

Dear Joseph,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application for the installation of fencing and lights to form two Padel Tennis courts.

Sport England – Non Statutory Role and Policy

The Government, within their Planning Practice Guidance (Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Section) advises Local Planning Authorities to consult Sport England on a wide range of applications. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities> .

Sport England assesses this type of application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and against its own planning objectives, which are Protect - To protect the right opportunities in the right places; Enhance - To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision; Provide - To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations. Further information on the objectives and Sport England's wider planning guidance can be found on its website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

The Proposal

The new 2no. padel tennis courts will complement the existing tennis courts at the club facility, and will make use of land containing a pétanque court/pitch.

Sport England has consulted the LTA as the relevant national governing body on the application. The LTA comments that the proposal will significantly enhance the development of the sport in the local area and provide access to the local community. The current demand for the sport indicates that there is need for increased provision. The additional playing hours created by the new courts would allow an increased number of people from the local community to enjoy the game of Padel in line with the LTA's Strategy.

However, the LTA point out that the submitted light assessment appears to be for the wrong site and refers to Winchester Racquets and Fitness rather than Seacourt. It also mentions Appendix 1 lighting calculations is attached as an appendix, but this does not appear to be included. It is recommended that the club engage a structural engineer to review the foundation design as this hasn't been included. Jubo Padel are a SAPCA-registered Padel contractor which are recommended by the LTA.

Assessment against Sport England's Objectives and the NPPF

Sport England agrees with the comments from the LTA and we would ask that the technical information is checked and confirmed. Until confirmation is provided on the lighting assessment and calculations, we wish to raise an objection. Once in receipt of the updated details then we will be happy to review our position.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Sport England is unable to support this application.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal
Planning Manager