

Stefan Galyas

From: Jane Cooper
Sent: 10 July 2025 15:01
To: Stefan Galyas
Subject: RE: DM/25/1185 - Tennis Courts At St Francis Sports And Social Club Colwell Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4EZ

Hi Stefan,

As discussed, before I can judge the impact of this proposed development I need further information. There are various issues with the submitted report:

No metrics for the measurements have been stated so I don't know if the levels measured are A weighted, or what parameter was measured (L90, Leq or Lmax).

The background noise levels seem to have been measured on one day only, over a very short time frame. To be representative, background levels should be measured on different days of the week, including the weekend, and over the time period applied for i.e. 6am to 10pm.

It is worth noting that shrubs and vegetation offer very little mitigation against sound propagation.

The applicant states that the closest resident is 81m away. According to our mapping system the distance to the nearest residential façade is 73m, but the gardens for the flats are closer, 8m at the nearest point with a gazebo at around 30m from the proposed courts. I understand that this area is used by residents of the flats as they don't have their own gardens.

The applicant mentions that a sound level meter was used, but doesn't specify the make/model of this or provide information regarding when the meter was last calibrated.

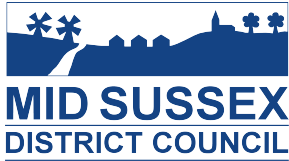
The applicant mentions SOAEL, and that in their opinion this development would not introduce a significant adverse effect. Without a detailed report prepared by a suitably qualified acoustician, I can't predict the impact of the padel courts on the amenity of residents when using their homes and gardens, and can't therefore comment on any mitigation that might be necessary.

A NMP is suggested, but I feel that the measures put forward would be largely ineffective and unenforceable.

Please can the applicant be made aware that having planning permission in place is no defence against a statutory noise nuisance being caused or allowed to occur. If permission for these courts were to be granted, and noise complaints were then received by the Environmental Protection team, we would be required to investigate under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and would be duty bound to take formal action where there was evidence of a statutory noise nuisance. This could mean that the courts become unusable without mitigation, for example provision of an acoustic barrier or severe restrictions on the hours when the courts can be used. This is why it is important to ensure controls are put in place at the planning stage to avoid issues at a later stage.

Kind regards,

Jane Cooper
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Environmental Health
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“Working together for a better Mid Sussex”

From: Stefan Galyas <stefan.galyas@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 July 2025 14:43
To: Jane Cooper <Jane.Cooper@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: DM/25/1185 - Tennis Courts At St Francis Sports And Social Club Colwell Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4EZ

Hi Jane,

The Agent has now submitted the noise impact assessment for the above application. If any further information would be required, just let me know.

Regards,
Stefan Galyas MPLAN
Planning Officer
Development Management
Mid Sussex District Council
01444 47 7244
www.midsussex.gov.uk

