



We live at 15 Kidderpore Gardens, which is one of the houses that back onto the tennis courts and will be impacted severely by the proposed floodlighting scheme at West Heath tennis club. We object strongly to these proposals, and outline our reasons below.

1. This scheme is completely inappropriate in a residential area. The club's grounds have been in darkness at night for all of the 23 years we have lived here. This is a significant amenity for the residents in this area - there is little noise at night and very little artificial light. From all the rooms at the back of our house - the sitting room and kitchen/diner on the ground floor, two bedrooms on the first floor, and study on the top floor - when you look through the windows at night nearly all you see over the tennis club grounds is darkness. And in the summer, when we spend a lot of time in the garden in the evenings, again there is darkness and quiet.

2. Our house is less than 100 feet from the proposed floodlights. Indeed, from the terrace at the end of our garden, the floodlights will be less than 20 feet. We will be separated only by the width of Croftway, which is a pedestrian passageway, and a narrow bank at the edge of the courts.

3. The courts at West Heath are elevated as they are built on top of a reservoir. To give you an idea of the impact of this, an adult standing in one of the bedrooms on the first floor at the back of our house will have the surface of the court at approximately eye level. The proposed floodlights will then be a further 6 metres in height, plus the height of the floodlights themselves. Although the poles will be 6 metres, the impression instead will be that they are at least 9 metres in height once the ground elevation is added.

4. Because of the elevation of the courts and the height of the poles, the light from the floodlights will be extremely intrusive. No amount of shielding will prevent the lights from impacting our garden, terrace and the rooms at the back of the house. They will thus cause us a serious nuisance. The club intends these lights to be on until 9.30 pm, which means that we will be affected basically for the entire evening.

5. During the daytime, the poles will be a significant eyesore and will be topped by large floodlights making them even more intrusive.

6. The courts are noisy during the day - something that has changed significantly in very recent years. When we first moved in, the courts were quiet and were used mainly at the weekend by

club members. Recently they have been rented out for periods during the day to a local school for use as a sports ground. This usage starts early in the morning before school, continues intermittently during the day, and regularly goes late into the day with after school matches, clubs etc. We have put up with this noise without complaint, although the club did not consult with neighbours before making these arrangements with the school. However, we then look forward to dusk when the quiet returns and we can enjoy our garden in peace. This will change drastically for us if the club is allowed to install floodlights and the noise then continues until late in the evening. Again it will cause us a severe nuisance and loss of the amenity of our peaceful garden. Since the courts are now regularly being used for non-tennis purposes, we are also worried that this type of non-tennis usage could continue late into the evening, further increasing noise levels.

For all these reasons we urge you to refuse planning permission for this scheme.

Yours sincerely
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Sent from my iPad