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Bell Street
Hornton
Banbury
Oxon OX15 6DB

George Smith
Senior Planning Officer
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury
Oxon OX15 4AA

23 March 2021

Dear Mr Smith

Re: Planning Application Ref 21/00517/F
"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)"

I am writing to protest with the utmost vigour against the proposed planning application.

I have lived in the village of Hornton for over 30 years and have had connections with the village for some decades prior to that. For most of those years the MX or, as it was more frequently referred to, "scrambling" track had little impact upon the village. There were a few days when the noise from the field where events were held caused irritation, but these were relatively few and far between. The general perception, and my personal view, was that this was a reasonable price to pay for the enjoyment that local amateur enthusiasts were getting in their lawful use of farmland under "Permitted Development Rights". In general feelings were positive and the sentiment was "live and let live".

The current situation has no similarity whatsoever to that state-of-affairs.

Over the last few years, there has been a startling increase in the frequency and intensity of very intrusive noise experienced in the village from the much-expanded calendar of motocross events. The sounds produced by high revving motorcycle engines, even at a distance, are distressing in much the same way as fingernails being scraped down a blackboard or a single mosquito in a darkened room. The nature of the noise, as much as its volume, being the source of grief. The current application, if granted, would ensure that for

many of the inhabitants of Hornton tranquil enjoyment of their gardens would be a thing entirely of the past.

Less obtrusive to the village but, nonetheless, very shocking to those like me who walk along the footpath adjacent to the track are the massive earthworks that have been undertaken. The original topography of the field is unrecognisable and the bordering streambed has been much altered and obstructed to allow for water extraction. The idea that that the field could, in any reasonable way, revert to normal grazing between events is entirely risible.

In conclusion, I strongly object to this planning application.

I would also strongly object to any "compromise" solution, which would use the current situation as a starting point for negotiations. This would inevitably encourage future speculative illegal development of the countryside and lead to further desecrations such as the one currently under consideration, which would, incidentally, appear to be completely at odds with CDC's own Local Plan. The status quo ante, not the status quo, should be paramount in such considerations. Perhaps CDC could take inspiration from Westminster Council in its famous and successful case against CLTX in the case of the Carlton Tavern. Surely this beautiful bit of countryside deserves protection as much as an old London boozier?

Yours sincerely

Andrew Higgins