

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number**

**Location**

**Proposal**

**Case Officer**

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

Oxford United Football Club has provided the community with so much during my lifetime growing up in Oxford. It provides a sense of unity, optimism, and togetherness which has seldom been found in this era of increasing division and hate in our country. Football has the unique power to bring people together and provide light at the end of the tunnel, and this ability is something which Oxford United has been able to purvey to me and many others across the county.

Ever since my Dad took me to my first game when I was six, I was hooked. Ever since, my family and I have gone to watch Oxford United regularly and the time on a Saturday afternoon and Tuesday evening provides an opportunity to put everything else to one side - instead to focus on the club we love and need. This also inspired me to play football for Kidlington and Oxford City for 11 years - just a couple of clubs who have benefitted greatly from Oxford United's presence in the county.

But it is clear we are at an inflection point. Oxford United have for a longtime not been a sustainable professional football club at the Kassam Stadium due to the mistakes of the past. It would be naive to say that there is a perfect solution to the issue of where Oxford United's long time future lies, but two things are abundantly clear:

- Oxford United will cease to exist if the club does not find a new home.
- The county will greatly feel the loss of its sole professional club.

As a former Lib Dem member and current Green Party voter, the top issue that motivates my vote is sustainability and fighting the climate crisis. This is why I was so pleased to see Oxford United's emphasis on being net zero in plans for the triangle development. It is clear that this stadium could not only be a world leader in sustainability, but also act as a blueprint to other football clubs in the UK (as well as further afield) - therefore acting as a catalyst for the global net zero transition.

We have so much to be proud of in our great city and county. We are a world leader in so much. Why can our football club not be the same? It is impossible to capture all the arguments in one submission, but I feel this one is compelling. I am proud of my city and this development, just a mile away from where I call home, presents an opportunity to give the club I love a sustainable home, while also further demonstrating Oxford's ability to be a world leader in yet another field.

**Received Date**

**Attachments**