

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 September 2025 17:14
To: planninginfo
Subject: Planning permission for Padel Courts

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Reference: DM/25/1185

I wish to comment on why I am against the conversion of the tennis courts at St Francis Sports and Social Club to padel courts.

As a member of the bowling club, I think that the Padel courts would be a distraction and even with a screen, one would be aware of the noise of bats on balls. It is a faster game than tennis and the ball bounces off the bat, glass wall and ground. I cannot see the residents of Southpark enjoying a quiet lie-in on a Saturday or Sunday morning!

There is no application to put a roof over the Padel courts yet but if they are to be used frequently and in all weather conditions then a roof will be needed. This will make the site look as though there is a large warehouse on the site. This will certainly impact on the "stunning countryside views" that Southdowns Park residents enjoy at the moment.

Although there will be parking made available for a few more cars, there will probably be occasions when parking may be difficult depending on whether there is a bowls match going on and/ or swimming lessons.

Lastly, if this is only for a temporary(36 months) permission for change of use of the tennis courts, it seems like a waste of money to erect Padel courts on this site, if they are eventually moved further down the hill nearer the football club.

The Padel courts at Whiteman's Green next door to the Rugby club looks like a good model to follow as the players of Padel ball can use the facilities at the rugby club (toilets, food, drinks) and there is an attractive seating area.

Tennis is still played so perhaps those courts could be refurbished or perhaps even repurposed so that people could play Boules or Petanque as at Beech Hurst near the Bowling Club.

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