

Denton with Wootton Parish Council

*We object to the application for planning permission to change the operating hours and days for Lydden Racing Circuit on Sunday the 20th of April 2014, Sunday the 25th of May 2014 and Sunday the 10th of August 2014. (Dov/00023/14)*

*Despite considerable public objection the circuit was granted a variation in Sunday hours in 2013, contrary to the restrictions imposed by a full planning enquiry, which were ratified by the Secretary of State. Objections were raised as until this time Sunday mornings were one of the few periods when local residents were free to enjoy their environment without the disruption and disturbance caused by race-day traffic and the noise from the track. Particular concern was raised that the operations on the track would adversely impact upon those worshipping at Wootton Village Church. To grant the application for Sunday the 20th would considerably exacerbate this, particularly as a start time of 9am has been requested. Sunday the 20th of April is Easter Sunday and one of the most important days in the church year. The disturbance would clearly impinge upon the right of local residents.*

*The previously agreed race start time for the Circuit of 10.30am means that spectators are now making their way to the circuit an hour before to ensure being present at the commencement of the first race. An agreement to a requested start time of 9am would mean that there would be vehicular disturbance from 8am on a Sunday morning. This is a rural area with narrow lanes and houses immediately adjacent to the lanes. Such disturbance is clearly unacceptable. Not only is there a request for an earlier start time but additional hours of operation. A point that was made to mitigate the adverse consequences of the previous application was that it was merely a change to an earlier start time, which meant an earlier finish and therefore no additional disruption to local residents. This is clearly not the case in this application which goes against an important consideration of the previous planning committee.*

*The requested operating day of Sunday the 25th of May is the May Bank Holiday. The operation of the circuit on Bank Holiday weekends has a considerable adverse impact upon local residents to whom Bank Holidays and Weekends form an important part of their limited time for relaxation. The requested days also mean that racing will take place on consecutive weekends. It was a further important finding of the full planning enquiry that there should be 10 clear days between 2 day racing events. This gave some protection for residents from having consecutive weekends disrupted by racing. This application would mean that element of protection would also be removed.*

*At the previous planning committee the recommendation was that the conditions of the operation of the circuit should be considered in their entirety. It was proposed by the Circuit owners that a full submission would be made so that the full impact of operations could be carefully considered. To submit applications on specific aspects of operations for a decision by council officers, before such full consideration, sets a dangerous precedent by pre-empting full planning committee consideration and setting a decision precedent for aspects of the application. To present applications with limited timescales prior to the proposed event effectively forces officer led decisions rather than the full planning committee decisions which the nature and the impact of the proposed changes require.*

*For these reasons we object to the application for a change in Sunday operating hours by Lydden Racing circuit.*