MEMO

From	**Jonathan Rigg, RP Acoustics Ltd**
To	**Ryan Ellis, Padel Etc Management Company Ltd** **Melainie Goodier, Amber Valley Council**
RPA Ref	**1539**
Proposal	**AVA/2026/0405 Change of use from Class B2 to Class E(d) 11 Padel Courts at Units B & C, Heage Road Industrial Estate, Ripley**
Date	**12th October 2026**

Ryan

1.01 For your information I had a lengthy and constructive site with Melanie on Monday 5th October 2026 where the following topics were discussed:

- The nature of padel noise
- The noise levels associated with padel
- The assessment of padel noise
- The ambient and background noise climate
- The baseline noise monitoring
- The cumulative impact of multiple courts (2 doubles and 1 singles court in the unit nearest Heage Road, 3 doubles courts in the unit furthest from Heage Road)
- The 3 metre vs 15 metre scenario (as raised by an objector)
- Noise management procedures

1.02 A simulation of bat strikes was also undertaken with the associated noise inaudible adjacent on the grass banking to the nearest residential dwelling (but audible outside the gable end of the unit; note: lower half cavity masonry wall, upper half profiled metal sheet).

1.03 For ease of reference I will work through the following points in the order presented in Melanie's consultation response dated Friday 18th September 2026.

1.04 For reference, I am not going to address the discussions under 'Evidence from France' and Lawn Tennis Association Padel Cort Data Sheet as this clearly relates to outdoor padel courts and not indoor padel courts as is the case with the proposed change of use.

2.00 CUMULATIVE IMPACT

2.01 Melanie Goodier's consultation response point a) stated:

The measurements were made during one doubles game (4 players) – Appendix 8. Predictions should consider worst-case concurrent use of all courts; however, the 'Planning, Design and Access 3 Statement' describes the proposed development as consisting of 5 double and 1 single padel tennis courts accommodating up to 22 players during any given session'.

2.02 Firstly the measurements undertaken a the Purple Padel Club in Epworth were with both courts in use for doubles games.

2.03 As explained during the site meeting, the nearest court to the measurement position is the 'dominant' court due to distance attenuation (there is effectively no cumulative impact from side-on to courts as the primary noise source is 'bat striking ball' and the '2nd court in' is located circa 11 metres (10 metres court width plus 1 metre walkway between courts) from the court nearest the side wall of the building. Furthermore, noise levels at the side of courts (open mesh) are circa 12 decibels lower than those to the rear of the 3 metre high glass walls

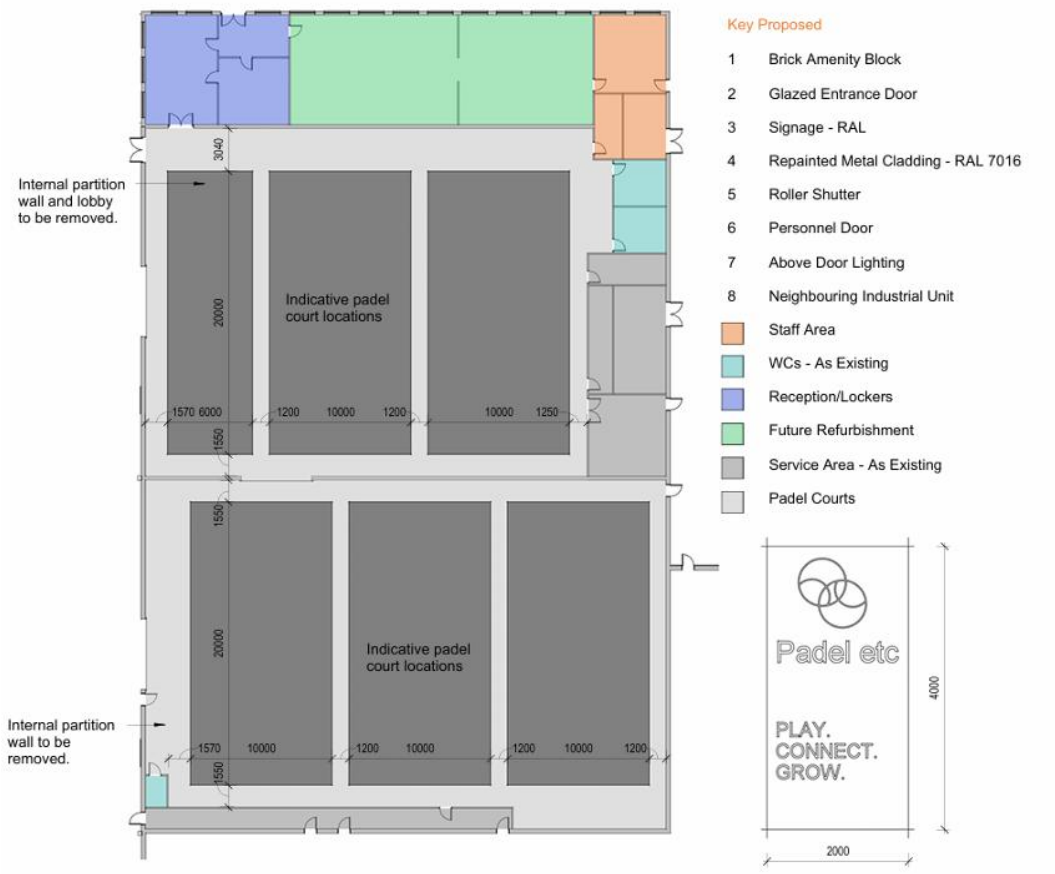
2.04 At the Purple Padel Club, simultaneous noise measurements were undertaken at P2 and P2a at 5 metres are 15 metres, respectively, from the side of nearest court. The corresponding noise measurements shown in Table 3.3 and 3.4 of the noise impact assessment illustrate point source propagation (circa 6 decibels reduction per distance of distance in terms of L_{AFMax} (note: padel noise impact assessment is **all** about the assessment of $L_{AFMax;}$ I will discuss the ProPG for Sport and Recreational noise later)

3.00 RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

3.01 Melanie Goodier's consultation response point b) stated:

The measurements should relate to the most exposed elevations at the nearest NSR, including first-floor habitable rooms, and quieter external amenity areas

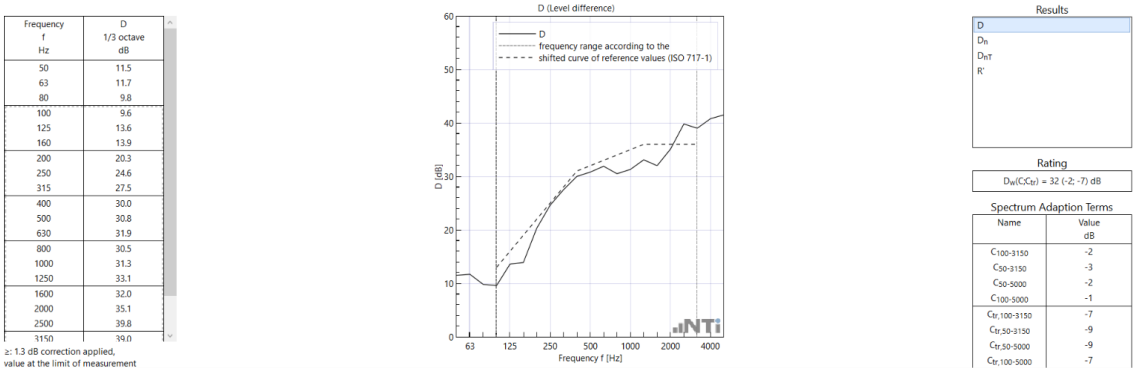
3.02 As explained during the site meeting, this is where the 15 metres assessment position is relevant. The distance from the edge of the nearest court to a) the dwelling house façade is circa 20 metres, b) the patio area is circa 15 metres, and c) the boundary fence is circa 11 metres (as shown overleaf). There is a high block work retaining wall with a timber fence on top which forms the boundary between the application site and the neighbouring residential dwelling.



3.03 Noise measurements at P2a at the Purple Padel Club, Epworth, demonstrated that highest maxima at 15 metres from the side of the court was 63 dB L_{AFMax}. It is noteworthy that the external wall at the Purple Padel Club is completely profiled metal sheeting (it is an old agricultural store) where-as at the application site the lower 3.2 metres is cavity masonry (outer facing brick work, inner facing block work) with profiled metal sheeting above.

3.04 During the site meeting, impact noise was generated at 88 dB L_{AFMax} at 5 metres distance (louder than padel) and Melanie Goodier confirmed that such noise was inaudible at a location adjacent to the neighbouring residential dwelling house (but audible in the ginnel between the application site and the neighbouring boundary wall / fence).

3.05 The level difference of the profiled metal sheeting at the application site has been established by measurement inside and outside to be 31 dB.



Frequency f Hz	D 1/3 octave dB
50	11.5
63	11.7
80	9.8
100	9.6
125	13.6
160	13.9
200	20.3
250	24.6
315	27.5
400	30.0
500	30.8
630	31.9
800	30.5
1000	31.3
1250	33.1
1600	32.0
2000	35.1
2500	39.8
3150	39.0

≥: 1.3 dB correction applied, value at the limit of measurement

Results

D
D_n
D_{nT}
R'

Rating

$D_w(C;C_{tr})$ = 32 (-2; -7) dB

Spectrum Adaption Terms

Name	Value dB
$C_{100-3150}$	-2
$C_{50-3150}$	-3
$C_{50-5000}$	-2
$C_{100-5000}$	-1
$C_{tr,100-3150}$	-7
$C_{tr,50-3150}$	-9
$C_{tr,50-5000}$	-9
$C_{tr,100-5000}$	-7

3.06 Padel noise has been measured at open air sites as up to 84 dB L_{AFMax} at 5 metres and 82 dB L_{AFMax} at 8 metres from the open side of the nearest court (8 metres is the distance from the nearest proposed padel court in the building closest to the neighbouring residential dwelling to the boundary fence). As Padel will take place at the application site within a building, a + 6 dB reverberation correction is added to this to give 88 dB L_{AFMax} immediately inside the profiled metal sheeting which is then reduced by 31 dB to 57 dB L_{AFMax} immediately outside the profiled metal sheeting.

3.07 Even without taking account of any further attenuation for distance or the timber fence on top of the boundary wall, this is significantly below the 65 dB L_{AFMax} limit recommended within ProPG Sport and Leisure Noise for sports facilities where there will be frequently occurring impulsive events.

3.08 For reference, the roof has historically been lined with an additional 12.5 board material below and the level difference from outside to inside was circa 38 dB Rw.

3.09 It is worth reiterating that, during site meeting, impact noise was generated at 88 dB L_{AFMax} at 5 metres distance (louder than padel) and Melanie Goodier confirmed that such noise was inaudible at a location adjacent to the neighbouring residential dwelling house.

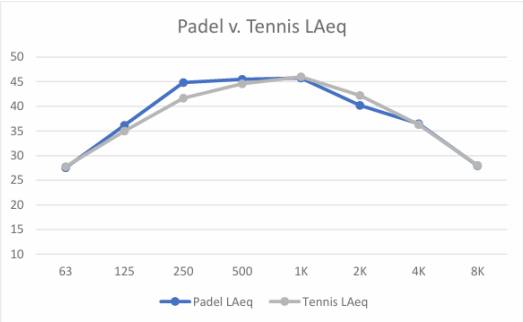
4.00 PADEL NOISE

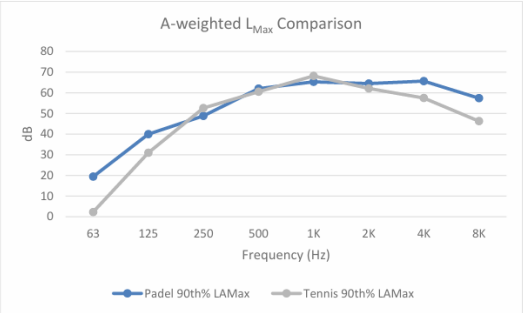
4.01 Melanie Goodier's consultation response point c) stated:

Corrections to the predicted L_{Aeq} do not adequately address the frequency and repetitive nature of impulsive events, which have been described in reported complaints as sounding like 'rifle fire' and 'explosive'

4.02 In respect of padel noise being described as akin to 'rifle fire' and 'explosive' (as commentated by a complainant at an outdoor padel court rather than by a qualified acoustician), I refer to Hepworth Acoustics Report Reference P25-393-R01 for the conversion of two existing tennis courts to two open padel courts and one covered padel court at 247 Cranmore Boulevard, Shirley, Solihull B90 4ZL which states '*Whilst the character of Padel court match noise is not generally significantly different to a tennis match, the overall noise levels are higher and the sound of solid perforated racquet hitting the ball is somewhat different. However, the spectral content of the overall match noise levels is not significantly different'.*

4.03 This is further corroborated by Clarke Saunders Report Reference AS12543.220530.NIA for the installation at East Dorset Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Poole as shown below.





4.04 In terms of the assessment of padel noise, ProPG Sport and Leisure Noise recommends a 65 dB L_{AFMax} limit for sports facilities where there will be frequently occurring impulsive events. No recommendation is made to a limit in terms of L_{Aeq}.

5.00 PADEL NOISE STANDARDS

5.01 Melanie Goodier's consultation response point d) stated:

The assessment in paragraph 4.04 compares the typical maximum noise levels of around 55 – 60 dB L_{AFMax} measured at P2a and P3 with the existing maximum noise levels 'regularly and consistently measured' at the application site as 60 dB L_{AFMax} or higher, suggesting that noise from the proposed padel courts would therefore readily meet the criteria in the 'Professional Practice Guidance on Planning & Noise (ProPG)'. However, the scope of this guidance is restricted to the consideration of new residential development exposed to noise from transportation sources. In the absence of UK-specific padel noise standards, the principles of BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 should be used as an analytical framework to compare predicted padel noise levels against representative background sound levels, with appropriate correction for impulsive and distinctive characteristics. The judgement on whether or not to undertake a BS 4142 assessment should be proportionate to the level of risk, such as the proximity of NSRs, building construction etc.

5.02 As discussed at the site meeting, ProPG for Sport and Leisure Noise has now been published (late June 2026). This is therefore the relevant framework against which to assess padel noise.

5.03 As a point of clarification, as stated in Paragraph 4.04 of the original noise impact assessment:

5.04 There is therefore no adverse impact with the Padel courts operating between 0600 and 0700 (which is within the night time period).

6.00 ADDITIONAL MONITORING

6.01 At the request of Melanie Goodier, additional weekend monitoring has been undertaken over a weekend in the ginnel between the application site and the nearest residential dwelling and the ambient (L_{Aeq}), background (L_{A90}) and maximum (L_{AFMax}) noise levels are reproduced in the table below (rounded to the nearest decibel).

Saturday 04/10	LAeq	LA90	LAFMax	Sunday 05/10	LAeq	LA90	LAFMax
0600	48	45	59	0600	48	45	61
0700	49	46	68	0700	49	46	76
0800	48	45	66	0800	49	45	63
0900	48	45	65	0900	48	45	69
1000	48	45	60	1000	48	45	64
1100	48	45	67	1100	51	46	66
1200	48	45	65	1200	50	47	67
1300	49	46	68	1300	49	47	67
1400	48	45	63	1400	48	46	69
1500	49	46	72	1500	49	47	70
1600	50	47	68	1600	49	47	63
1700	50	47	67	1700	49	47	63
1800	48	46	69	1800	48	46	61
1900	48	45	65	1900	48	46	58
2000	48	45	67	2000	48	46	56
2100	49	47	65	2100	48	46	55
2200	48	46	58	2200	48	45	57
Monday 06/10	**LAeq**	**LA90**	**LAFMax**	The new monitoring position is more sheltered being at the foot of the retaining wall; the neighbouring dwelling house and garden is obviously not at the foot of the retaining wall			
0600	51	48	63				
0700	50	47	66				

6.02 The weekend background sound levels at the new monitoring position in the ginnel at 1.5 metres above ground level are not significantly different (within 2 to 3 dB) to those in the original noise impact assessment. This is because the background sound level (L_{A90}) is due to the A38 and not Heage Road (as traffic movements on Heage Road are more sporadic).

Weekday	LA90	Saturday	LA90	Sunday	LA90
0600	47	0600	45	0600	45
0700	48	0700	46	0700	46
2100	49	2100	47	2100	46
2200	48	2200	46	2200	48

6.03 It is important to note that the ProPG Sport and Leisure Noise makes no reference whatsoever to the background sound level. The 65 dB L_{AFMax} criteria is set irrespective of the background sound level.

6.04 The ambient noise level at the new monitoring position in the ginnel at 1.5 metres above ground level during the weekend are circa 5 dB lower than the levels previously measured. The new monitoring position is more sheltered being at the foot of the retaining wall (as shown by a comparison of weekday and weekend noise measurements). The neighbouring dwelling house and garden is obviously not at the foot of the retaining wall.

6.05 Again it is important to note that the ProPG Sport and Leisure Noise makes no reference whatsoever to the ambient noise level. The 65 dB L_{AFMax} criteria is set irrespective of the ambient noise level.

7.00 MISCELLANOUS

7.01 As discussed at the site meeting with Melanie Goodier:

- The mezzanine floor area located against the boundary of the unit closest to the neighbouring residential dwelling is to be used as a 'chill-out zone / spectator viewing area'

- Any music within the units will be set as background only such that music is inaudible at the application site boundary with residential dwellings

- A member of the management team will be allocated responsibility to deal with (the unlikely occurrence) of complaints from neighbours

8.00 CONCLUSION

8.01 In conclusion, the overall conclusion of the original noise impact assessment that the noise associated with the proposed padel courts at the application site are considered to be at the No Observed Adverse Effect Level in that, at worst, '*Noise can be heard, but does not cause any change in behaviour or attitude. Can slightly affect the acoustic character of the area but not such that there is a perceived change in the quality of life*' has been further reinforced by the site meeting, sound insulation testing of the building envelope and further monitoring.

8.02 The proposed padel courts will readily comply with the ProPG Sport and Leisure Noise recommend limit of 65 dB L_{AFMax} for sports facilities where there will be frequently occurring impulsive events.

Best regards

Jonathan Rigg
Associate Member of the Institute of Acoustics
RP Acoustics Ltd