

Our reference: COM521983237

Application number: 2023/0866

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

Name: Mrs van Sonsbeeck

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

Comment type: You object to the planning application

Date of comment: 06 Jun 2023

Comment: Dear Sir, Madam,

I am writing to strongly object against the planning application for 3 semi enclosed padel courts. The tennis club recently had a 6 month trial Padel court and all involved (the neighbours, the residents association and the tennis club themselves) concluded that the noise was significantly worse than regular tennis and frankly unacceptable for nearby residents. It was agreed at the time by all (i.e. also by the tennis club) that if the tennis club wanted to pursue the idea of adding padel, courts would have to be fully enclosed (i.e. indoor) and fully sound proofed.

The sound report commissioned by the tennis club admits that noise from a padel court is typically 10dB louder than noise from a regular court (point 4.11 in the report). Due to the logarithmic scale of dB, this means that padel is 10 times (!) louder than tennis. It puzzles me completely how they can then come to the conclusion that noise is actually not that much worse.

A point that is not covered in the report is that apart from the difference in dB, the sound of padel is also of a very different character. Not only are there significantly more hits per minute, the profile is also very different because of the really quickly rising intensity (it's a so called impulse sound, for which it is good practice to add 5dB in the assessment due to the debilitating nature of such a sound, something that hasn't been done in this report). Most people who have been exposed to the sound of padel describe describe it like gunfire. It is not without reason that all over the country concerned neighbours are protesting against padel courts.

The proposed semi-enclosed structure of the courts will not help much as the most relevant (long) side of the courts is not enclosed at all. The sides that are covered are only covered to a certain height and the tarpaulin 'roof' is, according to the sound report, of no use. In fact, the whole structure is likely going to act as a soundbox.

All of the residents of East Road have over the years been exceptionally good neighbours to the tennis club so we are extremely disappointed that the tennis club is now trying to push this through, despite our earlier agreement that only indoor padel courts would be built.

Many thanks,

Ms A van Sonsbeeck