

I am writing to lodge my very strong objection to the PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE 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)”

This is a totally unacceptable location for a track such as this. The operators are holding national competitions, building extensive earthworks, increasing the size and duration of events, erecting permanent structures, renting the track to other clubs as well as breaching the Land Drainage Act.

I am utterly appalled that all this has happened without Planning Permission and in direct contravention of Permitted Development Rights. The refused Hornton Grounds Quarry Application (ref 20/02453/F) was, by comparison, a lesser threat to the local community, environment and conservation. I totally support Hornton Parish Council, their Environmental Planning and Legal Advisors in their objection to this application for the following reasons:

- The site is situated in the Cotswold's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as being in complete contradiction of Cherwell District Council's adopted Development Plan.
- Over the last few years the track has been vastly extended in length, width and height so that it is now clearly visible from the road.
- This expansion of the site attracts national events, racing on bikes with larger engines as well as more competitors, which creates substantial noise and fumes and hence noise and air pollution. It is not a local club for local people.
- Photos submitted by Hornton Parish Council show the size of the track and the size and quantity of vehicles attending events.
- The road network is wholly unsuitable for the volume and size of vehicles causing congestion, road damage and erosion of the grass roadsides. A video, taken by one of my neighbours, which will be on the portal, shows how large the vehicles are and the highly dangerous location of the entrance/exit gate.
- It is now clearly visible from three roads and the public footpath runs along one side including the start line.
- I have witnessed clouds of black smoke coming from the track following racing weekends raising severe concerns about how they are dealing with refuse from the campers and presumably unwanted tyres.
- Walkers have complained about the noise and damage to the countryside.
- The operators have dammed and drained a water course that is a tributary of Sor Brook breaching the Land Drainage Act.
- Residential Amenity has been severely reduced due to the noise.
- The countryside has been scarred and this will certainly have had a detrimental impact on local wildlife and biodiversity.
- The application has many inconsistencies, for example how many days are they applying for?

J. Offord (Mrs)