



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: *Ethan Bonthron*

FROM: *Helen Forster*

DATE: *31 October 2023*

SUBJECT: *Meopham Tennis Club, Meopham 20230817*

The following is provided by Kent County Council's Ecological Advice Service (KCC EAS) for Local Planning Authorities. It is independent, professional advice and is not a comment/position on the application from the county council. It is intended to advise the relevant planning officer(s) on the potential ecological impacts of the planning application and if sufficient/appropriate ecological information has been provided.

Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have must be directed in every instance to the planning officer, who will seek input from the EAS where appropriate and necessary.

Variation of Condition 3:

The current condition states: *The lighting installation hereby permitted shall only be used, when required, between the hours of 4 pm to 9pm Monday to Friday and 4pm to 7pm on Saturday and only between 1 October and 31 March the following year. The installation shall include automatic cutoff switches to ensure the approved floodlights are turned off completely outside of these times.*

We understand that the proposal is to extend the lighting to be operational between 7 and 9 Monday to Friday in April and September.

The lighting could have negative impacts on foraging/commuting bats within the area if the lighting impacts any of the site boundaries or surrounding habitats.

Therefore to consider this impact photos of the light when operational have been provided by the planning officer. They do indicate that the light spill from the existing lighting does drop off fairly quickly due to the angles of the lights and the existing vegetated boundary. So while there is light spill from the courts the photos do suggest that it is not excessive.

As the lighting will only be operational until 9pm there will be periods that the site is in darkness ensuring that bats and other nocturnal species (if present) can continue to forage/commute along the boundaries. In addition due to the location of the tennis court nocturnal species will be able to forage /commute along the opposite side of the hedgerows/boundaries.

Based on the above conclusions we advise that while the increase in lighting could have a negative impact on the bat population it is unlikely to be a significant impact.

We advise that we accept that the extension of hours is acceptable.

If you have any queries regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Helen Forster MCIEEM
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:
Application Form