

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number**

**Location**

**Proposal**

**Case Officer**

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

I am strongly supportive of the proposed development going ahead. I am a lifelong fan of Oxford United and have followed the many highs and lows of the club over the past four decades. I have therefore, watched the club at The Manor and then the Kassam Stadium.

I believe a new stadium and surrounding facilities would be a positive development not only for the football club, which has strong community ties across Oxfordshire which have only improved during the global pandemic, but also the wider Oxfordshire region.

The new stadium has backing from significant investors who wish to spend 150m+ on the development. The investors have an internationally renowned reputation in construction including football stadia. For example, Erick Thohir used to own Inter Milan and he was the developer who led the construction of DC United's 250m stadium in Washington, USA. They are extremely sympathetic to ensuring that the stadium will be as unobtrusive as possible and are determined it will be a useful facility for the whole Oxfordshire community. If built, the stadium and associated businesses (hotels & leisure, conferencing) will provide significant levels of employment and generate revenue for the area.

I note the commitment to the stadium being a carbon neutral facility which is 100% in line with the national trend towards a green agenda. Anindya Bakrie who is one of the investors was a speaker at COP26 and has set a clear green agenda for his business interests. Indeed, he has previously announced that he wishes to generate 70% of his company's revenues from green industries. I am also aware that senior officials at Oxford United have been meeting with Tottenham Hotspur to learn how they constructed their stadium in a manner that has been recognised as excellent from a sustainability and green perspective.

The current three-sided Kassam Stadium is appallingly inefficient from a green perspective and I am reliably informed by senior OUFC officials that it is almost incapable of being improved in this area due to the way in which it was originally constructed. It also has poor public transport links resulting in thousands of cars being driven to each home game. The new stadium location has been chosen partly due to its excellent public transport links. Currently my son and I normally drive to matches via private car due to the inconvenient location of the current stadium from a public transport perspective but we would simply catch a train from Radley to Oxford Parkway via a change at Oxford Station if The Triangle were to become the new stadium site. Alternatively, I may choose to visit Oxford City Centre first to meet friends (boosting the local economy via our spend) and then use bus, Park and Ride or train from the city centre to the stadium.

This feels like a once in a lifetime opportunity to provide not only a community club, but also the wider Oxfordshire region, with the chance to introduce a development which will benefit the county socially, economically, and sustainably and I would urge you to strongly support this fantastic initiative.

**Received Date**

**Attachments**