

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

Watching Oxford United has provided me personally with numerous mental health benefits. It has given me that sense of belonging and camaraderie, as we as fans come together to support their team, and has fostered social connections, reducing feelings of loneliness or isolation. This was particularly valuable as I moved back to the area recently and has led me to reconnect with family, reconnect with football fans that I had known but lost touch with, and connect with new people that otherwise I would not have met. The shared experience of cheering for a common goal can uplift spirits and create a sense of unity within the community. Going to football affords me the opportunity to switch off from everyday stressors, offering a much-needed mental break and an opportunity to unwind. The highs and lows experienced during the game can also serve as an emotional outlet, allowing me to release tension and express myself.

In addition the new Oxford United stadium promises a host of benefits for both the club and the local community. Not only will it provide a modern and vibrant home for us, but it also presents an opportunity for economic growth and community engagement. With state-of-the-art facilities, it will attract fans from near and far, boosting tourism and local businesses. Moreover, the stadium's presence will stimulate job creation, offering employment opportunities and contributing to the area's prosperity. Beyond the economic advantages, the stadium will serve as a focal point for community events, fostering a sense of unity and pride among residents. Overall, the new Oxford United stadium stands as a symbol of progress and opportunity, enriching both the sporting landscape and the lives of those it serves.

For me, having Oxford United Football Club in the community has fostered a shared passion that transcends age, gender, and social divides, uniting the community in a common cause. As mentioned I have made many new friends since reconnecting with the club - from ages 3years old to people in their 80's - we are a family that crosses many generations.

Additionally, the club and players serve as an inspiration for young aspiring athletes, providing role models and opportunities for talent development within the community. This is something I am very tuned into as a teacher in a local secondary school, and will often hear students discussing the game or equally as often be a part of those discussions. There is clear proof for me that the impact of the football club reaches far beyond 90minutes on a Saturday.

Beyond sport, the team's presence often leads to increased social cohesion, with supporters coming together to celebrate victories and support each other through defeats. Ultimately, a local professional football team is not just about the sport itself; it's about fostering a sense of identity, boosting the local economy, and strengthening the social fabric of the community.

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