

Stefan Galyas

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 August 2025 14:56
To: Stefan Galyas
Subject: Subject: Objection to Planning Application DM/25/1185 – Acoustic Report Concerns

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Galyas,

I am writing to object to Planning Application DM/25/1185 concerning the proposed temporary change of use of existing tennis courts to padel courts at St Francis Sports and Social Club, Colwell Road, Haywards Heath.

I would like to raise specific concerns regarding the submitted acoustic report, which I believe is flawed in methodology and underestimates the true impact on neighbouring properties:

1. Poor Placement of Acoustic Monitoring Equipment

The sound recording equipment was located at ground-floor level and shielded by trees, bushes, and a brick wall. This does not provide a fair representation of the actual sound exposure, particularly as the most affected homes are positioned on the first and second floors, with no such natural or built barriers to deflect noise.

2. Lack of Representation for Upper Floors

The report fails to consider that there are twice as many properties on the first and second floors as on the ground floor. These homes will experience direct exposure to noise, without any attenuation from vegetation or brickwork.

3. Listed Building Restrictions

Residents are not permitted to install double glazing as our homes are within a Grade II listed building. This makes us more vulnerable to external noise than residents in modern homes, and this has not been factored into the assessment.

4. Duration and Nature of Noise

The report states that noise should not exceed 3dB, but it does not address the fact that this level could be sustained for up to 12 hours per day. Continuous exposure, rather than short bursts, is the real concern for residents' wellbeing.

5. Padel vs Tennis – Frequency of Ball Strikes

Official sources state that during a doubles game of padel, the ball is struck on average 800 to 1,600 times per hour, whereas in tennis the ball is struck only 300 to 500 times per hour for four players. This means padel play is two to five times more frequent in ball impact noise than tennis, significantly increasing the sound burden.

6. Impact on Bedrooms and Daily Living

Many of the properties facing the proposed padel courts have bedrooms along that elevation. This will directly disrupt residents' ability to rest and sleep, especially for young children and elderly residents who are particularly sensitive to noise disturbance.

7. Cheering, Shouting and Social Noise

Unlike tennis, padel is a more social and vocal sport. It is entirely reasonable to expect players to shout, cheer and call out during games. Such vocal noise is not accounted for in the acoustic report, yet it will travel upwards to the upper floors and significantly worsen the impact.

8. Lighting and Light Pollution

The application also introduces floodlighting in an area that is currently very low-lit. This will add to the disturbance for residents facing the courts, as light pollution is intrusive at night and will compound the noise issue.

For the reasons outlined above, I strongly urge the Council to reject this application. The noise and light pollution are unacceptable, and the acoustic report is not a reliable or sufficient basis upon which to assess the true effect on local residents' quality of life.

Yours faithfully,



The Downsview

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Sent from my iPhone