

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/23/00415

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/23/00415

Address: Seacourt 20 Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island, PO11 9AJ

Proposal: Installation of fencing and lights to form two Padel Tennis courts.

Case Officer: Joseph Toole

Consultee Details

Name: Mr Tristan Norton

Address: Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Ecologist

Comments

Dear Joseph,

APP/23/00415 | Installation of fencing and lights to form two Padel Tennis courts. | Seacourt 20 Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island, PO11 9AJ

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information. I have therefore carried out my own non-exhaustive desk-based assessment using the application documents, online sources and GIS mapping. Whilst I would not expect this site to be of significant ecological value it comprises an existing hard surface set within what appears to be managed grassland, with planted trees/shrubs at the boundaries it is not currently possible for me to provide a definitive view. The proposals would require the removal of most/all of the grassland and could result in light spillage onto retained boundary vegetation. It is likely that any vegetation will be frequented by foraging/commuting bat species and there is potential for excessive artificial light spillage to result in the exclusion of bat species from the site. This is not to say that the site is likely to be of significant value to bats, but rather that bat species are ubiquitous within urban/suburban areas such as this and will almost certainly be present within the site and its surrounds.

The submitted Lighting Assessment appears to reference a different site, located in Winchester. It is not clear whether the existing and proposed lighting spillage calculations for the Seacourt site have been included in this report the plan showing the location of data collection points is certainly incorrect. I would like to see lighting contours for this site, allowing the potential spillage and lux levels onto adjacent vegetation to be assessed readily. I would recommend consideration of the joint Institute of Lighting Professionals/Bat Conservation Trust guidance note Bats and artificial lighting in the UK.

In summary, I would like to see some recent, good quality photographs of the application site. This will enable me to provide a more informed opinion on the likely impacts to vegetation and the likelihood of bat species being affected. In addition, the lighting strategy needs to address the potential impacts on ecological receptors.

NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and Natural England Standing Advice, require that planning decisions are based on full, up-to-date ecological information and it is essential that all necessary survey, assessment and mitigation information is available to the Local Planning Authority prior to determination, particularly in the case of protected sites, habitats and species, which are a material planning consideration. This will enable the Local Planning Authority to determine the application on the basis of full knowledge about the potential ecological impacts of the proposal and to ensure that any impacts can and will be mitigated.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Principal Ecologist | E: tristan.norton@havant.gov.uk

Planning Services, Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Havant, PO9 2AX