

Councillor Julie Richardson

09/03/2024

Mr Joseph Toole
Planning Officer
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant, HANTS PO9 2AX

Dear Mr Joseph Toole:

I am writing with reference to:

APP/23/00415 Site Address: Seacourt, 20 Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island, PO11 9AJ

I would like to request that the above application be 'called in' and determined by the Planning Committee.

The material planning reasons are as follows:

1. The ongoing benefits of supporting the tennis club to the wider community outweigh, in planning terms, the modest potential harm to the possible presence of foraging bats
2. The additional light spillage from the proposed lighting for the padel courts, would not result in a significant increase in ambient lighting within the surrounding area, taking into account all other sources of light
3. There is no other alternative to limit additional light spillage from the proposed lighting. Therefore, there is no available form of mitigation, and this should be weighed against the benefits to the wider community that the proposed padel courts would bring

In conclusion, in the early 1900's Seacourt's historic building was privately owned by a local scientist and real tennis enthusiast [REDACTED] It fell into disuse and disrepair during the war years and subsequent years.

In 1966 a group of Hayling residents re-established use of one of the world's few remaining real tennis courts. They created a unique racquets club which is very much a part of the heritage of Hayling Island.

Seacourt is a 'not for profit' organisation with multiple sport facilities. In order to improve its offer to the community it needs to keep abreast of popular and fashionable racquet

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sports. Padel is one of the worlds fastest growing sports and can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities as it is not as physically demanding on the body, whilst still providing an aerobic style workout.

One of the key Corporate Strategy's for Havant Borough Council is 'Wellbeing'. I believe that this planning proposal fully supports our vision for health, through sport for the community.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Julie Richardson
West Hayling Councillor