



15 January 2025

Chief Planning Officer  
Mole Valley District Council  
Pippbrook  
Dorking  
Surrey  
RH14 1SJ

Dear Sir

**Planning Application No: MO/2024/0960**  
**Location: Ashtead Squash & Tennis Club,**  
**39 Skinners Lane, Ashtead, KT21 2NN**

On behalf of the Ashtead Residents' Association I refer to the above planning application.

The application appears to be a resubmission of planning application MO/2023/0383 that was withdrawn, albeit with more supporting information on this occasion.

Padel Tennis is one of the fastest growing racquet sports in this country following its success on the continent. Furthermore local well known tennis residents, Sir Andy Murray and Andrew Castle are actively promoting the sport. As an Association we take a particular interest in supporting the facilities provide by the numerous Sports Clubs in Ashtead and are conscious of the success achieved by Ashtead Squash & Tennis Club over many years.

Since the installation of a padel court at Ashtead Squash Club additional noise has been brought to our attention by residents adjoining the club. In the circumstances we have investigated padel clubs around the country and the reaction to planning applications. There is ample evidence of planning applications being refused due to the impact of noise where courts have been proposed close to residential boundaries. Only recently the national press cited a case at Winchester Tennis Club with objections from those living nearby.

On this occasion we note the Club has submitted a Noise Impact Assessment Mitigation Design Statement to demonstrate the anticipated sound proofing by way of a Cranked Sound Barrier. We do not have the expertise to endorse the mitigating effect the barrier may provide. However the accompanying photograph of a similar design located in a city centre surrounded by high rise flats is not comparable to the leavy lanes area of Ashtead where the Club is located and its close proximity to private dwellings.

As an interim measure we recommend that the Noise Consultant must provide further evidence of a club using the proposed Cranked Sound Barrier. In doing so the location of the court must be comparable to Ashtead Squash Club and with similar proximity to detached residential dwellings. Only then can a realistic comparison be made.

In the meantime we recommend either refusal or withdrawal of the application as submitted until evidence is available to prove the proposed acoustics will placate the concerns expressed justifiably by residents in the immediate vicinity.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.