

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

I am writing to add my support for the new stadium at Stratfield Brake. I write as a supporter, but also as a resident of Oxfordshire, and a member of the community.

Oxford United desperately needs a new home.

It's a club which means a huge amount to people across Oxfordshire and beyond, being the only elite football club in the county.

It is difficult to understand how valid objections can be made to the proposal. It's true of course that there are negative stereotypes of football fans ("hooligans!"). I am a professional woman in my 60s and can honestly say that fans, from all clubs, are by a huge majority, decent, community-minded people. There is a huge amount of kindness, generosity and kindred spirit amongst fans. The negative stereotyping demeans the holders of such blinkered views as much as they do those who are unfairly maligned. Any stereotyping does.

There are manifold benefits to the local economy and community of having a state of the art, eco-friendly, stadium: employment opportunities; opportunities for community organisations - community outreach is something this club excels; great facilities for conferences, hotels and the like.

The proposal would beneficially and attractively utilise an otherwise barren area of what is effectively wasteland, transforming it into an economic hub, while being sympathetic to biodiversity.

Naturally, travel to and from the new stadium needs to be taken into account, but the proximity of Oxford Parkway, plus the ease with which -public transport can be taken from central Oxford, reduces the use of multiple cars. The suggested traffic management plans to facilitate pedestrian egress is mirrored at sports grounds round the country (for example Barnsley and Coventry, to name but two) and is easily manageable with minimal disruption. Indeed the ubiquitous use of apps like Waze and Googlemaps means that many motorists would be able to completely avoid inconvenience on match days.

I am not a Cherwell resident but am a long time supporter of the club. I don't at all fit that stereotype which appears to be feared by those who oppose this development - and nor do the fellow fans who I've met over the years.

I'd like to reiterate how much our club means to us - the community, the fans, the families who go to matches now, and in the future.

I wish to add my heartfelt support to the application.

Received Date

Attachments