

Motocross supporters should think about the impact on residents

I'm writing in response to other editorials and a recent "invitation" at a King William County Board of Supervisor's meeting to attend a motocross event. The invitation was directed to those opposing a motocross track in King William County. The invitation assured attendees they would see a family oriented event while enjoying a popular sport. Implying, "try it, you'll like it". I am opposed to a motocross track being developed in this area of King William County but I agree with the motocross enthusiasts. Dirt bike riding is great fun and I have attended motocross events. My first bike was a Honda Scrambler I bought at the age of 14, my son had his first dirt bike at 10 and my grandchildren have gas-operated four-wheelers at 4 and 6 years of age.

What the enthusiasts need to realize is that having fun needs to be balanced with "the impact to others". People have remained in this area of the county for generations because they enjoy the rural environment. People move to this area because they want peace and quite. Former residents, who left for economic reasons, return later in life because they missed the country. This is not just about having fun for those that can afford the sport. It's about the people that live around the proposed track that will be subjected to noise, dust, lights, etc – day and night. Personally, I like fairs and amusement parks, but I don't want to live next to one. I like shooting guns, but I don't want to live next to a firing range ! It's one thing to visit a noisy place for a day or weekend; it's entirely different if you are exposed to it everyday.

I ask the King William residents supporting this motocross track to think about those local residents that are devastated about the thought of noise, dust and heavy traffic in their backyards ! I can see people's interest in coming from outside the county. Why not, they don't know the people in the area. They'll enjoy themselves for a day or two and then go back to their quiet homes. But as residents, we should be more respectful of our neighbors. Would you want it in your backyard ? And how about the fact properties surrounding such development typically drop in value by 20%. And future development tends to be lower priced homes and commercial businesses.

I would also like to extend a counter "invitation" to King William residents in favor of this motocross. You are undoubtedly familiar with Route 30 around the proposed site but I'd like for you to take the 8-mile ride around

the back portion of the property. Going east on Route 30, turn right after passing historic Epworth Church onto Enfield Road. For 3.5 miles, you will see sparsely placed homes with wooded areas and an occasional pond. You will pass open green fields, which in one case stretch for almost mile. The homes along the way vary in age, size, style and setting. Each unique and having it's on personal story.

At the intersection, turn left on Route 605. For the next 2 miles you will see similar settings of fields, homes and wooded areas. In addition, there are 2 historic churches within a quarter mile of each other.

Turn left again onto Venter Road. There is a striking white frame house surrounded by fields on the right with a green tin roof, 4 chimneys, and a wraparound porch. The next 2.5 miles is also scenic with some open fields, wooded areas and ponds. Development increases along this road, with a mixture of medium to upscale homes with surrounding acreage. There are several housing development entrances off of Venter Road , which lead to nice homes with neat yards.

Within this area are hundreds of residents, many who have been there all their lives. There are at least a dozen historic homes and several that were built in the 1700's. One of them, Seven Springs, has been established as a Bird Sanctuary, a Virginia Historical Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Seven Springs was recently donated to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation – what would they think of a motocross track 2 miles from their property ? There are also four historic churches, which were established between 1751 and 1890. And, it's not unusual to see a church service still in progress at 2:00PM on a Sunday.

Do you really feel the few hours of fun are worth the pain to the folks who live in this area ? Do you want to see their property values drop ? Do you want to see good neighbors leaving the county – as many have claimed they will ? Hopefully our county officials will realize the negative impact of this track and prevent the motocross development and rescind the ordinance in order to protect the future growth of our county.

*Bob Hubbard*