

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 November 2025 13:24:54 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 25/11/2025 1:24 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

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 8 Kendall Court Southdowns Park Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Dear Stefan We are writing to register our continued objection to Planning Application DM/25/1185 - temporary change of use of existing tennis courts to Padel courts at St Francis Sports and Social club, Haywards Heath.

We have many concerns about this proposal, not least of which are the increased levels of noise and of light pollution associated with these plans.

The tennis courts in question are adjacent to Southdowns Park, a Grade II listed property. This listing precludes residents from having anything other than single-glazed windows.

We are aware that additional acoustic tests have been carried out but would argue that the placing of the sensors gives inconclusive results with regard to the noise that residents at higher levels, and those without ground cover would experience. We still maintain that the noise levels from the Padel courts would be unacceptable and unbearable for residents of Southdowns Park.

We note that the applicant includes examples of where Padel courts have been approved but we would draw your attention to examples when they have not been:

Planning Appeal APP/XI 735/W /25/3359465 (Hayling Island, Hampshire) dismissed in August 2025 after the Inspector found that the padel courts would unacceptably harm residents' living conditions through noise and disturbance.

Arun District Council (A/100/24/PL, Angmering) - withdrawn following strong objections over noise and setting.

Additionally, a recent application in Bath has been turned down after concerns over noise as has an application in Guildford. Both councils acknowledged the noise and lighting as unacceptable for residents.

We note with some frustration that the comments in support of this application are predominantly from people who don't live here, and would not have to put up with the noise and disruption e.g. Bracknell, Brentwood, Leamington Spa et al.

With regards to disturbance of wildlife through noise and flood lighting. Has an ecological assessment been carried out to ensure there are no badger setts within the limits specified within the Protection of Badgers Act 1992? There is evidence of badgers in the area, and we would suggest that they may have setts within the wooded areas surrounding Southdowns Park.

Parking remains an issue at Southdowns Park - residents have their own permitted space and a handful of visitor's spaces are available for the entire development. Swimming pool users currently only have a few spaces allocated to them, so introducing additional need from the Padel players and spectators will put pressure on the swimming pool parking, potentially leading to players erroneously using the visitor's spaces in Southdowns Park. A facility that we pay for in our maintenance fee, along with

the upkeep of the road surrounding the park.

We note from the application that this is a temporary creation of the Padel courts for 36months however have concerns that the noise levels for three years would be intolerable and have doubts over whether this would truly be temporary or would set a precedent to allow the development to remain.

In summary, we still object to Planning Application DM/25/1185 and believe that the proposed development would be detrimental to Southdowns Park on many levels.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Wendy and Mrs Sara Macfarlane
8 Kendall Court, Southdowns Park

Kind regards