

# CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **Development Control Committee**

Date of Meeting:- 04 October 2002

Agenda Item No:-

A3

Public	Operational	Delegated: Yes
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Accompanying Comments and Statements	Required	Included
Environmental Impact Statement:	No	No
Corporate Management Team Comments:	No	No
City Treasurers Comments:	No	No
City Solicitor & Secretary Comments:	No	No
Head of Personnel Services Comments:	No	No

Title:- **POST DECISION MINOR AMENDMENT TO ALLOW USE OF THE CIRCUIT FOR A RACE MEETING OVER 1 NO. WEEKEND RE 00/0510 AT DOWN-A-GATE, WARWICK BRIDGE**

Report of:- **Director of Environment and Development**

Report reference:- **EN.108/02**

## Summary:-

This report details a request for amendments to the above application which was approved by Members on 27 October 2000.

## Recommendation:-

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and approve the amendment.

M Battersby  
Director of Environment and Development

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report relates to the model car racing circuit at Down-a-Gate, Warwick Bridge, which is managed by the Carlisle Radio Model Car Club. The site is located on a triangular piece, measuring approximately 100metres by 90 metres by 70 metres. There are a number of mature trees in the southern corner of the site and hedges separate the site from the boundaries, with the roads to the east and west of the site. Residential properties exist to the east of the site, with Warwick Bridge Primary School located to the north east of the site.

## **2.0 Planning History**

- 2.1 On 15 June 2000 a planning application was submitted for the formation of model car racing circuit, including the siting of a rostrum race control room on the site. The application was made by Carlisle Radio Model Car Club. The Club races one tenth scale model cars which are powered by electric motors. On 27 October 2000 full planning permission was granted for this application.

## **3.0 Proposed Amendment**

- 3.1 The applicants are now seeking a variation to a condition attached to the original approval. Condition number 5 of Planning Approval 2000/0510 states:

"The model car racing track hereby permitted will not be used on more than 20 Sundays between April and October each calendar year and the use will not commence before 1000 hours, or continue beyond 1600 hours on these dates."

The reason given states:

"To prevent disturbance to nearby occupants."

- 3.2 It is the applicants intention to bid to host a round of the model car British Touring Car Championship. If successful the Club would require the use of the track for both a Saturday and Sunday over one weekend in 2003, the precise date for which is yet to be determined. The club would also require the use of the track over the same weekend between 0800 hours and 1800 hours.

- 3.3 A copy of the letter received from the applicant is reproduced following this Report. The applicant states that there are only a small number of circuits that are eligible to host such an event and that Carlisle would be the only venue in the north of England. The applicants', therefore, view such an event as being a prestigious and worthwhile event to bring to Carlisle. Due to the numbers of drivers that would compete, which is expected to be approximately 130. There are other potential benefits to the District including financial benefits to local hostelrys, businesses and the local economy generally.

#### **4.0 Consultation Response**

- 4.1 All individuals and consultees who were notified of the original planning application have received correspondence seeking views on the current proposal. At the time of writing this report one letter of objection had been received, from the occupier of a nearby residential property. The issues raised related to the noise emissions from the site when a race meeting is being held. One letter of support has also been received. These letters are also reproduced following the Report.

The Highway Authority have no objections to the revised proposal.

#### **5.0 Planning Issues**

- 5.1 The main issue at the time when the planning application was discussed by Members and a matter which is highlighted in the letter of objection, is that of a possible noise nuisance being created from the use of the site. If there were grounds to support this, the noise would obviously be detrimental to the amenity of the local residents.
- 5.2 Environmental Services examined noise emanating from the site from the PA and 'starting systems' during consideration of the original planning application and concluded that noise from these systems was barely audible from the nearest noise sensitive property. The noise from the cars themselves was not considered to be a problem because they are electrically driven.
- 5.3 A number of conditions were attached the planning approval, which included the control of noise levels and times of operation to address these concerns.

**6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 In conclusion, the Club is seeking the use of the racing circuit for one weekend comprising of the Saturday and Sunday in 2003. The use of the facilities for this weekend is considered to be a minor deviation from the use of the facilities approved under Planning Reference 00/0510 and, as such, is not considered that it would be detrimental to the amenity of the residents of the area.

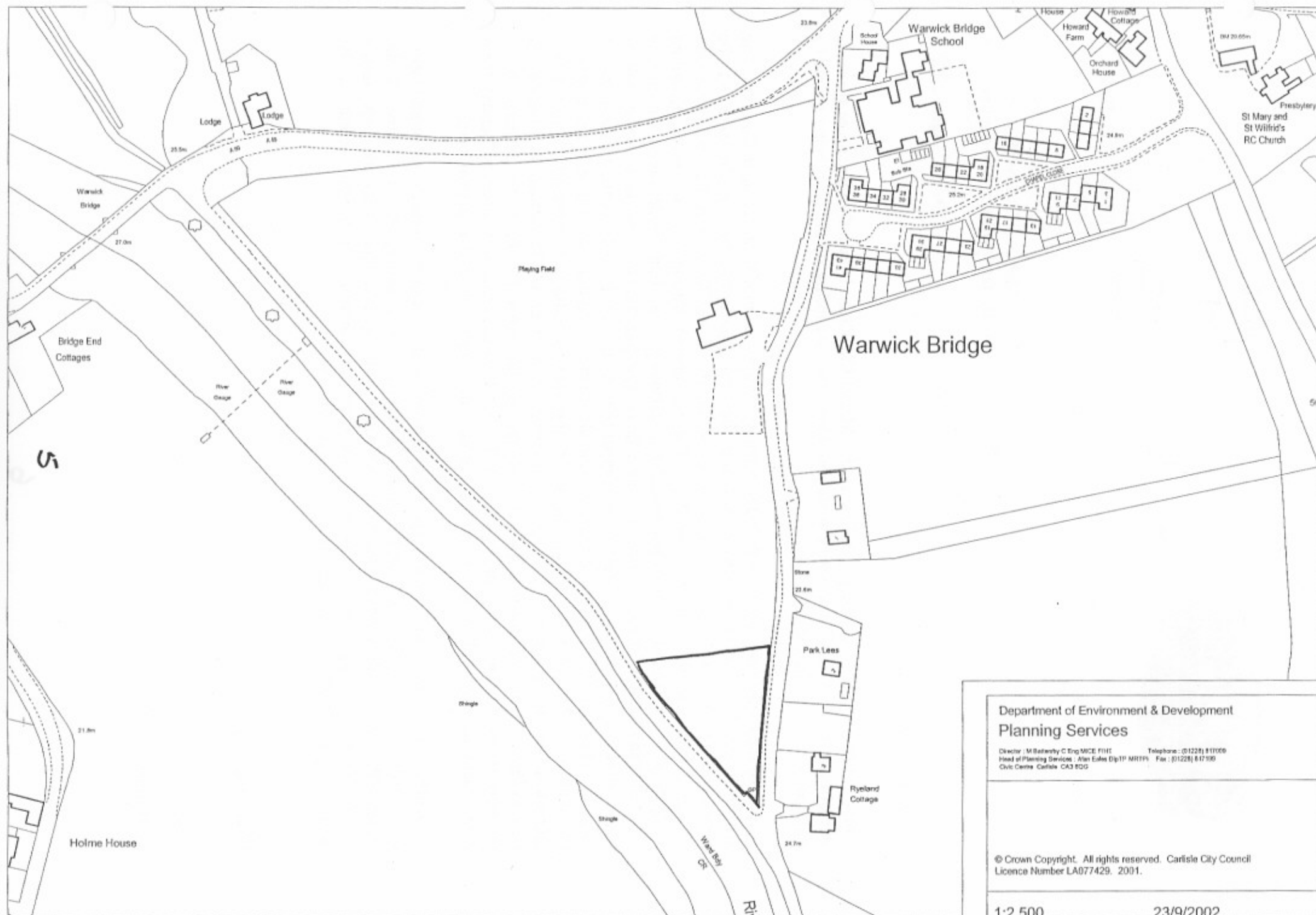
**7.0 Recommendation**

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and approve the amendment.

M Battersby  
Director Environment and Development

**Contact Officer:** Richard Maunsell

**Ext:**7174



Department of Environment & Development  
Planning Services

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Civic Centre Carlisle CA3 8EG

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23/9/2002



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Ian Willacy  
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CA1 2LD  
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EMAIL :ian@willacy.worldonline.co.uk

Date 7 August 2002

Dear Mr Taylor

I am writing to you on behalf of Carlisle Radio Model Car Club. I recently visited the planning department on 25/07/2002 and spoke with you, about the possibility of the club being granted a national meeting in the year 2003.

As part of the model car clubs growth and to promote the sport of model car racing in Cumbria. The British Radio Car Association (BRCA) which is the British governing body of the sport is to be approached to offer our facility at Down-a-gate community centre, Warwick Bridge to host a round of the British Touring Car Championships. The top drivers throughout the United Kingdom compete at several rounds of this Championship at various purpose built model racing car circuits the length and breadth of the country. It is quite favourable that the Down-a-gate Raceway will be asked to host a round of this prestigious competition, as this is the only venue in the north of England. The event will draw the top drivers from all around the country to Carlisle. If successful in it's application the club would require the use of the track on Saturday for the drivers to practice and allow them to set up their cars, prior to the main event which would be held on a Sunday. A time extension on the Sunday would also be required, to allow up to 130 drivers to compete. This is not possible in the 6 hours presently allocated. The track would need to be open on Sunday from approx 8am. Racing would need to commence at 9am and finish no later than approx 6pm.

A positive side is that these drivers and their families would require overnight accommodation which will bring revenue to the local bed and breakfasts, hotels, shops, etc. in the area. At the moment the above contravenes the planning restrictions, but if we could have a special dispensation for this one off meeting, this could be a splendid event for Cumbria, which would feature in the modelling press, promoting the sport in the North of England.

Yours sincerely

  
Ian Willacy

Mrs Linaker  
3 HOLME EDEN church Rd  
Warwick Bridge CARLISLE  
Cumbria CA48RG

September 12<sup>th</sup> 2002

Model Cars Circuit

Dear Mr Taylor

Thank you for Amended details on this club Would it make any difference if I did object?

I do wish to raise a point of issue regarding this club which is a of grate annoyance

At each of the race meetings I have to endure a loud speaker bellowing out a numbering system 1-10 with each Race which is constant about every 10 minutes And constant horn type noise again at or between races and to be truthful It is so loud I can still hear it when in my home and with my Double Glazing Windows closed I have had a word about this speaker volume but It has not made the slightest difference So, between constant Numbering down and constant beeping It really Is spoiling my weekends at home.

Apart from the Sunday Race dates the Saturday is spent mowing and strimming all day and during the week children are using the track to race Bicycle's around the track And when they get bored with that they, then climb on top of the metal container and bang sticks on the metal so as far as I am concerned It is not only a one day a week event and then people use the track during the week testing out cars.

Because of the very close proximity to my home the whole thing has upset my life The other house's are not as close as I am so ,it will not effect them as it does me

Now I have to put up with yet more What can I say?

NO I AM NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE NEW INTENTION

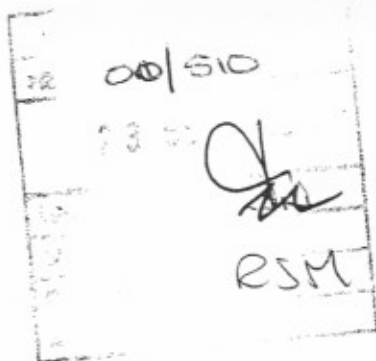
Yours Faithfully

*Moir Linaker*

Moir Linaker

PLANNING SERVICES	
REF:	
16 SEP 2002	
ISSUED TO	
ISSUED BY	
PASSED TO	RJM
ACTION	





Down a Gate Community Centre  
Warwick Bridge  
Carlisle  
Cumbria

17<sup>th</sup> September 2002  
Ref No: 2000/0510

Mr Richard Maunsell  
Department of Environment & Development  
Carlisle City Council  
Civic Centre  
Carlisle  
CA3 8DG.

Dear Sir

**Ref: Down a Gate Model Car Circuit**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 September 2002 outlining the proposed championship venue for next year. As a regular user of the Down a Gate facilities through my involvement with Warwick Wanderers AFC youth football I wish to highlight first of all that the club members conduct themselves in an impeccable manner. They are very courteous, helpful and a credit to the model car-racing club to which they belong. They keep the track and its surrounding area very clean and tidy and provide the youths in the area with the opportunity to get involved with this sport.

I think that the Carlisle City Council should actively support any application to extend and promote this venture as it can greatly benefit our area and give the visiting competitors the opportunity to visit our city. The fact that Down a Gate Community Centre has a track suitable enough to hold such an event is something we should all be proud of and happy to share with others.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Dobinson  
Chairman