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Dear Sir/Madam,

Excessive Vehicle Noise and Anti-Social Vehicle Use

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council to highlight growing concerns from residents regarding excessive vehicle noise and anti-social vehicle use, and to request consideration of additional measures that could assist local agencies in addressing these issues.

The Council continues to receive reports from communities affected by vehicle noise associated with motorcycles and cars fitted with modified or non-compliant exhaust systems, as well as the illegal use of off-road motorcycles. These incidents can have a significant impact on residents' quality of life, particularly in rural communities and locations where such activity occurs repeatedly.

We work closely with Thames Valley Police and other partners to support local enforcement activity. However, there is a clear need for improved tools and national approaches that enable enforcement agencies to better target resources and respond to community concerns.

We understand that although trials of noise cameras in other areas have had positive outcomes in identifying excessively noisy vehicles, the technology remains limited in its capabilities and has not yet been widely adopted as an automated enforcement tool. In addition, as these offences have a penalty of a £50 non-endorsable fixed penalty notice, it is not always a significant deterrent and may have limited impact on driver behaviour.

We recognise that vehicle noise and anti-social vehicle use are issues experienced by communities across the country and would therefore welcome consideration of greater use of technology to detect and record excessive vehicle noise as well as enhanced penalties for offenders. We are therefore writing to ask whether there are any planned policy, legislative or technological developments in this area, and to request that the current penalties for offences relating to excessive vehicle noise are reviewed to deter this anti-social activity.

Thank you for considering these concerns. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers
Leader of the Council