

Date: 4 October 2023

## MEMORANDUM

<b>To:</b> Head of Planning and Environmental Health Attn:Margarita Romanovich	<b>From:</b> Planning and Environmental Health
<b>cc:</b>	<b>Contact:</b> Seema Richardson <b>Tele:</b> 0137247471801372474718

**Planning Application Number: 2023/0866**

**Address: St. Georges Hill Lawn Tennis Club, St Georges Hill Lawn Tennis Club, Warreners Lane, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0LL**

**Details: Detached two-storey outbuilding and 3 semi-enclosed padel tennis courts with associated landscaping, fencing and access works, following the demolition of existing ancillary buildings.**

**Our Reference: WK/202302023**

Thank you for the consultation that was received by this team on 18/04/2023.

Having considered this application, the Pollution Service wish to make comments as follows:

The applicant has submitted an application regarding the construction of three padel tennis courts and a detached two storey building.

The padel tennis courts will form part of St Georges Tennis Club which is situated within a residential area.

Padel Tennis is a court sport that is inherently noisier than tennis due to the shorter court size and the type of racquet used. The racquets used are flat with no strings therefore creates more impact where the ball hits the racquet.

In Europe there are more stringent rules placed on the construction of padel courts e.g. sound attenuation needed if residential properties are within 100m, however in the UK, the only guidance available is through the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) which advises that if a residential property is within 30m of a court, sound attenuation must be sought.

To address the noise concerns from padel courts, the applicant has submitted a noise assessment.

We confirm that we have read the Noise Report carried out by Hepworth Acoustics, Assessment of Noise Impact from New Padel Courts at St George's Hill Tennis Club Report No: P22-158-R03v2 dated July 2022. The report was also submitted to confirm compliance with Condition 2 (Noise and Insulation Standard) of Planning Permission 2021/3551.

The report has measured the existing ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the proposed development both during the daytime and the evening periods.

As there are not any padel courts present, noise measurements were taken from a doubles padel tennis match played at another club (Roehampton). A further noise survey was taken of a doubles tennis match at St George's Hill. A comparison led to the padel tennis being 10dB higher than and occurs at a higher frequency range. This is at 15m. (Para 4.11).

The assessment took this information and used modelling to establish what the noise levels are at various receptors, taking into account the attenuation of sound over distance, ground reflections, reflections off buildings and acoustic screening provided by existing and proposed buildings.

Table 3 of the report shows the results at both ground floor and first floor without acoustic screening of the padel courts. Whilst not relatively high in comparison to the existing noise levels, the noise levels are worst at the properties 1 and 2 (the closet).

It is concluded that with the recommended screening (section 4.7) the noise levels would reduce and be below the existing background noise levels.

Section 4.7 of the Recommendations details the acoustic screening. The report concludes that, providing these requirements are met, then the noise levels at the boundary of the properties are unlikely to have an adverse noise impact on occupiers of the dwellings.

Accordingly, we would recommend the following conditions to control the noise:

### **Condition 1 - Noise**

Prior to first use, the scheme, Assessment of Noise Impact from New Padel Courts at St George's Hill Tennis Club Report No: P22-158-R03v2 dated July 2022 conducted by Hepworth Acoustics, approved by the Local Planning Authority and its mitigation measures shall be fully implemented in accordance with the approved details. The works and scheme shall thereafter be retained, in accordance with the approved details for the life time of the development.

Before first occupation, post-completion testing shall be carried out to ensure that the sound insulation values have been achieved. This shall be carried out by a suitably qualified person and the results of the assessment shall be submitted to and approved in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.

**Reason:** To avoid adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise in accordance with paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Noise Policy Statement for England.

**Condition 2 – External artificial Light**

Prior to first use, a scheme for any external lighting that is to be installed at the site, including measures to prevent light spillage, intended hours and days in use shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Any such external lighting as approved shall be installed in accordance with the approved drawings and such directional hoods shall be retained permanently.

The applicant should demonstrate that the proposed lighting is the minimum needed for security and working purposes and that the proposals minimise pollution from glare and spillage.

**Reason:** To avoid adverse impacts on health and quality of life from artificial lighting in accordance with paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Noise Policy Statement for England.

**Condition 3 - Hours of Use**

The use hereby permitted shall not be open outside the following times:

Monday – Friday	7:00 – 22:00
Saturday/Sunday & Bank Holiday	7:30 – 21:30

**Reason:** To avoid adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise in accordance with paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Noise Policy Statement for England.

**Informative  
Construction phase only – Noise and Pollution**

To control noise and pollution during the construction phase where sensitive premises are nearby it is advised that:

- (a) Work which is audible beyond the site boundary should only be carried out between the following hours:
  - Monday to Friday 08:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs
  - Saturday 08:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs
  - and not at all on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

- (b) The quietest available items of plant and machinery should be used on site. Where permanently sited equipment such as generators are necessary, they should be enclosed to reduce noise levels.
- (c) Deliveries and collections should only be received within the hours detailed above.
- (d) Adequate steps should be taken to prevent dust causing nuisance beyond the site boundary. These could include the use of hoses to damp down stockpiles of materials which are likely to generate airborne dust, to damp down during stone/slab cutting; and the use of bowsers and wheel washes.
- (e) There should be no burning on site that causes nuisance to local residents.
- (f) Only minimal security lighting shall be used outside the hours stated above.

*Seema Richardson*

Seema Richardson  
Environmental Health Officer  
Planning and Environmental Health