

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 September 2025 15:25:21 UTC+01:00
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 09/09/2025 3:25 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 (Acoustic report received 21.08.2025)
Case Officer:	Stefan Galyas

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Customer Details

Address: 3 Park west Southdowns Park Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I wish to object to the above application on the grounds of noise impact and loss of residential amenity. Padel play is inherently noisier than tennis, due to the frequent impact of balls against glass and hard surfaces, and the intensity of rallies in a confined court environment. This produces sharp, repetitive noise that is distinct from and more intrusive than the sounds associated with traditional tennis. The submitted acoustic report does not sufficiently reflect this difference, nor does it

account for extended hours of play likely to occur during evenings and weekends.

The problem will be further exacerbated by the prevailing south-west winds in Haywards Heath, which will carry and amplify noise from the site directly towards residential areas. This environmental factor, overlooked in the assessment, poses a serious risk of increased disturbance and disruption to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

This proposal conflicts with key policies of the Mid Sussex District Plan (2014-2031):

Policy DP29: Noise, Air and Light Pollution - requires that developments are designed to minimise and control the impact of noise pollution on people and the natural environment. The introduction of padel courts, with their substantially higher noise levels, fails this requirement.

Policy DP26: Character and Design - emphasises protection of local amenity. Noise impacts of this scale are incompatible with the peaceful enjoyment of neighbouring homes and gardens.

Policy DP24: Leisure and Cultural Facilities - while encouraging recreational development, requires compatibility with neighbouring uses. In this case, the noise impacts demonstrate that the proposal is not compatible with the adjacent residential setting.

Furthermore, the proposal is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraphs 185 and 187), which require planning decisions to avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life, and to ensure that new uses are integrated effectively with existing communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the application be refused. The proposal would introduce an unacceptable noise environment that conflicts with local and national policy safeguards for residential amenity.

Kind regards