

Our reference: COM521021997

Application number: 2023/0866

Application address: St Georges Hill Lawn Tennis Club, Warreners Lane, Weybridge, KT13 0LL

Name: Mrs Crellin

Address: Longmoor East Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0LD

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 02 Jun 2023

Comment: As long time members of the Applicant tennis club, we would like to see the club introducing additional facilities, but only if the neighbouring properties (including our own home) are safeguarded from the very obvious risk of serious damage to the use and enjoyment, amenity values, of those properties.

Padel is undoubtedly a noisy game, emanating from the astonishingly loud "clacks" of the totally solid bats on the ball, and somewhat less so, the ball on the walls of each court. This was clearly apparent when the trial temporary court was used for some months at the Tennis Club, then positioned well within the existing courts. The players themselves are often noisy. Here, it is proposed to have three courts, so three times the noise- a very serious consideration. The escape of that noise is inevitable. So too, massive escape of light from the fabric roof and glass sides.

With three courts, the building is bulky and unsuited to its location. The separate proposal for a gymnasium adjacent to this adds to the excessive bulk and potentially industrial appearance of the whole project.

The fairness of such an arrangement is clear. If the applicant is so sure there will be no noise, light or other nuisance from the intended padel courts, then put them that much closer to the clubhouse for the benefit of neighbours, without detriment to members.

Adjacent and neighbouring properties, particularly those in or near East Road, and the other residents of the St. George's Hill Estate, all have homes where they are entitled to continue to enjoy that home, and in particular their gardens, in a quiet, calm and peaceful way, and to socialise in their gardens in the Summer months and maybe longer, free from noise pollution, light or other nuisance.

If it is contemplated that consent be given for this application, very strict conditions must surely be attached relating to:

Sound- a restriction on decibel levels at all times such that no neighbour can hear at any time any of the never ending sound of padel being played from early morning to late at night (as presently sought).

Light - a restriction on any light emanating from the building sufficient to ensure that it will not affect the gardens, grounds or amenities of any neighbouring property at any time.

Hours of use- Padel in particular can be played at any time all year round, but must surely be restricted to entirely sociable hours, perhaps 8.30am to 8.30pm on weekdays and rather less at weekends.

Much of the support for this application appears to be from club members who do not live anywhere near the site and are thus not affected by it in any way. Not unsurprisingly, there is only opposition from those who reasonably fear very severe erosion of the amenity value of their homes.

It is difficult to see how three glass walled, fabric roofed, padel courts can operate on the

application site for many hours a day, seven days a week, without serious damage to the amenity value of many neighbouring homes.

The sound report seems to have been carried out on the basis of noise from one padel court whereas the application is for three and one must assume, therefore, there will be treble the noise, consequently it cannot be relied upon.

This application is opposed unless the most stringent safeguards for neighbouring properties are in place and then strictly enforced.