Horsham Football Club – Additional Hours Planning Application
Summary of Objections and Responses

Application Reference: DC/24/1472

There have been 8 letters of objection submitted against this planning application. HFC have analysed them and summarised them below, ignoring duplicated points. We have broken them into three major categories as below: assertions that are factually incorrect, objections which are answered in the planning application documents and other objections, including the Club's response to each point.

Assertions that are factually incorrect

No	Title	Objection	Source	Response
1	Light Pollution	Light Pollution will increase through extended hours.	SWCP	There will be no increased light pollution as the additional hours relate only to Clubhouse use and not pitch floodlighting. Use of floodlighting is expensive and it is not in the Club's interests to use them when not required.
2	Impact on Neighbours	Additional use of floodlights will cause a detriment to neighbours	Neighbour	Not correct as the application does not include any additional hours for use of floodlighting.
3	Impact on Wildlife	Wildlife will be impacted by increased use of floodlighting	SWCP	Again, no additional use of floodlights is applied for, therefore this concern is not warranted.
4	Additional noise from use of pitches	Noise – already subjected to noise owing to matches and training and this will increase	Neighbour	Additional hours relate only to the Clubhouse and there will be no additional noise from the pitches as they will not be in use. Use of the Clubhouse will be covered by a Noise Management Plan.

5	Impact on other businesses	If the FC is allowed to open later it will take trade away from other venues in the town	Neighbour	We do already compete with other event spaces in the district, but this is just fair commercial competition and the extension would provide us with a level playing field.
6	Nature of Venue	The Club wants to operate a late-night events venue	Neighbour	The club only wants to operate on an equal footing to other similar enterprises in Horsham District. It will not be operating as a late-night venue but providing facilities for social events up to midnight. It is an ancillary facility that provides vital revenue to the Football Club, like other clubhouses up and down the country.
7	Change of Use	Original application did not intend the club house to be used as an event space for hire for events such as weddings, birthdays or wakes.	Neighbour	Use of the clubhouse for social events was made explicit in the original application and approved within the current hours of use.
8	Non-Core Activities	Increased hours and events are not associated with the core purpose of football	Neighbour	It is a key requirement that non-football related events can take place in the clubhouse to financially support football activities. This is already approved under the existing consent. This application only requests to extend the hours at which these activities can take place.
9	Unfair Competition	Extending opening hours beyond 23:00 gives the Football Club an advantage over other local venues.	Neighbour	We know from experience that we are losing business because we cannot offer facilities to 12pm which other venues can offer. The proposed extension of hours will just place us on a level playing field and will not result in any unfair competition.
10	Additional traffic on Worthing Road	Extension of hours of use will increase traffic and speed limits on Worthing Road will be ignored	Neighbour	Any increase in traffic on the busy Worthing Road will be negligible; attendees will simply leave one hour later and violations of speed limits by anyone is a legal not a planning issue.
11	Parking	There is limited on-site parking and main parking is across the busy Worthing Road	Neighbour	Parking at the club is sufficient for the size and nature of the events held at the clubhouse. There is no requirement for attendees to park at the Park and Ride.

12	People Wandering Around at Night	Additional Hours of Use will result in people wandering around at night disturbing local residents.	Neighbour	The current consent already allows events to finish at 11pm and these do not cause issues with people “wandering around” or “disturbing local residents”. It is true that people may leave up to an hour later, but this will be controlled and governed by the Noise Management Plan.
13	Noise Impact Assessment	Noise Impact Assessment is fundamentally flawed.	Neighbour	Incorrect. The report was carefully produced by independent industry experts using real life test results. Its findings have been accepted by the Council’s Environmental Health Officer.

Objections Which Are Answered in the Planning Submission

14	Noise Impact	There will be adverse effects from noise	SWPC	The Noise Impact Assessment identifies extremely marginal impacts on one property in a worst-case scenario of live music beyond 11pm and doors open. The Noise Management Plan describes the measures to be taken to reduce any impact to neighbours and a complaints procedure. No live music will be played beyond 11pm and doors will be closed. A steward will be on site to monitor noise conditions around the boundary of the site after 11pm to ensure that no noise can be heard from the Clubhouse. It is noted that the Clubhouse currently operates without a Noise Management Plan and therefore arguably its adoption by the Club provides a greater element of control over events than exists currently.
15	Noise Policy	There needs to be an enforceable policy for noise impacts	SWPC	The Noise Management Plan describes the measures to be taken and a complaints procedure.
16	Noise Pollution	Noise Pollution will increase though extended hours.	SWPC	Noise mitigation measures are addressed in the Noise Management Plan.

17	Wind Direction and Noise Levels	Noise Assessment does not account for the effects of wind direction.	SWPC	Extraneous noise from the Clubhouse is covered by the Noise Management Plan. The measures proposed, especially the boundary checks during the additional hours, will ensure that any extraneous noise heard at the site boundaries, regardless of wind direction, can be addressed.
18	Noise Management Plan	There should be measures to actively manage and control noise levels during the additional hours	SWPC	The Noise Management Plan describes the measures to be taken especially relating to the additional hours, and a complaints procedure.
19	Windows and Doors	If application is agreed all windows and doors should be kept closed	Neighbour	This very point is covered in the Noise Management Plan.
20	Highways Considerations	WSCC Highways have raised no objections but have failed to address issues of the unlit road with narrow footpaths and no public transport increasing safety risks	SWPC	There would be the same level of risk in accessing Worthing Road at 12 am as at the existing deadline of 11pm.

Responses to Other Objections

21	Traffic Management Plan	A comprehensive Traffic Management Plan is needed to address travel issues during extended hours	SWPC	A Transport Plan already exists and has been agreed by all parties and updated since inception. If the application is successful, this will be updated to address any further requirements.
22	Public Transport	There is no public transport after 11pm	Neighbour	This point will be covered by the Transport Plan; the same issue already exists within current opening hours
23	Crime and Disorder	Risk of crime and disorder owing to lack of a transport plan	SWPC	A Transport Plan is already in place. The Club has now been open for over five years and there has been no increase in crime or disorder in the area, so it is unlikely to increase as a result of this application.

24	No change Required	There is no justification for changing the originally agreed hours	Neighbour	Situations change over time and this application reflects changed circumstances and demand.
25	SWPC Support for Application	Previous Restrictions on Operating Hours – SWPC would not have supported the original application if it had included the extended hours and still objects now	SWPC	Not entirely sure that SWPC did support the original application as they have always been passionately opposed. Nevertheless, the original application covered what we believed we needed at the time, but since then things have changed and demand has increased. We have also shown that many of the fears expressed at the original application were mis-founded and the Club has operated successfully since 2019 without issues and as good neighbours.
26	Sussex Police Licensing Team	Response from Sussex Police raises no objections but recommends that the Licensing Team are contacted	SWPC	The police have indeed recommended this in their response, and if successful we will certainly be contacting the licensing team for advice. This would be a normal part of the process for applying for a licensing extension.
27	Resident Objections	Nine objections have been submitted by residents	SWPC	We note the comments submitted by residents and have worked hard to mitigate any impact on our neighbours. Most of the points made are covered in the existing measures planned.

It should be noted that many of the letters of objection cover multiple and similar points using very similar language.