-intensity, noise-generating leisure use in the heart of the residential setting would materially harm this character.
- Comparisons with padel facilities at the Triangle, Haywards Heath Rugby Club, or the Handcross Racket Centre are not valid, as those sites are located away from sensitive residential receptors.

3. Property Enjoyment and Values

- While property value itself is not a material consideration, the underpinning factor - the ability of residents to reasonably enjoy their homes and gardens without intrusive disturbance - is a legitimate planning concern.
- The proposal risks materially diminishing that enjoyment.

4. Traffic and Parking

- The increased popularity of padel is likely to draw significant non-resident visitors. This will lead to increased traffic movements and pressure on the limited parking provision at Southdowns Park, which is already constrained.

Conclusion

For the reasons above, I respectfully request that the council refuse this application. It is not an appropriate use in this sensitive residential environment and would cause an unacceptable impact on noise levels, amenity, and character.

Kind regards