

From: Maggie Higgins
Sent: 28 August 2020 08:52
To: George Smith
Subject: Wroxton MX Track: Ref 20/02126/CLUE

Dear Mr Smith

Please find attached for your consideration copies of 2 items of correspondence: an email dated 15 June 2020 and a letter dated 18 June 2020, both addressed to Nick Addis, Planning Enforcement Officer at CDC in relation to the Wroxton MX track.

Yours sincerely

Mr and Mrs A Higgins

Holloway House
Bell Street
Hornton
Banbury
Oxon OX15 6DB

Nick Addis
Planning Enforcement Officer
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
Oxon OX15 4AA

18 June 2020

Dear Mr Addis

Re: Wroxton Motocross Track

As long-term residents of Hornton, we have become increasingly concerned by the way the Wroxton Motocross track has expanded in recent years. Having learnt recently that the organisers are applying to CDC for a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) and with the imminent prospect of race meetings resuming in July, we feel it is time to express our serious reservations about this operation.

Over the years, the track has changed from a relatively amateur local enterprise with a few weekend meetings each year to a national sporting facility – “one of the three top tracks in the country”, according to the organiser, Mr Pounder. It now attracts riders from all over Europe including some of the biggest names in international and UK motocross as well hosting one of just six, two-day race meetings that make up the Bridgestone British Masters, most recently in May 2019.

This change has led to many more race fixtures; more powerful bikes leading to a very noticeable increase in engine noise; many more competitors and supporters with a concomitant increase in traffic leading to a degradation of the already poor surface (and verges) of a road that is far too narrow to accommodate the many, large vehicles now accessing the site. In short, Wroxton Motocross Park, as it is now called, has become a major commercial enterprise.

We frequently walk around the perimeter of the track with our dogs and have witnessed considerable earthworks there this spring during the Coronavirus lockdown. It is obvious that the boundaries have been expanded and we are also unclear as to how it can possibly revert to agricultural use between race meetings, practice sessions and hired-out fixtures. We would be interested to know how such a substantial change in use, from what was once essentially a field into an established racetrack, has occurred without (to our knowledge) referral to the Planning Department of CDC.

2019 was one of the worst years we can remember for noise pollution from the track, which held far more meetings than in previous years. Now we notice that the 2020 Wroxton MX schedule lists 26 race days, far more than the legally allowed 14! We have no desire to spend our summer weekends indoors to escape the noise of revving engines and the tannoy/loudspeaker system and would therefore strongly urge that CDC both curb any planning permissions and allow no further expansion of this business.

We will be submitting similar concerns when and if the LDC application is made by the track management in July 2020.

Yours sincerely

Mr and Mrs A Higgins

cc John Offord, Chairman, Hornton Parish Council
Cindy Koberl, Clerk, Hornton Parish Council

From: Maggie Higgins
Sent: 15 June 2020 15:18
To: Nick Addis
Cc: pc.chair@hornton.org.uk; Hornton Parish Council
Subject: Wroxton Motocross Track

Dear Mr Addis

Wroxton Motocross Track: Activity on the track this weekend (14 June 2020) + Facebook and video evidence

Many Hornton villagers have been very concerned about the motocross track at Wroxton, run by Banbury Motocross Club. In the last few years it has been hosting much larger, much noisier and much more lucrative events that have a huge noise impact and seem to be impervious to any planning controls.

Walking yesterday near the track site, I noticed bikes using the track and camper vans parked up in the camping area. Strange! I thought that we are still in semi-lockdown and that the track is limited to 14 days per year of usage? I could hear the bikes roaring round from some way off.

When I got home that evening I looked up the Banbury MX Facebook page to find that Jessica Pounder, one of the Pounder family track management team, had posted the following with a video of one of the bikes doing a fast lap of the track earlier in the day, when I saw them. Note the mention of the 'lap time extension' and the 'new section'. Also, the clear reference to 'working hard' to get the track ready to re-open - once again, indicating very clearly that this is a permanent track feature on the landscape.

Jessica Pounder

Admin · 1 hr 14 June

Evening all hope you have had a lovely weekend

Today we trialed the recent changes as you can see a definite lap time extension with the new section, all jumps are do-able and safe.

We are clinging to hope that it's not too much longer until we can invite you all back and hold events again.

Although still very much locked down we are working hard and can't wait to return.

Thank you to the boys for working so hard all year round & continuing to make Wroxton the track it is today.

I am attaching here a link to the Facebook page in the hope that, despite the Wroxton MX Facebook page being a closed group, you can see the video posted with these words and see for yourself how developed and huge the Wroxton circuit now is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/724606377655766/>

With racing about to resume (they are hoping to do so in July), I and my neighbours are even more concerned about this track and its effect on us. Hornton Parish Council has flagged that the track is, under your jurisdiction, about to apply for a Lawful Development Certificate: surely our concerns and the track's actions, especially in the last few years, cannot mean that an LDC will be granted?

Best wishes

Andrew Higgins (Bell Street, Hornton)