

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	27th SEPTEMBER 2018	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	MATTHEW HOLFORD 01283 595856 matthew.holford@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	DONINGTON PARK NOISE MANAGEMENT	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ASTON-ON TRENT, MELBOURNE	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS14

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Committee is recommended to note the content of this report and to support the continued partnership working on noise management with North West Leicestershire District Council to enable the successful and sustainable growth of Donington Park.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1. To provide members with an understanding of how noise is managed at Donington Park Racetrack and the Council's role in this.

3. Background and History

3.1. Donington Park has been used intermittently as a motor racing circuit since the 1930's and almost continuously since the 1970's.

3.2. Motor sport is inherently noisy and so, like most noisy activities, the racetrack has been the cause of noise complaints from the communities surrounding the track over many years. The villages of Aston on Trent, Weston Upon Trent, Shardlow and Melbourne are those mainly affected in South Derbyshire, representing a population of approximately 9,000 residents.

3.3. The current noise controls which apply to the site were last updated in 2013 when a revised planning application for the use of the site was submitted to North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC). This included a full noise assessment of the application along with 'noise maps' which illustrated the predicted exposure of the surrounding area to track noise based on the various proposed uses of the track. This application was considered by this Committee on 13th April 2013, followed by a detailed consultation response to NWLDC.

3.4. The noise conditions of the final planning consent are complicated, but in collaboration with NWLDC, the Council produced a full summary of these which are published online at [https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/noise from donington park race circuit](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/noise%20from%20donington%20park%20race%20circuit)

3.5. Following significant redevelopment of the site since 2010, the site has expanded its offering including new hospitality buildings and conferencing suites and in recent years it has been the home of the FIA Formula E Championship. The track is currently owned by MotorSport Vision which acquired Donington Park on an initial 21-year lease in January 2017.

4. Noise Controls

4.1. In summary, the main legal controls contained within the planning conditions are;

- A limit on the number of days when noisy vehicles are allowed on the track;
- A limit on the times of day when motor racing or motor car testing is permitted;
- A limit on the number of consecutive 'noisy' days;
- On 'noisy' days, vehicles are only allowed on the track if they meet static noise tests;
- On 'quiet' days, vehicles driving around the track must meet drive-by noise limits or they are removed from the track;

4.2. The practical details of how track ensures compliance with the planning conditions are contained in a [Noise Management Plan](#). The Plan is a publically available document which has been published on the track website and is subject to regular review. Appendices C to F of the Noise Management Plan provide specific details about how noise during each classification of track use is managed. Vehicles using the track are subject to either static noise tests before they are allowed on the track or must comply with drive-by noise limits when they are using the track. Vehicles which fail the tests are excluded from entering or continuing to use the track.

4.3. As well as controlling noise from activity on the track, an important factor in managing the impact of noise is by effective communication with the communities surrounding the track.

- The track publishes on its website an event calendar which provides details about the type of event programmed for each day of the track calendar. This provides an insight into the amount of noise likely to be generated by activities on any given day.
- The track also has a dedicated part of its website devoted to keeping [residents updated](#)
- The track organises a Donington Park Consultative Forum twice a year. This includes attendance of Members and officers from NWLDC and South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) as well as many of the surrounding Parish Councils. Currently Councillor Watson attends on behalf of SDDC.

4.4. A monthly noise compliance report is published by the track and submitted to the regulatory officers at NWLDC and SDDC.

4.5. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) working for NWLDC and SDDC have been provided with a live web link to the trackside noise meters at the track so that real-time trackside noise measurements can be observed.

4.6. Noise measurements in the communities near to the track are carried out periodically by SDDC staff to compare field measurements against the predictions in the noise maps. To date the Council's measurements have shown that the measured noise from the track is consistently less than the noise exposure predicted in the noise maps.

- 4.7. A Technical Group consisting of track representatives plus noise specialists from NWLDC and SDDC meets up to twice a year to discuss any complaints or emerging issues.
- 4.8. The success of all of these measures can best be assessed against the number of noise complaints made by local residents about the track. In 2013 NWLDC and SDDC reported in excess of 300 complaints per year. This reduced to less than 10 over the 2017 race calendar.

5. Corporate Implications

- 5.1. The noise management activities linked to Donington Park meet the Corporate Plan theme of 'People' and specifically the aim PE3 to "Use existing tools and powers to take appropriate enforcement action". It also meets the 'Place' theme and specifically aim PL6 "Deliver service that keep the District clean and healthy". Finally, it also meets the "Progress" theme and specifically the aim PR3 "Work to maximise the employment, training and leisure uses of the National Forest by residents and increase the visitor spend by tourists."

6. Community Implications

- 6.1. The noise management activities linked to Donington Park meets the Sustainable Community Strategy theme of "High quality development that minimises the impact on the environment".
- 6.2. The activity described in this report has no adverse impacts on groups of people with protected characteristics, has a net positive impact on the communities in the wards affected and has no adverse impact on inequality.
- 6.3. The report has no impact on the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. Through the use of proportionate planning conditions, effective partnership working and development of good dialogue with local communities, the impact of noise from race activity at Donington Park has been effectively managed since a major planning application was approved in 2013. This has resulted in a 95% reduction in noise complaints as well as enabling Donington Park to invest and grow as one of the key motor sport locations in the UK.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1. Report to Environment & Development Services Committee, 13th April 2013 "Donington Park Planning Application".