

April 7 2021

21/00517/F

At CPRE we have examined planning application 21/00517/F and object to it very strongly: in fact we have seldom seen a p/a that so blatantly disregards local interests and local opinion. Given that the applicant and her team have for years been unlawfully enlarging the track and increasing the number of meetings, we were dismayed that they were encouraged by the Council to seek retrospective planning permission. People are not normally rewarded for their illegal actions.

Believers in Local Democracy realize that, in the interests of the nation and the community, they are often required to make sacrifices: new schools and hospitals have to be built, frequently on fields and other spaces that we might cherish. But this application serves no local interests other than the business affairs of a wealthy landowner. Anyone who has been in the neighbourhood on meeting days knows that the noise has become increasingly intolerable: if this application (with its demand for even more events) succeeds, weekends for the residents of Hornton and the surrounding villages will be ruined. That is why there is such a vast number of upset and outraged objectors to this application.

Last July CDC's review of its Local Plan to 2040 stressed the importance of protecting 'valued landscapes' and 'areas of tranquillity', and it suggested the Ironstone Downs (which the Motocross Track is in the middle of) was an area to be protected because it was 'relatively undisturbed by noise'. After stating such admirable aims, it would surely be impossible to approve an application that plans to make the area one of the noisiest and least tranquil places in the entire District.

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Chairman CPRE Cherwell District

