

Rachel Tibbetts

From: Katherine Daniels
Sent: 18 March 2024 09:06
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: objection to Application 24/00375/F

Please can this be added to DEF.

Thank you

Katherine

From: roger.corke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:05 AM
To: Katherine Daniels <Katherine.Daniels@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Cc: Councillor George Reynolds <George.Reynolds@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>; Councillor Phil Chapman <Phil.Chapman@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>; chair <chair@hornton-pc.org.uk>
Subject: Re: objection to Application 24/00375/F

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

The Cottage

Church Lane

Hornton

Oxon OX15 6BY March 18, 2024

Dear Ms Daniels

Re: objection to Application 24/00375/F

I wish to object strongly to the above application for a fishing lake and lodges on land adjacent to Wroxton Motocross Track and the main Stratford/Banbury Road.

I have lived in Hornton for almost 35 years and, apart from the way the monstrosity that is the motocross track has been developed, I don't think I've ever come across such a hair-brained scheme. It's difficult to know where to begin in objecting it.

Let's start with the fact that the applicants don't look as though they're really applying for permission to build 15 lodges, 8 huts and a 60-space car park. If you read the story in the Banbury Guardian at: <https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/people/crooked-house-pub-owners-behind-large-banburyshire-fishing-village-plan-4553210>

you will see something rather different. There you will see the animation of the Design and Access Statement, provided to Cherwell by the applicants. In it, a rather different plan – for 48 lodges, 23 huts and a 120-space car park animates on, only to be replaced by the plan for which they have now applied for.

If you can't take this part of the application at face value, I suggest you should be very wary about the rest.

The most obvious aspect is the source of the water for these lakes. I don't know much about fishing but a friend of mine is an expert. She says that lakes like this need a proper source of water to run in and out – in other words, a stream or a spring.

But there aren't many springs round there because the land was quarried. It's a good thirty feet lower than the Stratford Road and any watercourses that would once have existed have been quarried out. There are no streams going across the site, either, so where on earth is the water going to come from?

Surely the applicants should have worked this out, and this is enough to render the project unviable, I would think. But you also have to ask yourself if the area needs this facility at all, given that it will cause traffic dangers on the busy Stratford Road through the new entrance that will be required. There is no shortage of fishing lakes round this area and no shortage of places for visitors to stay, either, so we don't need a facility that would cause disruption and, in the case of traffic, a possible hazard.

It may very well damage wildlife habitats, too. We already know that Great Crested Newts, an endangered species, have been found on the adjacent motocross track. And now that site has been shut down, it has started to become a haven for all sorts of other wildlife. It's reasonable to assume that wildlife would have made its way onto this site, yet the applicants have made no provision to survey the site and check.

So, please, turn this proposal down flat. The planning department of Cherwell District Council has not exactly covered itself in glory over the last few years in relation to the motocross track and the shameful way it has allowed the owner to turn it – right under your noses - into one of the biggest tracks in Europe without a shred of planning permission. Now is the time to make some amends by stopping this application.

Please put this objection on the portal and keep me up to date with any developments. I am also copying in planning committee chair, Coun George Reynolds, and our local member, Coun Phil Chapman, along with the chair of Hornton Parish Council, who I understand has already strongly objected.

Regards

Roger Corke