

Cherwell District Council

Although I live in the adjoining parish of Horley, the noise and disruption from use of this track and other sources causes, almost every weekend during the fine weather, has been for a number of years quite appalling as when the breeze is in the SW as it usually is in the summer, we are assailed by loud noise usually over the whole of the weekend, principally from this track, but also from the racetrack at Shennington and illegal racing along the old Ironstone Railway and adding farmland in the Parishes of Horley and Drayton. To be considering extending the use of the Hornton facility with the unbelievably ludicrous, 'Conditions' is almost beyond belief, and a complete abrogation of common sense, good practice, nature conservation, environmental pollution and democratic processes.

I completely concur with the points set out by the Hornton Parish Council and repeated below and associate myself with the strong objections to the future use of this track

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 compiled – they are currently deeply flawed and unenforceable – 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 – always the pretext – has ceased to exist. The guy running the track has fallen off the radar.
- There are numerous poorly-drafted conditions - full of loopholes, omissions and ambiguity - in this document. Far more conditions, of much greater complexity, than normal. This indicates how much is wrong with the location and nature of this proposed track.
- 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 – eg. CDC 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.

The only sensible fallback option is to defer this decision, tighten up these conditions and consult with the ward members, which was a commitment made in June 2021.