

## Debbie Briers

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**From:** D JOHNSON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 May 2025 10:51  
**To:** Democratic  
**Cc:** Debbie Briers  
**Subject:** Re: Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing: 20 May 2025 at 10:00 am - Variation of Premises Licence - David Lloyd Leisure Centre, Ringwood, Hampshire  
**Attachments:** Licensing Sub Committee Hearing 20 May 2025 at 10am Variation of Premises Licence David Lloyd Leisure Centre Ringwood Hampshire .docx

Please find attached

many thanks

Duncan

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Debbie.Briers@NFDC.GOV.UK  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2nd 2025, 11:06  
**Subject:** Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing: 20 May 2025 at 10:00 am - Variation of Premises Licence - David Lloyd Leisure Centre, Ringwood, Hampshire

Dear Sir/ Madam

Please see the attached letter, Notice of Hearing and Procedure Note in respect of the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing scheduled for 10:00am on Tuesday 20 May 2025 regarding the David Lloyd Leisure Centre, Ringwood.

The papers the Sub-Committee will be considering will be sent to you on 12 May.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Briers Business Support Officer (Governance and Housing) New Forest District Council Tel: 023 8028 5074

debbie.briers@nfdc.gov.uk

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.newforest.gov.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C0b70392106d9412788c408dd913a7716%7C09969afd0c3043739fd3ce5bbbf19141%7C0%7C0%7C638826402784392580%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoIjWFBpbCIsIlUjYjYQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bV1zr4y2yQjSrchaqAXZ1ji8lAclIcy8F5flkWK3FIM%3D&reserved=0>

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Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the hearing on 20 May 2025 in person due to work commitments. I do not have a representative, nor do I wish for anyone else to speak on my behalf. However, I would like to submit the following questions and concerns for the committee's consideration:

## **1. Fairness and Respect**

I would like to start by stating that I am not a lawyer/solicitor or planning/licensing expert, nor do I have the backing of a large organisation. I am simply a member of the public who believes in fairness, transparency, and ensuring that everyone is treated with respect throughout this process.

## **2. Public Nuisance – Conversion of Squash Courts to Multi-Use Hall**

My understanding is that the proposed multi-use hall will host activities such as pickleball and children's events. These activities, currently held on badminton courts (away from residential homes), are not problematic. However, the new location places them directly next to homes on Christchurch Road, Ringwood—specifically those just metres from the existing squash courts, such as 224 Christchurch Road.

Pickleball is widely recognised as a noisy sport due to the high-pitched "pop" sound created during play. Children's activities, while valuable, can also be loud. It's natural and welcome for children to laugh and shout—but will residents trying to relax in their gardens feel the same?

Have local residents—particularly those whose homes back directly onto the development—been consulted? Though the activities will take place indoors, has any form of noise or sound assessment been carried out and shared with them? In the U.S., noise from pickleball has led to the rise of specialist mitigation companies, highlighting the seriousness of the issue.

From a legal standpoint, I understand that under UK law, noise complaints may fall under “statutory nuisance” within the Environmental Protection Act 1990, if the noise unreasonably interferes with the use and enjoyment of a property or harms residents' health. While I may not be a legal expert, I hope this is given fair consideration.

## **3. Protection of Children from Harm – Car Park Safety**

With the refurbishment likely attracting more families and children, car park safety becomes an urgent concern. The car park, as it stands, is not child-friendly. I have personally witnessed and experienced near-miss incidents involving children walking from the entrance to their vehicles. There are no clearly defined safe walking areas, and the risk of a serious, potentially fatal accident is very real. From discussions with staff and club management, DL Ringwood are hoping to grow membership by ~500 new members. I would assume ~100 badminton, squash and racquetball members will leave. Where will these net 400 new members park incl the expected families? The car park is already full with overflow being parking in the cul-de-sac opposite or on a very busy Christchurch Road. Children will be exposed to further safety issues having to cross the busy road with/without an adult. Additionally, have local residents agreed to this informal overflow parking agreement?

Additionally, child-and-parent parking bays are regularly misused by individuals without children, and despite multiple complaints, nothing has been done to enforce proper use. If more children and families are expected, car park safety must be reviewed and improved to meet the standards expected under the “protection of children from harm.”

#### **4. Vague and Non-Specific Language in the Application**

The wording used in David Lloyd’s licensing application is often vague and lacks necessary specificity. Phrases such as “numerous unlicensed public areas,” “modest changes,” and “minor layout changes” are unclear and open to wide interpretation. Without clear definitions, how can the committee or local residents make an informed and meaningful judgment on the proposals?

#### **5. Disregard for Process and Community Engagement**

Finally, I wish to express disappointment that David Lloyd appears to have started work on these changes before the committee has met or decisions have been finalised. Closing the squash courts ( named in this notice ) in advance of the hearing suggests a disregard for both the committee's authority and the consultation process. This action undermines the principles of transparency and respect for public input. I hope the committee will take this into account and seek an explanation from David Lloyd.

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Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I appreciate the committee’s efforts to ensure this process is conducted fairly and with respect to all.