

We are seeking a deferral of this application, currently scheduled for discussion at the Planning Committee this Thursday, 9 March, in order that the conditions can be properly complied and the relevant ward councillor consulted.

Reasons to review, refuse and think again

- It's time for a fresh look at this hugely problematical application – it has taken over 18 months to get this far.
- The applicant has let the land and watercourse fall into even greater disrepair in the meantime.
- Banbury MX Club has ceased to exist and therefore cannot maintain the track, or meet the conditions.

The vast quantity of conditions, our planning consultant advises us, indicates how much is wrong with the location and nature of this proposed track. In addition these conditions are not rigorous enough and will be difficult to enforce.

- This all begs the question again – should it be refused? It's not too late as permission has still NOT been granted and there are numerous valid reasons to refuse it that were ignored first time around.
- The applicants have not established any lawful use of the site. They were invited to do so by the submission of an application for a lawful development certificate, but withdrew it. The Committee should therefore be invited to judge the application on the basis that there is no such lawful use. On that basis the policies in the development plan clearly indicate a refusal on landscape Impact and Residential Amenity grounds.

The committee is not, as its officers appear to be suggesting, bound by the committee resolution of June 2021. The committee may lawfully revisit that resolution and change their minds.

- If this scaled-up track goes live again there will be massive CDC resources needed to enforce, monitor and deal with complaints and legal challenges from at least six parishes – CDC departments of Planning, Environmental Health, Ecology, Enforcement, Building Control and Legal will be inundated. This, too, is a measure of how much is wrong with this application.
- There is another Cherwell national-scale motocross track at Arncott, Bicester, near the M40 – the right location. We don't need one to desecrate a beautiful Ironstone Downs conservation-status landscape and ecologically-protected wildlife habitat.