

MEMORANDUM

To: Elmbridge Borough Council Date: 12th June 2024,
CC:
From Peter Rogers (SAL) Ref: 23-0165-0 M02 DCPR

SUBJECT: ST GEORGE'S HILL LAWN TENNIS CLUB, WEYBRIDGE – NEW PADEL COURTS

EXPERT OPINION



INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 St George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club has the intention of expanding their amenities with three new padel courts by replacing one existing tennis court at the southeast corner of the club.
- 1.1.2 Multiple reports have analysed the possible noise impact on the residential neighbours. This memorandum carries out an expert review in response of the applicant's report No: P22-158-M02v3 – May 2024- by Hepworth Acoustics, in which they have provided a response to my previous memorandum's conclusions and recommendations (23-0165-0 M01 DC PR).
- 1.1.3 Specifically it comments on the need for a canopy as mitigation and its acoustic design.

EXPERTISE

- 1.1.4 I am Peter Rogers, of Sustainable Acoustics. I am a Fellow of the Institute of Acoustics with over 30 years experience, in Local Authority and as an independent acoustics consultant. I offer my opinions in this matter as independent registered expert in acoustics.
- 1.1.5 I have experience in Padel tennis noise impacts assessments of which I have been involved in a number.

APPLICANT'S REPORT P22-158-M02V3, BY HEPWORTH ACOUSTICS

- 1.1.6 The applicant's report argues that the proposed canopy would hinder the ventilation, light and aesthetics of the padel courts with no practical additional acoustic benefit towards the western neighbours, which makes it not feasible. Also, that a PCT (Post Completion Test) has been regarded as too vague by all involved parties and is not expected to be necessary.
- 1.1.7 It is my view that the lack of an acoustic canopy can be reasonably compensated by the addition of absorption to the proposed enclosure, although the amount of covered surface must be driven by acoustic effectiveness rather than exclusively driven by aesthetics considerations of the design team. Whilst I understand the importance of the aesthetics to the club and the design team of the project, in order to make it worth doing the amount of absorption should not be less than one third (1/3) of the total surface of barrier covered in class A material, and evenly distributed.

I consider the PCT testing (Post Completion Testing) could be replaced by sign-off review of the design to be implemented to confirm that it has been installed in the correct location and with to the correct design to be effective in the control of noise from the court.