



Parish of St Clément

PARISH ASSEMBLY

An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Clément was held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 23 August 2023 at 7.00 pm to:-

1. Consider the following application for a Licence for the year 2023 in virtue of the Licensing (Jersey) Law, 1974:-

Name:	Island Padel Limited
Address:	The Padel Pad St Clement's Golf & Sports Centre Plat Douet Road St Clément JE2 6PN
Category:	Third

The Connétable called the meeting to order and read out the convening notice and confirmed where the notices had been advertised. He also read out in full the relevant notes and articles in the licensing law and reminded the assembly that we will be discussing the merits of the application only and any historic matters regarding planning and noise tests were not appropriate in this instance. He also advised that anyone who spoke was entitled to address the Licensing Assembly.

Scott Clayton spoke on behalf of Island Padel Limited who are seeking a 3rd category licence for their 35.19 m² square amenity space (The Padel Pad). In addition to being a reception/waiting area, this is currently where players can purchase a light snack and/or non-alcoholic drink and come together socially both before and after their game. It is designed to allow for 15 seats, is fully insulated to shield noise with a separate 9.6m² storage area that also acts as a noise buffer.

Padel is a fast-growing sport, and their ethos is to create a fully inclusive vibrant community based on a 'pay and play' model. They have already held several successful events for which a special permit had been granted by the Bailiff and there had been no issues through the consumption of alcohol.

They would not be serving sprits and would only serve alcohol on weekdays between 3pm to 8pm and weekends/public holidays between 12pm and 8pm. Appropriately trained staff would be on duty during these hours and an experienced advisor had been engaged to ensure that it is managed appropriately. All profit generated by this amenity space will be donated to the not-for-profit organisation Padel For All who's aim is to provide access to padel to the lower income households in the Island, particularly their children. Island Padel Limited and Padel For All will be working together to achieve their joint 'sport for all' philosophy. The amenity space is ancillary to the padel business but a necessity to support this fully inclusive community approach.

St Clement's Golf & Sports Centre support their application and allow full access to their facilities.

Taruna Pereira questioned that, if their aim was to attract children, why did they need an alcohol licence. Morgan Jubb, Director of Padel For All advised that the profit from alcohol sales would fund their school programs which with the current cost of living crisis, many parents cannot afford.

Cordelia Miller said that the amenity space doesn't face the padel courts. The hedge that had been planted to restrict the noise from the facility was puny and would take 10 years to grow to produce any result. She is concerned how people will be kept seated in the shed. Alcohol affects people and that would escalate the existing noise problem. Mr Jubb advised that The Padel Pad overlooks court 1 and play can be viewed. Should a licence be granted they will abide by the law and any conditions applied. In establishing the facility all planning laws and obligations have been met. Padel is not a drinking community, they have not had any issues

with special licenced events already held. The hedge will grow. Ms Miller commented that a hedge was a cheap solution, but it was not adequate. The Connétable reminded the assembly that the history of noise from the padel courts had been dealt with and was nothing to do with the licencing application.

Rosemary Farry asked if alcohol would be served all day. Mr Judd reiterated the times that they would be serving, and the Connétable added the opening hours permitted would be enforceable by law. Ms Farry maintained that any noise generated would contribute to the overall noise level and the Connétable reminded everyone that anyone consuming alcohol will be confined to The Padel Pad.

Colin Pereira asked about the disposal of glass which would generate more noise. Mr Judd advised that they were responsible recyclers, and The Padel Pad has a bottle bin.

Nick Barber advised that he had moved to the area last September and the noise generated by the padel facility had exceeded his expectations and he was concerned about the extra noise that would be produced.

Glenn Godfrey expressed concerns about people in high spirits after consuming alcohol, where would they go. Would there be drunken cheering, music, serving alcohol may attract more people.

Mr Judd advised that they had held several events over the last 18 months attended by 100+ people at which alcohol was available and there had been no issues. This was significantly more than the 15 they would be catering for in The Padel Pad. It is only possible to have 20 players on the courts any time, who do not drink alcohol before they play and generally would socialise for half an hour before leaving. Most players travel by car.

Gareth Green advised he was in support of the application. Noise was a separate issue. The padel facilities are of benefit to a wider community and bring money into the Island The players are responsible and are just looking to enjoy a quiet beer at the end of a match not a pub crawl.

Nuno Santos-Costa questioned whether light snacks constituted food and whether a thrid category was the right one. He confirmed that mostly players arrive by car.

Jessia Staal commented that serving alcohol was contradictory to the World Health Organisation's campaign for people to be more active/healthy. Soft drinks would be more beneficial.

Axel Staal commented that there was a pub down the road.

Morgan Judd advised that their application intended to give their inclusive community choice.

Agnieszka De Freitas advised that The Squash Club often hold events which at times can generate excessive noise, loud music etc often at unsociable hours. If the Padel Pad could only seat 15 what margin would there be to enable significant profit to be made for Padel For All. There was no mention of The Padel Pad on the original planning application for the facility which was entirely about sport. Partners Restaurant was close by. Mr Judd advised that they had complied with a rigorous planning process. The design of the Squash Club was significantly different, they had a sliding door which faced the road and their opening hours were longer. The Padel Pad was insulated and didn't face the road. Alcohol is extremely profitable, and they are hoping to generate £7.5 to £10k for the charity.

Deputy Alex Curtis advised that whilst he was not a resident of the Parish and therefore unable to vote, he had several concerns on behalf of his constituents. Firstly, he was surprised by the category and that toilet facilities were not available on the premises. Parishioners had been surprised by the application as it wasn't included in the original plans. Could the Assembly be reassured that alcohol would always be served inside and it wasn't their intention to apply for alfresco seating in the future. Could they satisfy the conditions of the licence ie people must be seated inside. Mr Judd advised that it was the Government who had advised that a 3rd category would best meet their needs and that the licensing law was currently under review. They will be happy with whichever category the Licencing Assembly saw fit and again reiterated their intention to serve light snacks, to a maximum of 15 people in designated seats being served by waiting staff. You would be able to purchase a drink regardless of whether you were eating. They still intend to host several events as they have done in the past for which they would apply for a special permit. These events attract worldwide padel players and generate £60-£80K for the Island. Deputy Curtis emphasised that the licence would not be extended to include alfresco in the future and special permits will always be obtained for extraordinary events. Mr Judd replied that they will abide by the Law.

Nick Barber asked if you are not making profit for yourselves why not use the other facilities available at the Centre. Mr Judd advised that players do use Partners Restaurant if they want a full meal.

Steve Davison who in addition to being a member of the assembly is the Manager of the Centre, advised that whilst the Padel Pad had positioned its glass bin directly outside it is only temporarily kept there as the refuse/glass for the whole of the Centre is collected from the storage facility adjacent to Partners which is well away from the Padel Pad.

Cordelia Miller asked how a Restaurant licence would be possible when they did not have a kitchen or toilets.

Isabella Ferreira asked if there was a floor plan available and it was agreed that she would obtain such from Mr Judd at the end of the meeting.

Taruna Pereira commented that if people are happy to use the toilet facilities at Partners why not use them to purchase a drink/meal.

Steve Davison confirmed that there are 2 separate toilet facilities at the Centre. The indoor facilities are at Partners and there is also an outside block containing toilets and showers which is available to all users of the Centre. The Centre's staff unlock it early in the morning and lock it up at the end of their working day. When it is locked, the only facilities available are those at Partners.

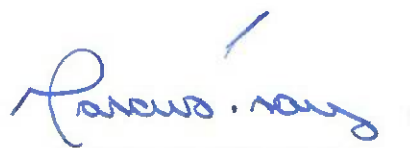
Centenier Phil Heard advised that he is concerned it will be a struggle to obtain a category 3 licence as the primary business must be food and people must be seated. He can't see that people won't stray and doesn't want the Honorary Police to be required to deal with complaints.

Nuno Santos-Costa commented that it was obvious that people feel strongly about noise. If they are not granted a third category licence will that alter their plans. Mr Jubb advised that whichever category they are granted their intention remains the same they will not be serving spirits and will only be serving between the hours already specified. All that could change is that if they are granted a first category it would mean people don't have to be seated. Deputy Curtis advised that a first category has different toilet requirements and there is an off-licence element. However, conditions can be placed on any licence. Nuno Santos-Costa commented that a first category with conditions might be more appropriate.

It was suggested, that as the discussion had been ongoing for over an hour with the same topics debated, it should be concluded.

The Assembly had no further comments, the motion was proposed by Andreas Middleton and seconded by Tom Middleton. On being put to a vote the application was approved with 38 votes in favour, 17 against and 3 abstentions.

To assist the Licensing Assembly, the Connétable asked, that if it was decided that a First Category Licence would be most appropriate would that also be supported. Rather than have a full vote the assembly were asked if they would change their vote, to which 2 people advised they would; one to against and the other would have abstained. This meant that once again the vast majority were in favour of a First category licence should the Licensing Assembly feel that was appropriate.



Marcus Troy

President of the Assembly

25 August 2023