

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

<b>Application Number</b>	<input type="text" value="24/00539/F"/>
<b>Location</b>	<input type="text" value="Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington"/>
<b>Proposal</b>	<input type="text" value="Erection of a stadium (Use Class F2) with flexible commercial and community facilities and uses including for conferences, exhibitions, education, and other events, club shop, public restaurant, bar, health and wellbeing facility/clinic, and gym (Use Class E/Sui Generis), hotel (Use Class C1), external concourse/fan-zone, car and cycle parking, access and highway works, utilities, public realm, landscaping and all associated and ancillary works and structures"/>
<b>Case Officer</b>	<input type="text" value="Laura Bell"/>

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

The scheme is critical for the survival of the only professional sports team in Oxfordshire. The recent government White Paper lists the following impacts of a football club failure on the local community:

- Job losses
- Loss of matchday demand for local retail and hospitality businesses.
- Loss of football 'tourism'
- Economic scarring
- Loss of cultural heritage
- Loss of civic identity and pride
- Loss of social cohesion
- Loss of community initiatives

If OUFC can't open the proposed stadium by the start of the 2026 season, it will be homeless. The English Football League (EFL) have confirmed that if OUFC is unable to secure a home ground that is in, or is in close proximity to, the city of Oxford, the Club's membership of the EFL would be at risk.

The Club's proposals clearly align with the aspirations and recommendations of playing more women's matches in main stadia to grow attendance and exposure.

The stadium will become a landmark for community activity in Oxfordshire. Without the restrictions which are currently in place on the Kassam Stadium, the new stadium will be able to host community events and celebrations like other prominent football clubs do at their home ground.

Other community benefits of the proposals are as follows

- Boosts to local businesses from an increase in visitors to shops, bars and cafes
- New jobs at the stadium which are not limited to match days but year-round at the hotel and other uses, supporting local resident employment and training opportunities.
- Year-round access to the stadiums inclusive community facilities which can be used by local sports groups and the wider community including a health and wellbeing centre and a gym and fitness centre, restaurant, and flexible community meeting spaces for work, education and leisure.
- Improving safe cycling and walking by improving connectivity for existing residents between Kidlington and the stadium and surrounding developments. The Proposed Development will lead to an increase in accessible open space and public realm in the local area and aims to connect the stadium with the wider countryside, woodlands, canal walks and nearby towns. As well as more bus services serving Kidlington and the stadium plus improved pedestrian access to Oxford Parkway station.

The stadium will be one of the most sustainable in terms of carbon emissions in the UK and the needs of meeting the Biodiversity net gain of 10% are being exceeded.