

Comment for planning application 20/02126/CLUE

Application Number	20/02126/CLUE
Location	Wroxton Motorcross Track Land Used For Motorcross Stratford Road A422 Wroxton OX15 6HH
Proposal	Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use for the use of the land for a mixed use of agriculture and as a motorcross track with race meetings for up to 24 days a year (excluding set up, preparation, clear up and private practice sessions)
Case Officer	George Smith
Organisation Name	Anne and Peter Joyner
Address	The Gables, Millers Lane, Hornton, Banbury, OX15 6BS
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Copy of our letter sent to Mr Smith on 27th August for inclusion on the public portal. Good Afternoon Mr Smith We live in Hornton approximately half a mile North of the Wroxton Motocross site. We have just read, with some concern, the documents submitted in order to grant an LDC to Mrs Kerwood on the basis that the MX site has not changed in the last ten years. We would emphatically disagree with this statement. For the last three years Wroxton MX has expanded and become extremely intrusive and more and more professional. We would like to make it clear in the first instance that we have had no objection in the past to the site because it has always been a 'hobby site' used mainly by fairly local people and by reasonably low powered machines. Users have posted on You Tube films which clearly show what we mean by this: 'Banbury MX Wroxton 23/10/11 65's race 2' and 'Banbury MX Wroxton 26/9/10 race 3'. In these films you can see that the track is narrow and spectators and family are able to stroll about on and around the track. The number of tents and camper vans is also low and there is enough space for there to possibly be 'sheep grazing'. Mrs Kerwood states in her submission that there have been a 'small number of changes and improvements' to the track over recent years. We have, however, seen several large scale improvements to both the track and the camp site, as evidenced by other films posted on You Tube i.e. 'Wroxton MX track new layout 7/7/19'. Another film 'big baza30 Wroxton MXtrack 29/12/18' is an arial film which shows the extent to which the track had been enlarged to use all of the available space. A tank has been installed to deal with the chemical toilet waste from the camping cars (see their Facebook page comments) and there are now toilets provided and mobile food outlets. Our biggest concern is that as there appear to be no controls in place governing this expansion and it will only be a matter of time before there is water and mains drainage, a clubhouse and a grandstand. Mrs Kerwood also states that the land is mixed use - grazing and motocross. This may once have been the case but we have never seen any animals there and indeed there would not be any room/grass for them for the last few years. We have, indeed, seen 'material change of use' of the site. We also query the number of meetings and race days that are specified in the permission. The 24 days 'excluding practice sessions' means that big race meetings can be held on 12 weekends of the year and logically these will tend to be clumped together in periods of clement weather and public holidays rather than spread out evenly to one weekend every month. Mr Pounder states that the number of meets has gone from 56 days in 2009 to 80 days in 2019 a clear indication of growth, this number leapt from 64 to 80 in 2016 - 2017 and has remained at 80+. Since the expansion of the track this means that for the last few years (excluding of course this abnormal one) the increased level of noise and disturbance to our village now occurs on all the days when we could reasonably expect to use our outside spaces in peace. The 'excluding practice sessions' is disingenuous as evidenced once again by You Tube videos : 'Wroxton MX practice day 26/7/20' and 'Wroxton MX practice day 2018 KTMSX-F350' You will see from these films that the 'practice session' entails the full complement of high powered bikes resulting in the same amount of noise and disturbance as a race. Therefore we would contend that Practice Sessions should clearly be included in the allotted weekends - the phrase does not mean that one or two bikes are coming for a trial run as the term would infer. Mrs Kerwood and Mr Pounder both state that the track is used for a number of days in any given year for practice, but they fail to fully explain the extent of these 'practice days' which can be seen from the films. A further indication of the track's expansion is the type of races held there. The vast majority appear to be standard qualifying and race meetings. For the last couple of years, due no doubt to the expansions and improvements which have been made, there have been more and more National and</p>

International events. According to the British Motor Racing Fixture List in 2018 and 2019 the Bridgestone British Masters Pro2; Girls National 2019; BWMA British Girls Youth Motocross 2018 and the British Womens MX Championships were all held at Wroxton. In addition to this the organisers are now hiring the track out to other motocross clubs. All of these, of course, mean bigger and more powerful machines and there are 40 race gates, all of which adds to the stress, noise, traffic and disturbance imposed on neighbouring villages. As we said at the beginning, we do not oppose the Motocross track in principle. We are, however, extremely concerned that Cherwell District Council do not appear to have put any controls in place to safeguard the local population and Conservation areas. It is simply not true that the site and its usage are the same as they were ten years ago. We hope that our representatives on the Council will take this opportunity to put some controls in place. Yours sincerely Anne and Peter Joyner

Received Date

14/09/2020 12:21:43

Attachments