

Comment for planning application 21/01224/OUT

Application Number	21/01224/OUT
Location	Land at former RAF Bicester Bicester Oxfordshire OX26 5HA
Proposal	Outline planning application for Automotive Experience Quarter comprising Commercial, Business and Services uses (Class E), Light Industrial (Class B2), Local Community and Learning Uses (Class F) and vehicle circuits (Sui Generis) with all matters reserved aside from that of access).
Case Officer	Rebekah Morgan
Organisation	
Name	Philip Riley
Address	13 Skimmingdish Lane,Caversfield,Bicester,OX27 8UW
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour

Comments

MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS OBJECTOR'S STATUS: NEIGHBOUR. I have lived in Skimmingdish Lane since 1990. I am in a good position to comment on the comparison between existing conditions and the ones proposed by Bicester Motion. I have experience of commuting to work, working from home, and being retired at home. PECULIARITIES OF THE AREA. This is a long established, residential area populated by thousands of working families, including many working from home for the foreseeable future, due to the pandemic. Historically this is a quiet semi-rural parish, from which parents and children walk to school in Bicester daily. There are two residential care homes in the area. Most households use at least one car, and some require parking for up to 4 vehicles. There are no local shops or other facilities, therefore every resident needs to leave the area daily, either on foot or by car or bus. Currently it is often difficult to access the A4421 at its junction with Skimmingdish Lane, due to the volume of traffic. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. This proposal will have a negative impact on the environment in many ways, most of which are irreversible. * NOISE: unacceptable noise levels would be produced from outdated vehicles. These vehicles run at high revs, not only when racing but also at lower speeds on the local roads, and particularly while waiting at junctions in order to avoid stalling. In the last 12 months there have been several occasions when traffic before, during and after track events has been so heavy and noisy that I have been unable to hold a conversation outdoors. Even indoors with double glazing the traffic noise is hazardous to human hearing and intrusive. Note: the Cherwell District Council Environmental Health noise App, which I have attempted to use recently, is unfortunately not fit for this purpose. The racetrack noise assault often features intermittent tyre screaming, all day, which is very hard to capture in the App's 30-sec recording window. * AIR POLLUTION and GREENHOUSE GASES. Any event featuring dozens of inefficient fuel-burning vehicles, attracting hundreds of visiting vehicles, would produce an unacceptable surge in airborne pollutants. Cherwell District Council has a policy of reducing our carbon emissions. The eco-village Elmbrook is at the other end of Skimmingdish Lane. Bicester Motion's application contradicts council policy. The proposal would endanger the health of thousands of residents, undo the oxygen retrieval, and impact the natural world. * ODOUR. The smell of traffic emissions would be unacceptable. This is true both for vehicles racing and for vehicles queueing at junctions. * LIGHT POLLUTION. Historically this area has deliberately maintained low light levels. Skimmingdish Lane remains without streetlights, in order to minimise light pollution. The Garden Quarter development was permitted specifically with sensitive low-level lighting. The natural dark will be gone for ever if the area was invaded by track lighting and the headlights of hundreds of cars and motorcycles. TRAFFIC CONGESTION, PARKING, LOADING AND TURNING * CONGESTION and TURNING. Currently, the residential section of Skimmingdish Lane has a low level of traffic and a 30mph limit, while the A4421 and the Bicester ring road have high levels of fast traffic, braking and queueing at every junction. In the last year there has been an unwelcome increase in traffic on all these roads, far beyond any traffic levels I have witnessed here in 31 years. Race day participants use our part of Skimmingdish Lane to avoid congestion and a difficult right-hand turn into the site. On top of the intrusive noise and smells, this new traffic bungs up our junctions, making it very difficult for us to get out of our housing development. Our area is particularly vulnerable to jams. As a example: there has been occasional traffic congestion in the past caused by vehicles visiting the Americans' Halloween displays on the Paynes End development. On those occasions local residents have been held captive in our estate, unable to get to the doctor or to work. This was despite the Police directing traffic at both ends of the Lane. * PARKING. It is unacceptable to encourage

any further parking in the residential stretch of Skimmingdish Lane. This has already increased greatly in the last year. DESIGN, APPEARANCE, MATERIALS Caversfield parish and the neighbouring areas are described as 'sought after', and 'well-kept'. They include attractive houses, gardens, open green areas, agricultural land and listed buildings. Bicester Motion's proposal to increase the profitability of their site is simply unacceptable. If it were allowed to go ahead, the resultant noise, pollution, traffic congestion and so on would change the character of this area significantly. Going forward, the deterioration in appearance and value of the area, and all that follows from this, cannot be ignored. I cannot find anything beneficial or necessary in the proposal. I therefore urge Cherwell District Council to turn down this application.

Received Date

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Attachments