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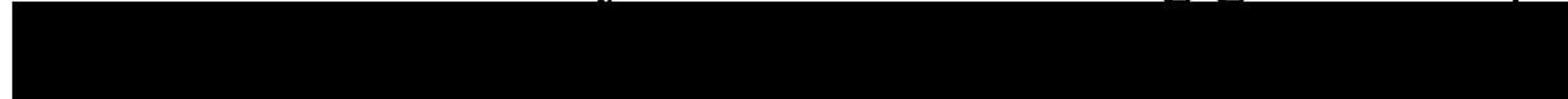
7 September 2025

Dear Sirs

Objection to Planning Application at MSDC - DM/25/1185

As a member of St Francis Bowling Club, I wish to object to this application, which is for the construction of Padel Courts on land between the club and the swimming pool behind Southdowns Park, a Grade 2 listed building.

Padel courts, which are noisy, with sharp high-pitched ringing sounds from the ball hitting the walls, would be completely incompatible with the quiet and sedate activity of lawn bowls and unsuited to the quiet, residential nature of the surrounding area. The continuous sound of the ball impacting the solid glass and walls, the frequency of play, and the number of players would all contribute to high noise levels.

Installing an acoustic screen between the proposed courts and the bowling club would alleviate the problem of movement in the eyeline of bowlers delivering a wood from the club's pavilion end, and might dampen the noise somewhat, but would not address other concerns I have – namely increased traffic on the lane adjacent to the bowling green and parking problems. Most club members are elderly  and I'm sure many would leave the club if they could not easily park adjacent to the club, as at present.

I cannot think of another bowling green we play at that has anything so disruptive adjacent to the green. I urge councillors on the planning committee and council officers to visit Burgess Hill, Lindfield, West Hoathly, East Grinstead, Southwater and other bowls clubs, all of which provide a quiet sedate environment for mainly elderly bowlers to enjoy their activity. I believe that if this planning application is approved it will be the beginning of the end for St Francis Bowling Club. Our membership will decrease because people won't want to play bowls in such a disruptive environment. Similarly, visiting teams won't want to play at St Francis for the same reason.

Many club members are widows and widowers and their entire social life revolves around the club. Granting permission for the Padel courts will therefore mean that councillors and officer will be responsible for curtailing the recreational benefits (physical and mental) of bowls for older people.

I look forward to hearing that the application has been rejected

Yours faithfully



