

Community split over TV show's future

BATTLE lines have been drawn as popular BBC motor series *Top Gear* continues to film its weekly show at Dunsfold Park although its existing planning consent expired at the end of April.

Neighbours have complained that the noise of screeching tyres makes their lives a misery.

Local pubs say the show must go on because the weekly studio audiences come in to eat and drink and are a vital boost for their businesses.

Supporters are keen to show Waverley planners the strength of local feeling in favour of *Top Gear* when they meet to decide whether to renew planning consent to 2010 or to refuse the application and take enforcement action.

A petition of support has already gathered 700 signatures. "All our customers have signed it," said Chris Lindesay, landlord of the Sun Inn, Dunsfold. "We did 46 lunches today because of the filming. It's a load of tosh that

everyone objects to what's going on at Dunsfold Park."

Dunsfold Aerodrome Group, which sent Waverley a detailed letter of objection, queried whether any possible benefit was worth 'the harm caused to local residents who have to suffer the noise and disruption to their peaceful enjoyment of their homes'.

Responding to objections this week, site owner Jim McAllister said the application had been submitted well before the deadline but

Waverley had waited seven weeks before declaring it invalid because it had been submitted on the wrong type of form.

Mr McAllister said he was delighted by the numbers supporting the petition: "Dunsfold Aerodrome Group purports to act for the village but this shows it's just not true," he said. A Waverley spokesman confirmed a corrected application had been received and said it should be determined within eight weeks.