

28 September, 2026

Katherine Williams
Mid Sussex District Council
Planning and Sustainable Economy Department
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

MID SUSSEX DC
28 SEP 2026

Dear Katherine Williams,

Application DM/26/2226

**Revision of floodlighting hours of operation to 21:00 Monday - Friday
Burgess Hill School For Girls, Keymer Road, Burgess Hill West Sussex**

We object to the proposal to increase the hours of use of the floodlights by 2 hrs on weekdays because of the location of the courts close to residential properties, where bedrooms and living areas overlook the courts, and the impact that this proposal will have on a relatively dark and quiet space within the Conservation Area.

The floodlights under permission for DM/25/1057 were changed to LED in March 2026. We are at home every evening and prepare and eat our evening meal between 18:30 and 20:30, whilst overlooking the courts. We have not observed any use of the floodlights beyond 19:00 hours since temporary permission was granted last year. This was 'to allow for the impact to be better understood so that the any subsequent application can be fully and fairly assessed'. In your email to enplan dated 8th August 2025 you asked for confirmation that a 1 year trial would be acceptable to their client and stated 'should it not be accepted the application will be refused as it stands'. You must have had reasonable grounds to refuse permission at that time, so perhaps these reasons should now be used to refuse this application, as clearly the need for an impact assessment has not been met, either by circumstances or design.

The Noise Assessment Report - section 3.1 Introduction states 'Since, therefore, the pitches are surfaced with artificial grass, and in the absence of more specific guidance at this time it can safely be concluded that Sport England Note is the best place to start'. The courts covered by this application have a painted hard tarmac-like surface, so this report is irrelevant. It also makes comparisons with road noise. In May 2026 the road surface was replaced and the new surface has considerably reduced the traffic noise in the road, so the report is out of date and invalid. Also, traffic noise comes in short bursts whereas a netball match or practice is a continuous disturbance. Noise seems to travel further and be louder in the dark.

In your delegated report dated 21st April 2015 your Environmental Protection Officer states in respect of their request for a cut of time of 21:00 hrs 'the additional noise disturbance throughout the Winter evenings as well as the existing Summer noise would be an unreasonable additional burden affecting the

amenity of residents'. A cut off time of 19:00 hrs was then permitted **and since then nothing has changed, except the loss of several large broad evergreen conifers and several large trunked deciduous trees, which has made the situation worse.**

The Mid Sussex Local Plan states :

DPN7: Noise Impacts

People's health and quality of life and the natural environment, including wildlife will be protected from unacceptable levels of noise.

DPN8: Light Impacts and Dark Skies

New Development needs to be managed to protect people's health and quality of life and the natural environment from unacceptable levels of light pollution.

Artificial light can also have impacts on wildlife and ecosystems. For example, the artificial lighting of bat roosts, access points and foraging pathways can cause disturbance to bats. It is important to consider the colour of lighting and the materials used so that light does not reflect off surfaces, especially near water surfaces.

... poorly designed lighting can result in light pollution which can lead to negative effects on health and wellbeing and ecosystems.

It is necessary to consider where, when and how much light shines. For example, measures should be taken to turn off or dim light when it is not being used....

The Burgess Hill Town Plan Policy H1 Protecting and Enhancing Heritage Assets and Conservation Areas states that ' Proposals within the Burgess Hill Conservation Areas will be required to preserve and enhance their special character or appearance'. Increasing the use of floodlights does neither.

We accept that the school may need to use its facilities. But after taking into account the noise generated from daily school activities, after school activities and the disturbance created at weekends with netball clubs often starting at 11:00 hrs and finishing around 16:00 hrs on Saturdays and Sundays on these courts, we should not be exposed to yet more noise and light pollution that will affect our enjoyment of our property and our health and wellbeing and quality of life.

We would be happy for you to visit our property should you wish to assess the site from the residents' perspective.

