

Comment for planning application 21/00517/F

Application Number	21/00517/F
Location	Land Used For Motorcross Stratford Road A422 Wroxton OX15 6HX
Proposal	Creation of a motocross track and soft landscaping scheme and the change of use of agricultural land to hold moto-cross events including set-up, take down and private practice sessions, with associated camping site, for up to 65 days per year and agricultural grazing (retrospective)
Case Officer	George Smith
Organisation	
Name	Peter Joyner
Address	The Gables,,Millers Lane,Hornton,OX15 6BS
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>We have lived in Hornton for 43 years, approximately a kilometre North of the Wroxton Motocross site. About 30 years ago local farmer, the late Mr Hedges, generously allowed the local scramble bike club the use of the field. For the next twenty or so years this MX track was always a hobby site used mainly by local people with reasonably low powered machines. It was happily tolerated by the neighbours and meetings were referred to as 'the buzzy bees'. Users have posted on You Tube films which clearly show how things were: '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. Without involving any permissions, and under the radar, In the last few years there has been extensive enlargement 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' shows the extent to which the track has been enlarged to use all of the available space. We have photographs of the permanent structures which have been installed without planning permission; viewing platforms, a chemical toilet block, screening, incinerators, fences etc. The application is for mixed use - grazing and motocross. Apart from putting some sheep on there the day a council representative was coming the site's never used for agricultural purposes. The organisers have completely ignored the 28 days usage rules. The formal application is for 65 days use, although all of the supporting documents they have submitted refer to it being for 24 days. Since there are only 52 weekends in a year does this mean that they intend to use the track every weekend? In the application for an LDC (withdrawn before refusal) Mr Pounder states that the number of meets has gone from 56 days in 2009 to 80 days in 2019; a clear indication of growth, this number leapt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 noise is continuous from 9.30 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and loud enough to prevent the use of our garden. Due to the topography and prevailing wind we experience the full force of the noise from the track. The phrase '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. Practice sessions should clearly be included in the allotted number of days - the phrase does not mean that one or two bikes are coming for a trial run as the term would infer. "Practice sessions" also infers that these are local meetings, on the contrary the track is now being hired out to clubs from all over the country for so-called practice sessions. Mrs Kerwood and Mr Pounder have made it plain that should this application succeed they intend to expand and 'improve' the track further. It is not unreasonable therefor to assume that the next step will be more permanent structures, tannoys, loudspeaker systems, grandstands, clubhouse, full camping facilities. At what point exactly does 'farm diversification' become the dominant business? Further proof of the track's expansion is the type of races held there. Due to the recent expansions and improvements there have been more National and 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</p>

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, walkers and wildlife. The works that have been undertaken in the last couple of years have involved extensive earthworks, dredging and altering water courses with implications for the Sor brook without permission of either the council or the neighbours whose boundary has been breached and erection of permanent structures without planning permission. I understand that Tony Brummell, CDC's Building Control Service Manager has advised that there have been breaches of the Land Drainage Act. In conclusion, I strongly object to the granting of Planning Permission Ref 21/00517/F and fully support Hornton Parish Council and our Environmental Planning/Legal Advisor in their objections.

Received Date

23/03/2021 16:14:38

Attachments