

Ella Casey

From: tandj22 <tandj22@btinternet.com>
Sent: 11 August 2021 17:42
To: Erica Buchanan
Subject: Brandon Stadium - Coventry Speedway - Planning Application R18/0186

Dear Erica

Firstly may I introduce myself. My name is Tony Steele and currently I hold the position as Vice Chairman of the ACU . The ACU as you are probably aware is the Internationally recognised Governing Body for Motorcyclesport in the British Isles (excluding Northern Ireland).

The purpose of this communication is to confirm our objection to the latest planning application for the site as documented above. The serious concerns over any proposed development of the site, away from its traditional use as a well established and respected venue for motor have already been well documented, again however we are faced with another totally inappropriate proposition. I again raise the point that Coventry Speedway was one of the sport's finest and well supported venues, always attracting significant crowds and indeed generated much needed income to the various businesses operating in the area. Indeed the reputation of the venue is world wide as a result of continuous stagings of International World Championship events. The central location and excellent, transport links all contributing to the viability in this business sector.

To quote what has already been stated the closure of Coventry, which came without any justification and its continued absence from the fixture list leaves an unnecessary and serious void in the sport not to mention a tragedy for the locality especially as it continues to be proven that there is clearly such a large desire for it to return.

On a more technical approach, as the governing for all motor cycle sport and acknowledging the success of the venue over many years we are at a loss to have any appreciation or understanding as to how provision for a 3G football pitch – with questionable and unsubstantiated the demand - would compensate in any way for the loss of this fine International motorsport venue. Indeed the National Planning Policy Framework section 97c which refers to the benefits of the new facility needing to “clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use” and this application seems to totally ignore such a criteria.

I think it is also key to mention the Coventry Speedway Viability Appraisal, as prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP). As I am sure my colleague on the Speedway Control Bureau has pointed out refers to discussions with key individuals in the sport which simply did not take place and should be disregarded as such in any considerations.

To conclude it has to be mentioned that the independent report was found seriously wanting in an attempt to prove the case for “no ongoing need” for Brandon Stadium, supported by current interest in the site for continuation of the sport for which it is recognised.

In the circumstance I sincerely hope you will reach the only logical conclusion in rejecting this inappropriate planning application which appears to serve only the developers, and not the long term interests of the local population, businesses and followers of the established sports that had been staged.

Finally I would advise that I have been involved with the administration of speedway racing now for many years and am more than happy to discuss and table more detailed information should you so require.

Yours sincerely

Tony Steele

ACU Vice Chairman
ACU Track Racing Committee Chairman



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