

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	Roger Bellamy
Address	Norland House, Millers Lane, Hornton, OX18 6BS
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I object to this planning application on several grounds. I do not wish for operations to cease completely on this site, just for Wroxton Moto-Cross Club to return to an amateur status holding track events on 14 days per year and properly returning the ground to agricultural otherwise. (This doesn't mean driving a flock of sheep across an industrial landscape devoid of vegetation.) I have lived at the above address since 2014, the first two summers the noise of the bikes could be clearly heard but it was tolerable and was only for 14 days per year. Then, in the summer of 2017 both the noise level and frequency were dramatically increased, and as a Parish Councillor I received a complaint about this from a neighbour, in (I think) August 2017 which was put to a full council meeting. It was clear that the track had been extended, more bikes were participating, of greater power. From then on until Covid the frequency increased, the noise level increased, the number of days increased (contravening their planning allowance) and running times increased with a start time as early as 08.55 on a Sunday morning. By the level of attendance and the in-house entertainment facilities, it was clear that this was now a national and no longer a purely local event. By the time of the first Lockdown in March 2020, the track weekends were being sub-let to organisations up to eighty miles away and the 'season' now extended into autumn and spring. Traffic was now spilling through Hornton on at least one Sunday evening as several hundred vehicles attempted to turn right on to the main Stratford road, heading north. When the racing starts the noise is easily noisier, even at two miles away, to the VC10 (a notoriously noisy type) jet transport aircraft I used to regularly hear taking off just a mile to the north when I lived adjacent to RAF Brize Norton. I can hear the bikes indoors with my windows closed. It is pointless sitting in my garden on a sunny weekend or working on my allotment; it is very unpleasant. And now WMCC want to operate on 65 days throughout the year! And for those residents currently lucky enough to be shielded from the noise by the broadleaf cover above Bell Street, the winter months will see them exposed as the rest of us to the north/east. And even when the bikes and the attendant tannoy commentary stops, evening brings the sound of the on-site disco to add a bass accompaniment to our rural evenings! What benefits does this operation bring to the district? They spend no money other than in the Indian Queen but this is counteracted by regular customers foregoing their visits when race days are on. Other than WMCC as an organisation and the landowner, there appears no financial benefit to the district, whereas there are many disbenefits to the rural economy that permitting this development would cause. Currently a lot of visitors come to this district to enjoy the rural quiet, walk the many footpaths and generally escape the urban industrial world. Several local B&Bs now service this market and the local pubs and restaurants benefit from their trade. But how many of those that use the famous Darcy Dalton Way will return if they can hear for ten miles of their journey the roar of thirty-two powerful motorbikes starting? Likewise the bird-watching visitors at Balscote quarry or the horse riders from Hornton Grounds? A growing rural economy, a vital lung for Cherwell town-dwellers would be snuffed out to cater for one, specialist, interest group. Didn't Cherwell District Council identify this locality in the 2040 Plan as 'an area of tranquility?' This operation is no longer a local, amateur affair. It is a professional, large-scale event attracting riders of international stature. Bring it back to 14 days operation with, say, a maximum of 14 bikes per race, monitored by Cherwell District Council to ensure compliance, and I would withdraw my objection. Yours Etc., Roger Bellamy</p>
Received Date	31/03/2021 15:30:00
Attachments	