

From: Pete Lemon

Sent: 30 August 2020 22:22

To: George Smith <George.Smith@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>

Subject: Wroxton MX Track: Ref 20/02126/CLUE

Dear Mr Smith, Please find below my correspondences last year with Mr Guest of CDC in respect to the motocross track at Wroxton Heath. I would like these to be included as my comments regarding the the LDC currently under consultation with the council,

Thank you

Pete Lemon

Walnut Bank

Bell St

Hornton

Ox156db

From: Pete Lemon

Sent: 19 August 2019 14:46 To: Jim Guest

Subject: Fwd: Wroxton Motocross

Dear Mr Guest. Further to your conversation with my friend Chris Woodcock, I am writing in support of of the concerns being raised about the increased use and noise generated by the motocross track near our village, please see the attached Word doc. I am happy to meet with you at anytime, particularly race weekends, to assess and discuss the matter with you.

Kind regards,

Pete Lemon

Reference Case Numbers: 101001073263 and 9/00316/ENFC

Dear Sir/Madam.

Yet another weekend where the opportunity to spend some quiet time enjoying my garden was spoiled by the sound of up to 160 motorcycles just over half a mile from my front door!

I would like to lodge my comments with you regarding the above numbered cases about the legality and environmental impact of the Motocross track near to our village.

Although often referred to as "Wroxton Motocross" the track is 2.07 miles to the centre of that village whereas it is just 0.72 miles from our home in Hornton where the sound is almost constant during race weekends.

The noise created by motocross motorcycles and quad bikes is of such a pitch and volume that it carries to our village with those properties on the north side (south facing) roads, Eastgate and Millers Lane, being blighted the most and are able to hear race announcements, engines starting and revving and so on. However, all of my friends in the village have commented about how intrusive the noise has become lately and at least two were recently unable to eat outside on a Sunday when they had guests for lunch.

When the wind is from SW it gets even worse and then the whole village experiences the volume of the screaming engines. In fact there are few if any parts of the village and surrounding countryside that are now truly peaceful on race meeting weekends.

Like me, you may have read recent reports in the Banbury Guardian which include reported sounds tests being within acceptable levels and even suggestions (somewhat offensively in my opinion) that the sound of a blackbird or rustling leaves on a tree are the more prevalent sounds to be heard in the village on race weekends.

It is not so much the volume of noise generated by the motorbikes it's the constant background whine that we have to endure from 9am on Saturday and Sunday during race weekends.

It's difficult to appreciate what this sounds like and the impact it has unless you live here. Imagine, if you will, the sound of a bumble bee trapped in a tin can in your living room whilst you are watching an film.

It wouldn't be the loudest sound in the room but it would be annoying and it would spoil your enjoyment of the film.

Now imagine that level of annoyance in your garden all day Saturday and Sunday during the summer. The blackbirds, the rustling trees, the BBQ, the lawnmower, the children playing will all make more localised noise but behind all of that there is the constant whine of the motorcycle engines.

And bear in mind, these are not highly silenced road bikes; these are highly tuned racing machines.

It seems that the track is being used more often this year and the number of bikes and so the associated support and accommodation vehicles has also increased with the inevitable impact on the lanes to the site entrance.

It doesn't take much research online to find evidence that the track has been developed for this year's meetings and there are many superlatives praising the work carried out over winter to make it ready.

This work enabled the return of quad bike racing this spring after 5 years absence and commercially sponsored teams and events are commonplace if you look on the "Wroxton Motocross Track" Facebook pages and those of the motocross press. One of just six, two-day race meetings that make up the Bridgestone British Masters was held at the track in May this year.

This is evidence that the track is being developed to accommodate more race types and bigger events and has already become "...one of the three top tracks in the country." as the organiser Mr Pounder recently told the Banbury Guardian.

He went on: "We usually have about 160 competitors and mums and dads come too so it can add up and there could be 400 - 500 there."

I understand from the Hornton Parish Council July meeting minutes that the site is operating under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Develop) Order 1995, Schedule 2, Part 4: Temporary Buildings and Uses, Class B: Permitted Development, which, for motor car/cycle events, allows for just 14 days use per year.

I also understand that there are 24 days of racing planned this year spread over 19 weekends. Even when racing is only on a Sunday, it seems that they practice on the Saturday as we still experience some noise.

In 2019 there was/will be race meetings every month from February to November (10 months!) with 15 race days taking place between May and September, when people are most likely to be using their gardens. Three weekends in June alone!

Given that set up and riders arriving usually starts the day before race day and allowing for a clear up day afterwards, this would mean the site is in use up to 57 days a year. It seems to me that the use of the track is in breach of the planning law.

In summary, I would like you to take into consideration my concerns regarding the legal status of the track under current planning law and the environmental noise impact on our village, a conservation area, generated by the racing track.

This situation has to be moderated if it is breach of the law and cannot be allowed to continue to grow unchecked.

*Thank you
Pete Lemon*

On 23 Aug 2019, at 15:43, Jim Guest <jim.guest@cherwell-dc.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Pete,
Thanks for your email and the supporting information for the ongoing case with Wroxton Motocross Circuit.
I will be working on this in conjunction with our Planning Enforcement team. I will aim to install noise recording equipment at different locations around Wroxton in time for the next event which is the second weekend of September. I will ensure you are kept up to date on any progress.
In the meantime, please do get in touch if you have any further problems or queries.
Kind regards,
Jim

From: Pete Lemon
Sent: 16 September 2019 19:41 To: Jim Guest <jim.guest@cherwell-dc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Wroxton Motocross

Hi Jim. I think you were planning to be doing sound monitoring at the weekend in the village. Thought I'd let you know that I understand that this weekend the meeting was using smaller and therefore not as noisy motorcycles. It seems it may have been women's and younger riders. Furthermore the wind direction was favourable and so whilst the bikes were audible it was not as bad as usual.
Pete

Hi Pete,
Thanks for your email and the information.
I did indeed visit to take noise readings on Sunday. As there is another event scheduled for this Sunday, I will aim to revisit to take further measurements then.
Please do get in touch if you have any further queries in the meantime.
Kind regards,
Jim