

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 December 2025 23:04:57 UTC+00:00
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 09/12/2025 11:04 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 (Further acoustic and lighting information received 04.11.2025 and plans 07.11.2025 and 11.11.2025)
Case Officer:	Stefan Galyas

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Customer Details

Address: 3 Park East Southdowns Park Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I have already made a objection statement but wanted to add some further thoughts having seen the documentation from the applicant responding to concerns raised by local residents. As has been noted by several other local residents and the environmental protection reports, I do not believe that the further documentation from the applicant in regards to noise gives

sufficient and robust enough data to confirm that the noise will not be detrimental to residents nearby. The measurements were not taken from inside upper-storey flats but rather from lower down and behind trees. This is not representative of how many of us experience sound within our residences. As several comments have pointed out, the prevailing wind is from the south, our windows are necessarily single-glazed and this would force us to keep our windows closed at all times of day and year. This shouldn't be a step we are expected to take.

The response implies that the distance to the gardens should not be taken into account as people were not observed using the bandstand on the occasions they visited. This only represents, presumably, a very limited number of occasions. It should be noted that several places where people sit can only be seen by entering the private property.

I also note that the response documents aim to speak to concerns about sound and lighting, but the many concerns raised about parking are not addressed. The parking listed in the original application as being available to the padel courts are already used (and often overflow) by the swimming pool. With the addition of the padel courts, there would be many more people looking to park than is currently the case and they would be expected to park (at cost) further down the road. As there is already an issue with sports facility users parking in Southdowns Park private car parks, we could only expect that to increase significantly with the addition of the padel courts. No suggestion has been made, however, as to what actions will be taken to prevent users from trespassing onto private property to park.

The Highways Authority response is also not able to provide clarity on the impact on our roadways, as this is a private road. However, it does suggest that there would be an expectation of relandscaping and the need for deliveries and works vehicles. This suggests that we should expect a large increase in traffic of large vehicles down our narrow roads, which we maintain and which are essentially single-track in many places. The road is quiet and often walked by people with children and dogs. It is not set up to take heavy traffic. Furthermore, as part of the road is one-way as part of the hospital emergency route, if the road gets blocked at the proposed padel courts by vehicles or building works, residents will be forced to enter the estate through the hospital, as well as hospital emergency routes being potentially impacted.

There also appears to be some confusion about the opening hours proposed by the plan. Many people refer to hours from 8am-10pm, or 7am-10pm, which are already unreasonable hours for a loud sport to be continuously played. But I believe the original plan actually listed hours from 6am-10pm.

I have noted that the applicants already have social media advertising the padel courts. Although they say in smaller print that this is subject to Council approval, the clearest parts of the posts label the courts as "coming soon", which feels somewhat premature.

I was also surprised to see a sudden and marked flurry of support comments around the 13-15 November, noticeably from people who do not live nearby and might not be aware of the negative impact it will have on local residents. In fact, it stood out to me that many of these commenters do not live in the MSDC area and would be unlikely to be using these facilities. Indeed, some are as far afield as Berkshire and Essex.

I note that many of these support comments are vague in their reasons for support, mostly citing the improvement for health, wellbeing and community in the MSDC area with the building of these padel courts. I certainly agree that more sports facilities in the area can only be a good thing, but this is not the location for it. Indeed, I believe that it will have a significantly detrimental impact on the health, wellbeing and community at Southdowns Park and neighbouring estates and clubs.

I urge the Council to reject this application and instead support the applicants in finding a more appropriate and permanent location for the padel courts where everyone can enjoy them without negative impacts on so many. Thank you.

Kind regards