

**Our reference:** COM525498228

**Application number:** 2023/0866

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

**Name:** Mr Pope

**Address:** The Granary East Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0LE

**Comment type:** You object to the planning application

**Date of comment:** 20 Jun 2023

**Comment:** Our family have been committed members of SGH Lawn Tennis Club for over 30 years, having served on the Strategy Committee at a financial challenging time, chairing Junior Tennis, and a son playing county level squash. Our home is 75 to 100 meters from the proposed development and is one of the closest to it. Several others are as close or not much further away.

We strongly object on the basis of:

1. Invasive noise disturbance
2. Increase in light pollution
3. Bulky out of character structure for an exclusive Lawn Tennis Club
4. Further loss of vegetation. Grass being converted to a hard surface

In the summer of 2021 the club installed one Padel court and actively encouraged members to try the game. This application is to build three Padel courts.

We are concerned about the noise of Padel. It is totally different from the soft sound of a tennis ball, which does not carry far. Padel generates hard cracking sounds like a rifle shot every time the ball is hit. Interestingly the previous proposal sited the Padel courts in the middle of the tennis area. This proposal was rejected by tennis players as they did not like the disturbance from the loud sound of the Padel shots. It is now proposed to site Padel on the end grass tennis courts alongside a new gym building.

We stayed at a country club on a much larger site that had several high specification covered Padel courts at the far end of the clubhouse and 75 or more meters from the outside dining terrace. When play was happening the noise was most annoying. It felt as though we were dining next to a rifle range. This type of game does not belong in a residential area where noise and additional lighting will inevitably disturb everyone living nearby or passing by.

Our weekend early mornings have frequently been disturbed by gym noise which we hear in our bedrooms. Padel will be much worse.

There are other places where Padel can be played which are fairly close by and players can go and join those clubs.

Incidentally Padel has existed as a sport since 1910, when it was played on cruise ships. Had it been such a great invention surely tournaments similar to Wimbledon would by now have existed. Tennis, squash, badminton and table tennis currently offered by the Club are perfectly good family

games which have stood the test of time. The development is inappropriate for St George's Hill.  
We strongly oppose.