

# Comment for planning application 21/00517/F

<b>Application Number</b>	21/00517/F
<b>Location</b>	Land Used For Motorcross Stratford Road A422 Wroxton OX15 6HX
<b>Proposal</b>	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)
<b>Case Officer</b>	Gemma Magnuson
<b>Organisation</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Roger Corke
<b>Address</b>	The Cottage, Church Lane, Hornton, Banbury, OX15 6BY
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Objection
<b>Type</b>	neighbour
<b>Comments</b>	<p>I have now had an opportunity to look at the draft conditions attached proposed by Cherwell District Council. I am sorry to say that they are woefully short of what is required to properly police and regulate the operation of a facility that causes immense damage to the quality of life of the people living near it, the countryside on which it stands and the wildlife living there, including at least one endangered species.</p> <p>The main problem with the conditions are that they are not, in reality, conditions at all. The document from the council is more of a wish list - and full of ambiguities. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- it doesn't detail how often the 20 annual race days allowed in the planning permission can take place.</li><li>- it restricts the noise to 96 decibels but doesn't say how that should be tested, who should do the testing, where the noise should be measured from or how records of the testing should be kept to prove it was carried out</li><li>- it stipulates that the track owner has to give local residents notice of meetings but there are no details as to how or how far in advance that will happen</li><li>- there are no stipulations about the numbers of participants, spectators, number of races, number of bikes in a race</li><li>- it contains no details about how Cherwell's officials will police the track to make sure any conditions finally adopted are being adhered to</li></ul> <p>The document also seems to be watering down recommendations - from Cherwell's own experts - to protect damage to watercourses and wildlife habitats, including that of the Great Crested Newt. In fact, there's barely a mention of this endangered species in the draft conditions.</p> <p>And where concrete conditions are laid out, they are too often weak. For instance, Cherwell proposes allowing racing between 9am and 6pm. Why for such a long period, when other tracks around the country only permit it between 10am and 3pm?</p> <p>I'm also concerned that, despite repeated promises by Cherwell to consult Hornton Parish Council in advance, it has published these proposals with no prior notice or consultation whatsoever. Indeed, I understand HPC has been asking for months to meet with planners, who keep agreeing to such a meeting but never get round to holding it.</p> <p>When that meeting does take place, I suggest that all sides look at this provisional planning permission afresh. Legally, there is no planning permission in place at the moment and, since the planning committee decided to grant it, subject to agreed conditions, there has been a fundamental change in circumstances: namely, that there is no longer a Banbury Motocross Club. It no longer has a website, a Facebook page or membership of any of the sport's organisations.</p> <p>The key reason why the committee granted provisional planning permission was because the track would be used by young people from Banbury. Local residents and the parish council always disputed this, given that most events there were staged by clubs from out of the area, with the track being hired out on a commercial basis. But with no Banbury Motocross Club any more, there is now no justification whatsoever for continuing to allow this monstrosity to scar the beautiful countryside of the North Oxfordshire Downs.</p>

**Received Date**  
**Attachments**

11/02/2023 12:27:51