

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number**

**Location**

**Proposal**

**Case Officer**

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

I was born and raised in Oxford, and have been a fan of Oxford United for the past 60+ years.

Obviously I don't want the club to die, which undoubtedly will happen if it has no stadium to play in once the lease expires at the Kassam in two years time. I, and many thousands of others, would be devastated.

Over and above these emotional issue, I strongly urge that the go-ahead be given to allow construction of the stadium on the area of land known as the "triangle" for the following substantive reasons:

- there are no alternative sites;
- the triangle, being so close to a railway station, will discourage use of cars to get to the ground;
- the land on the triangle is not currently accessible and was formally a contaminate motocross site;
- the adjacent land, at Stratfield Brake, will be improved and kept up by Oxford United, thereby providing decent playing sites for locals;
- the areas immediately around the stadium will be greatly enhanced to encourage biodiversity;
- the stadium itself will be the most ecologically-advanced in the country (all electric, solar panels, net zero);
- the stadium construction and (more important) the stadium and ancillary features (hotel, conference, etc.) will provide jobs;
- the stadium facilities will be available to host other events (concerts, conferences, etc.) that will benefit locals and all of Oxfordshire.

All of these benefits have clearly been spelled out in the planning documents submitted by the club.

I understand that there are some concerns about occasional traffic delays (or rerouting), but it's important to recognize that these will occur fewer than 30 times a year (23 home games, most at 3 p.m. on a Saturday and the remainder at 7:45 on a Tuesday, and a few cup games), and for only 45 minutes or an hour each. Moreover, if it's deemed necessary and appropriate, a footbridge will be built to alleviate traffic issues.

Residents are also concerned about potential noise and light from the stadium. Construction has been planned to keep both as much as possible within the stadium. In the past I lived less than a quarter of a mile from a stadium, and heard and saw almost nothing during games. People currently living in Blackbird Leys will no doubt say the same thing about noise and light emanating from the Kassam stadium.

Please do all you can to ensure that Oxford United continues for the foreseeable future, and give the green light to the construction of the new stadium at the Triangle.