

HATFIELD PEVEREL PARISH COUNCIL

Noise Management Policy for Floodlit Double Tennis Courts on the Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground

1. Introduction

This Noise Management Policy is designed to minimise noise disturbance from the use of the floodlit double tennis courts located on the Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground. The policy aims to satisfy planning conditions and to balance the needs of tennis players and the residents of properties adjoining the Recreation Ground. All users of the tennis courts, including residents, members, coaches, visitors, and future organised groups or clubs that Hatfield Peverel Parish Council may from time to time enter into agreement with, are expected to comply with this policy. It is the responsibility of HPPC to ensure this policy is implemented.

2. Objectives

- To ensure that noise levels from the tennis courts do not adversely impact the surrounding community.
- To establish clear guidelines for the use of the courts particularly during evening hours, including the use of floodlighting.
- To ensure that the courts are used for tennis only.
- To prevent the use of loudspeakers or music systems that could cause noise disturbance.
- To provide a framework for the responsible management of the facility.

3. Hours of Operation

To minimise noise disturbance, the following hours of operation for the tennis courts are established:

Monday to Saturday (Winter¹):

Earliest start time: 9:00 AM

o Latest finish time: 9:00 PM

Sundays, Public and Bank Holidays (Winter):

Earliest start time: 10:00 AM

o Latest finish time: 7:00 PM

¹ Defined as being when the UK is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Monday to Saturday (Summer²):

o Earliest start time: 9:00 AM

o Latest finish time: 10:00 PM

• Sundays, Public and Bank Holidays (Summer):

Earliest start time: 10:00 AM

Latest finish time: 10:00 PM

Floodlights will operate with the booking system and may be used from dusk until the latest finish time

4. Coaching and Group Activities

To control noise from larger group activities, the following conditions apply to coaching and other organised sessions:

Coaches

 Only coaches appointed by Hatfield Peverel Parish Council will be allowed to coach on the courts.

• Maximum Number of Participants:

- Group coaching sessions are limited to a maximum of 8 adult participants per court with professional coaches.
- Numbers attending group coaching sessions for children are at the discretion of the coach, who will be responsible for managing noise levels as appropriate.

• Time Limits for Coaching:

 Coaching sessions must conclude promptly at the finish time listed in this policy, and the courts vacated quietly.

5. Noise Minimisation Measures

To further manage noise levels, the following measures must be complied with by players, coaches and spectators:

No Loud Music or Speakers:

- The use of loudspeakers, amplified music, or any form of sound amplification equipment is strictly prohibited.
- Players and coaches are encouraged to communicate without shouting or using any form of amplification.
- Low level music for use with Cardio Tennis will be permitted for no more than two sessions a week each lasting no longer than one hour.

² Defined as being when the UK is on British Summer Time (BST)

Behavioural Expectations:

- Players and spectators are expected to keep voices at a reasonable level, particularly during early morning and late evening hours.
- No other activity including Pickleball or Padel Tennis is to be played on the courts both of which can create louder noise or disturbance.
- Any form of anti-social behaviour that contributes to noise disturbance, such as loud celebrations, is not permitted.
- No tennis ball machines are allowed without the specific consent of Hatfield Peverel Parish Council
- No alcohol is allowed, and food should be kept to a minimum.
- A maximum number of 4 players per court is allowed to prevent potential noise and possible injury (except for Coach and Group Activities referred to in No 4 of this Noise Management Plan)
- o Children under 13 must accompanied by a parent or responsible person aged 18 or over.
- All users of the tennis courts are expected to behave responsibly and considerately and must adhere to the rules and noise regulations. Children should be adequately supervised by a responsible person/adult.

• Equipment Maintenance:

Players and Coaches:

 Must ensure that the courts and equipment are used correctly to minimise noise.

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council:

 Will ensure signage for use of the courts, age restriction, complaints, reporting and emergency contact numbers is kept clear and clean.

6. Communication and Monitoring

• Community Liaison:

- The Parish Clerk/Assistant Parish Clerk will be available at the Parish Council office to address any concerns from nearby residents regarding noise between the hours of 9:00 and 13:00 or by emailing parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com
- Regular communication with nearby residents will be maintained to inform them of any changes to court usage or hours.
- o Any noise or antisocial complaints will be dealt with as follows:
 - a. logged and recorded including details of concern, name, address and contact details.
 - b. investigated and if necessary escalated to the Parish Council.

- c. appropriate action taken, recorded and logged to remedy and to reduce risk of recurrence.
- d. a written response sent to complainant.
- e. personal data will be stored in accordance with the Parish Council's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice.

Monitoring:

- Noise levels will be periodically monitored to ensure compliance with this policy.
- A regular weekly inspection of the courts will be made, and random inspections by designated personnel will also be carried out of the courts whilst in use.

7. Enforcement and Review

• Enforcement:

- Failure to comply with this Noise Management Policy will result in disciplinary action by the Parish Council.
- Repeat violations by individuals or groups will lead to restricted and/or no access to the courts.

Review:

- This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if significant issues arise, to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Input from nearby residents, users of the facility and Parish Councillors will be considered during the review process.

8. Conclusion

This Noise Management Policy is integral to maintaining a positive relationship between the Parish Council and the local community. By adhering to these guidelines, the Parish Council aims to create a welcoming environment for all while minimising the impact of noise on our neighbours.

