

From: [Redacted text]
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Wells, Lesley <Lesley.Wells@havant.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Planning Application APP/23/00415

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Dear Ms Wells

Seacourt Tennis Club – Padel Courts

We refer to our Club's planning application for the construction of 2 new Padel courts and would comment as follows.

My name is [redacted text] and I am responsible for the development of junior participation in Tennis at Seacourt. I have recently held meetings with Martyn Reah, Headmaster at Hayling College who wants to use Seacourt as an overspill PE facility.

Hayling College has only a limited amount of its own sports facilities and is keen to expand its PE offering to students when the new term begins in September. To achieve this the College wants to up with Seacourt Tennis Club using the club's wide range of sporting facilities as an overspill PE facility for the school. Over the first 2 weeks of July 48 students and PE staff from the college have spent time at Seacourt familiarising themselves with the sporting options that are available at the club.

Hayling College Headmaster, Martyn Reah is very keen for the young people of Hayling to have the opportunity to learn to play the up-and-coming sport of Padel Tennis during their PE lessons at this new facility.

Padel Tennis is undeniably the sport of the 21st century, with 25 million players in over 90 countries worldwide. In 2019 there were just 50 Padel Tennis courts in the UK. There are now 502 courts and applications are in across the country to create a further 525 across the country! Around 90,000 people in the UK now play Padel on a regular basis.

Currently, the nearest available padel courts are in Chichester but it seems impossible to get a court there as it is always fully booked. Seacourt will fund the construction of the proposed new courts and cover all the costs of any future maintenance, so the project will be at zero cost to the Council. It is important to note that if these courts are built **they will be open to everyone on Hayling to come and play as well as to the College**. Hopefully, Havant Borough Council will grab this exciting opportunity.

Seacourt Tennis Club is a non-profit making organisation providing the best range of sports facilities for young and old anywhere in the Borough. Please give your serious consideration to our application due to the benefits this would bring, which easily outweigh any minor objections that have been raised. Help bring this booming sport to a new generation of local juniors.

[Redacted text]

Director of Junior Tennis UK

Tennis& Rackets Association