

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	Catherine Bellamy
Address	Norland House, Millers Lane, Hornton, Banbury, OX15 6BS
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour

Comments

I wish to record my strong objection to this application and to urge the authority not to allow it to proceed. I have several reasons for my objection and ask they are carefully considered.

1. It undermines a number of commitments and objectives of the Local Plan: These include commitments relating to the Green agenda and environmental targets; the Authority's Transport Policy; protection of the natural environment outside and surrounding Banbury as well as the agricultural landscape and character of the area; and, securing the appearance and character of Cherwell's historic villages keeping them attractive areas for people to live and visitors to enjoy in North Oxfordshire. It will do this, permanently, with its physical impact, its environmental impact, its social impact, its visual impact and the impact it will have on the local community which will suffer it on up to 65 days a year. Given my experience of these events over the years, I can see no benefit at all to the local community or Local Authority in return for the sacrifices that will have to be made and the public promises broken.
2. Traffic. The site is accessed from country lanes and roads used by local traffic, farm vehicles, dog walkers and cyclists. Their size and winding nature offers limited capacity, small junctions and in places restricted visibility. There are no pavements and there is no street lighting. Increasing traffic in these areas already presents an increased safety risk during times of operation. I can see no adequate plans to either protect the character of the lanes nor mitigate the increased safety risks presented to road users by what will inevitably be a sizable increase in site patronage.
3. Noise. I live at the top of Millers Lane in Hornton and have an allotment nearby. The noise generated across the landscape and Hornton can vary because of the topography. But I can assure you, regardless of what convenient results have been presented by the applicant, the noise generated by the powerful, racing bikes can be utterly deafening and affects the majority of our village. And it goes on all day, every day they operate, at weekends when the residents are outside, enjoying and looking after the ancient village - the Authority seeks to protect - its properties and gardens. Then when the bikes stop, we hear the parties. I accept that the motocross track is there and that on some weekends each year, it will be used. I do not wish to prevent what is already permitted by planning approvals, in fact I myself enjoyed participating in motocross when I was younger. But under no circumstances should it be allowed to increase beyond the current approved limits and most certainly not to the level proposed given the residential areas it will impact. Without exaggeration, it will effectively destroy the weekend tranquillity and environment of Hornton - North Oxfordshire's protected ancient hidden village.
4. Pollution. Travel to and from the site can only be done by road. By far the majority of visitors are not local and travel long distances. The high performance bikes all operate using carbon fuels, emitting toxic pollutants. Encouraging the growth of this activity will increase the pollution generated and significantly increase the number of journeys being made on roads. Both of these outcomes directly undermine local authority transport policy and national Government environmental objectives and targets. Approving this proposal would therefore put the authority directly at odds not only with itself but with national Government commitments to the electorate.
5. Local Cost : Benefit The majority of the users of this track are not local, in fact many travel large distances to attend events. When they are here, they make no positive social or economic contribution. In fact, some are known to be troublemakers and the only real commercial beneficiary, other than the applicant themselves, is The Indian Queen Restaurant and they oppose the proposal. There can be no sound, positive cost benefit to support approving this application.
6. Integrity and Trust The behaviour of those behind this proposal has repeatedly shown contempt for the local community and planning authorities. Regulations imposed by the authority have been

ignored; interpretation of restrictions put in place for important reasons have been stretched beyond what could ever be considered reasonable; neighbours and planners have been treated like fools and there is ample evidence to suggest they have told lies. The environmental and landscape rescue secured for the land after the closure of the quarry has been trashed and returned to an industrial wasteland and the current operation is already significantly increased on what is actually permitted. The track record of this applicant demonstrates they cannot be trusted and not just by us - the residents - but by you, the planning authorities. To approve this application, which is evidently so deeply unpopular by those who will be directly affected, would require an enormous leap of faith on behalf of the planning committee and raise serious questions over their reasons, judgement and integrity.

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Attachments