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**Central Park Stadium  
Presentation to Members for Application Ref. 18/504830/FULL  
3 December 2018**

**Summary of Facts of Existing Speedway Use and Proposed Amendment**

- The existing permitted times for racing once a week during the Speedway season of March to October at the Stadium are as follows:

**Monday to Thursday: 4:30pm – 8:30pm** (granted under application ref. SW/08/0962)\*

**Friday: 6:00pm – 9:30pm** (racing likely only until 9:10pm) (granted under application ref. 15/500862/FULL)

**Saturdays and Sundays: No Racing**

\* Bank Holiday exceptions exist for the relevant Mondays where 3pm – 6pm is permitted.

- Use of the stadium for Speedway racing was initially permitted in January 2009 (ref. SW/08/0962), which allowed racing for a temporary period of one year (Condition 2 of permission). Erection of an acoustic barrier was required prior to commencement to address noise impacts, which was done.
- Condition 2 was varied under planning application (ref. SW/09/0275) to allow for a minimum of 7 seasons for Speedway use. The application was refused by the Council but allowed on appeal in May 2010, with the Inspector granting racing for 4 seasons.
- A subsequent application (ref. 15/510605/FULL) was submitted to remove Condition 2 from the original permission to allow Speedway racing on a permanent basis. The application was approved by the Council in May 2016. Accordingly the Speedway racing use is firmly established.
- The original permission contained a condition (Condition 5) restricting weeknight racing to Monday – Wednesdays. An application (ref. SW/09/0314) was submitted to vary Condition 5 to allow for Monday – Friday racing. The application was refused by the Council but was allowed at appeal.
- A later application (ref. 15/500862/FULL) was submitted to change the race time on Fridays from 4:30pm – 8:30pm to 6:00pm – 9:30pm. The application was approved at planning committee in May 2015 on a temporary basis for 4 seasons following the date of the first race taking place and is therefore still a live or extant permission (condition 1).
- A recent FOI request (September 2018) has shown limited noise complaints since the last application. The Council has not informed the Stadium of the complaints and no action has been taken by the Council.
- In summary, the stadium has permitted use for Speedway racing, which can operate once per week on any of the five weekdays, including a late Friday night finish. The implemented acoustic barrier provides protection for residents against noise generated by Speedway racing. The current application will not materially impact on residential amenity and a Saturday Speedway event, arguably a less sensitive day of the week, will mean no weekday racing and will not compete with weekday commuter traffic conditions. There is no evidence that the noise generated amounts to 'very significant harm'. No data has been presented to the Stadium to suggest this is the case. Viability is not a relevant consideration for this application given that the Speedway use is a lawful use. Saturday racing will contribute to the commercial success of the Stadium for the benefit of the town.