

May 5, 2026

Hingham Planning Board,

My name is Julianne Taylor, I reside at 29 Hillside Terrace Hingham. I have been a resident in this location for 60+ years. I listened in on the meeting which took place last night (May 4) in regards to the Pickleball Courts. I would like to express my opinion on these courts.

I am opposed to these courts as you can imagine. The Carlson Field complex is a great place for the fields. I love watching the kids play baseball, walking around the fields seeing all the kids playing soccer/ lacrosse and basketball. But when all fields are in use, parking is at a premium! The cars end up parking on the sides of the road on the grass which is a bit dangerous, especially if God forbid emergency vehicles are needed. The traffic is ridiculous, it backs up through the parking lot and down the road trying to exit when finished. There is also traffic for people utilizing Bare Cove Park as well. Now throw in parking and traffic for Pickleball? It is going to be a nightmare! This will add to the congestion and parking dilemma. The proposed parking lot with only 11 spaces is a joke! The project would like 8 courts with a maximum 4 people per court, that turns into possibly 32 vehicles. I understand that they need the 8 courts for tournaments albeit denied or sanctioned by the recreation department. They may not go through the Recreation department, who is going to do anything about it? Now you know as well as me, people will be coming in early to socialize and linger after their game is over. So now where do those people coming to the courts park? The Pickleball parking lot is full, there is no room in the parking lot across the street as I mentioned. Bare Cove park is usually full on weekends and in the evenings. So now what? On top of the parking situation the road cannot handle all of this traffic. Putting a stop light at the end of Bare Cove Drive and Fort Hill is just going add more congestion. Especially when there is a stop light 100/200 ft away for the train.

My next opinion affects me more directly than the parking and traffic. It is the noise from the game itself. We live in a very quiet neighborhood, its peaceful. I don't feel as though we should have to listen to the "popping" of the 8 courts from sun up to sun down for 7 to 8 months a year. I reviewed the Sound Engineers report and I don't fully understanding all the technical information but it still looks like our neighborhood will have to endure the noise. But the last line of his report is where I take exception.

"Lastly, the sound levels will be inaudible inside any of the residences during periods when windows are left closed"

The audacity of that remark is unacceptable on all levels! So as taxpaying residents that have enjoyed peace and quiet for many years, we are now being told to go inside and shut our windows if we want quiet to accommodate this Pickleball nightmare!! So I guess no gardening or BBQs in the evening or on weekends, no peace to sit and read a book, so a minority of the Hingham residents can play Pickleball! I still don't understand why the game can't be played on tennis courts that have been repurposed for pickleball. If it is supposedly going to be a competitive high school sport, why not build them on that empty field on Union Street or beside the tennis courts. I know they say that they are going with 15 foot sound barriers to help mitigate the noise. But what happens when they rip or torn from the weather, or they get graffiti all over the screens, is the Town going to fix it? Who is going to monitor the courts? If it's the recreation department it will never be taken care of, prime example is the skateboard park! The graffiti is an eyesore over there. As for the fields after the weekend sports, it's littered with water

bottles, plastic Dunkin' cups, clothes and what really puzzles me are the chairs left behind. Did you not just sit in them watching the game??

So in conclusion I know these courts will be put in! I know how these things work, I went through this when the DPW was being moved to my backyard. I definitely don't think 8 courts are necessary or in need. I would like to see the number of courts decreased tremendously! My question to all of you, when do we get peace and quiet? When the players are done with their games, they go home to peace and quiet. When are we afforded the same respect!

Thank you for your attention

Best regards,
Julianne Taylor