

From:

Sent: 10 September 2020 17:57

To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>

Subject: FAO George Smith. Ref 20/02126/CLUE - OBJECTION

10.09.2020

Objection - ref: 20/02126/CLUE

Dear George

I would like to record my objection to the granting of a Lawful Development Certificate. I am a neighbour (around 2 miles away) of the Motocross track, living in the village of Hornton. I am also an allotment holder, gardening across the valley from the Motocross track and from where I can see and hear activities.

I have lived at this address for nearly six years and became aware of Motocross events during the first summer here. At that time there was less of a noise problem and events were spread over a six-month period. Since then the frequency and size of events has increased as has the noise generated. Sizable earthworks are being carried out, causing visible scars on the agricultural landscape, greater numbers of cars and caravans now use our restricted country road network and junctions and the pollution from exhausts is increasing.

Whilst I have no objection to the current permitted level of events – there have been several instances where the acceptable limits have been breached and any local concern or complaint has been met with derision from the organisers.

As you know, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 provides for temporary use of land, subject to conditions and restrictions, of which Class B of Part 4 to Schedule 2 states that, “the use of any land for any purpose....in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes of : (b) motor car or motorcycle racing including trials of speed and the practicing for these activities.”

These limitations have regularly been flouted, with many weekend events of 2 and 3 days in duration being operated through the year and “winter programmes” being added and advertised.

Past performance can give neither planners nor the community any confidence that future limits will be adhered to. They have not been good neighbours to date, have broken the Law and disrespected the local authority, its rules, and restrictions.

I object to the granting of a Lawful Development Certificate on the following grounds:

- The applicants have not proved themselves to be responsible or trustworthy to date.
- The local plan specifically protects against additional development in this area, to protect the rural nature and character of our village and its surrounds.
- Approval of this application will undermine the Council’s own ability to restrict and control development in this area and resident’s opportunity for consultation.
- The plan of the Motocross organisers is to grow and run more events, which flies in the face of the wishes of the local communities, residents, and parish council.

- More traffic on the country roads will cause further congestion and increase the risk of traffic accidents – there is no lighting nor pavements in this rural area – and it is popular area for walking.
- Noise pollution will increase.
- Exhaust pollution will increase.
- There will be an adverse impact on local wildlife.
- Encouraging these events undermines environmental targets to reduce emissions from burning fossil fuels.

This is not an enterprise that benefits the local community nor provides local recreation: it is a commercial undertaking operating on a national and international basis which has only one aim - to grow.

In the event that the council chooses to ignore the local objections and the reasons detailed in them, it must at very least require effective noise and environmental mitigation; secure significant funding to address the increased traffic demands on local roads and junctions as well as providing safety protections; planning controls must be put in place to ensure the councils own local plan cannot be undermined so that Hornton and its protected environment, be secured.

Kind regards

Catherine Bellamy

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