

Our Ref: 02/1262



Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

21 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**BURGESS HILL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KEYMER ROAD, BURGESS HILL RH15 0EG
CENTRAL TENNIS COURTS
APPLICATION FOR REVISIONS TO HOURS OF USE**

On 21st April 2015 planning permission was granted for the erection of six no. 8.2m high floodlights at the middle 2 no. tennis courts at Burgess Hill School for Girls.

On 1st September 2025 permission was granted (ref DM/25/1057) for the installation of replacement, more energy efficient floodlighting fittings. The replacement fitting resulted in a 50% reduction in energy consumption.

The 2025 application also sought permission to extend the hours of use of the tennis court flood lights to 21:00 Monday to Friday. This was granted for a temporary period (12 months, ie up to 1 September 2026) following representations by neighbouring residents who were concerned about potential noise impacts as a result of the additional hours. This was also based on the comments from the Council's Environmental Health Officer who considered that a temporary consent would be appropriate in order to allow the impact to be assessed.

During the winter of 2025/2026 while the courts were being used for the extended hours as permitted, a noise assessment was undertaken. This assessment is now submitted in support of the current application which seeks a permanent extension to the hours of use of the floodlights to 21:00 Monday – Friday.

For clarity, the courts already have planning permission to be used up to 21:00 and can be used up to 21:00 in the summer months when there is daylight in the evenings. The floodlights were originally granted permission for use up to 19:00 on weekdays. This application seeks to extend the permitted hours of use of the floodlights to 21:00 Monday – Friday to allow the courts to be used into the weekday evenings all year round. There will be no change to weekend use. The application seeks only to allow use of the courts within the previously permitted limits, it does not seek any extension of the existing permitted use of the courts.

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Furthermore; the additional hours of use of the courts which this application would enable would be in the evenings during the winter months when nearby residents are less likely to be using their outdoor spaces and would more likely have their windows closed. It is not considered that there would be significant noise disturbance in these conditions and it would not be any different than is currently permitted during the summer and part of the spring and autumn.

The noise assessment report considered the noise level from the sports pitches/courts at nearby sensitive receptors and in external amenity areas. This assessment included both the central tennis courts which are the subject of the current application and the southern sports pitches which are subject to a separate application to extend the hours of use of floodlighting. The report considered the noise impact from both pitches/courts and so represents a robust assessment of the level of noise that results from the extended hours of use of the floodlights.

The report sets out that the impact of the noise from the sports pitches/courts has been assessed in accordance with the Sport England Design Note BS8233 and IEMA Guidelines effect descriptors.

It states that “given no specific noise criteria exists for sports pitches, the Sport England ‘AGP Acoustics – Planning Implications Design Guidance Note’ refers to the WHO ‘Guidelines for Community Noise’ for the assessment of AGP noise. Since sports events could be considered to fall under the category of community noise, it is stated that the indoor sound level of interfering noise during daytime hours should not exceed 35dB LAeq within dwellings. This equates to a noise level 1m outside a residential property should not exceed 50dB LAeq (assuming a typical 15dB reduction through a partially open window)”.

It concludes that the predicted noise levels from the use of **both** sports pitches/courts meet this Sport England default threshold of 50 dB LAeq,1h at all neighbouring properties.

At the four nearby properties, the external noise levels already exceed that BS8233/WHO level of 50 dB LAeq,T at the front of the properties due to road noise. The total noise levels at these points when adding the sports pitch/court uses would increase from 52 dB to 54 dB at two properties and would not increase from 52 dB at the other two. Therefore, the only change in level of noise at the front of any of the properties would be 2dB above existing levels which is not significant in terms of impact.

The noise levels in the rear gardens (the amenity areas) of all four properties will rise by no more than 1dB with the additional use of the pitches/courts due to the extended hours of floodlighting and the total noise level will remain below the 50 dB threshold.

Consequently, it is not considered that the extended use of the courts due to the additional hours of operation for the floodlighting would have any unacceptable noise impact on neighbouring amenity.

Please let us know if you have any queries or need any further information.

Yours faithfully,

