

Peter Davies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 November 2025 12:00
To: planninginfo
Subject: Proposed padel courts, Southdowns Park, Haywards Heath

[REDACTED]
Re: Application DM/25/1185

I am writing to oppose the planning application for the conversion of the tennis courts in Southdowns Park to padel courts. Having spent many years playing padel in Southern Spain, I am well aware of the difference in noise levels between padel and tennis. Padel is far more intense, and far more physical than tennis, which reflects in the amount of noise generated by the players. The enclosed courts, with the ball ricocheting off the wall panels, plus the far greater noise of ball hitting bat than in tennis, is why Spanish outdoor courts are not allowed in residential surroundings, and are generally housed in sports complexes or on industrial parks. The noise readings that have been taken in relation to the Southdowns Park application seem dubious, given where they were taken.

I am also concerned about the required lighting. In high summer, this should be minimal, but from late August until May, lighting will be required for a great deal of time, particularly in the winter months. The weather, of course, will also impact this, as it will the courts themselves. The reason that the tennis courts have been allowed to fall into disrepair is precisely because they are unplayable on for much of the year. All logic would suggest that the courts should be covered, both to counter this, and to contain the noise level. This could be done comparatively cheaply with a pre-fabricated structure.

Southdowns Park, and particularly its south-facing dwellings, are in a tranquil setting, which will be totally ruined by this proposal. There is a need for padel courts in the area, but in a far more contained location than the one planned. I note that Bath council are the latest of many to have recognised this fact, and I would commend the committee to reject the proposal in its current form.

Yours faithfully.

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