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30 July 2015

Councillor Michael Stokes  
Leader, Rugby Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Evreux Way  
Rugby  
CV21 2RR  
(NB: sent by email to [Cathy.Gall@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:Cathy.Gall@rugby.gov.uk))

Dear Councillor Michael Stokes

### **Brandon Stadium**

First we would like to thank you for finding the time to attend last Thursday's meeting about the future of Brandon Stadium. We organised the meeting simply as longstanding supporters of the motorsport at Brandon. We have received a lot of positive feedback after the meeting and feel that we achieved our objectives of: sharing information; bringing speedway and stock car supporters together and working alongside the local community and; placing the future of these two sports firmly on the agenda. From our personal perspectives it was important that we sought wider support from the racing community for our activities so far. We were bowled-over by the numbers attending and the encouraged by the high degree of support across the local community and race fans alike.

We have prepared a lengthy note of the meeting which we have attached for your information. This is in draft form so please get back to us if you have any comments on its accuracy.

A number of actions are recorded in the minutes including two where we need to liaise with the Borough Council. The first of these is where the meeting unanimously agreed that we should be making a request that Brandon Stadium should be considered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). It was heartening to find out that the local Community were

thinking on similar lines. We felt it was very important that this proposition should be raised as early as possible.

We are unclear of the process that needs to be involved in relation to such a request, however, so we would be grateful if you could let us know what further information you might require to give the potential request due consideration. The background to the proposition is that the stadium is long-established and has hosted speedway since 1928 and stock car racing since 1954. Both sports have strong heritages, remain very popular and there is a strong and continuing desire to see them represented in the Coventry area for many years to come. Together, the two sports attract family audiences and grass roots participation locally, regionally and internationally. The automotive industry is central to Coventry and Warwickshire's industrial heritage and motorsport makes a very important contribution to the local, regional and national economy. Brandon Stadium is the only motorsport venue in the area.

While the racing community recognise that Coventry Stadium is in need of improvement it remains, for speedway and stock car racing, as one of the finest facilities in the UK. For stock car racing it regularly provides the venue for the BriSCA F1 World Championship which is widely recognised as the most important oval racing event on the calendar and one of the top motorsport events to be held in the UK. The Coventry Bees speedway team continue to compete in the top league of British Speedway.

The second area where we need to liaise with the Borough Council concerns planning policy. While national policy is strongly supportive of the retention and enhancement of sports facilities of all types the meeting unanimously agreed that representations be submitted to the Council requesting that the importance and future of Brandon Stadium be recognised and reflected in the forthcoming local plan review. We propose to do some further work in relation to this and will endeavour to submit the representations to you by the end of August. It would be helpful if you could indicate if this timescale will be acceptable?

To conclude, we look forward to further discussions over the months ahead and look forward to your reply. If at any point you require anything further from us please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

	
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Pete Lawrence & Dave Carter

cc Mark Pawsey MP