

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

Having been born and raised in Oxford, until moving away for work reasons, I have followed Oxford United home and away my entire life. For clubs like Oxford, further down the football pyramid, the sense of belonging and community is the very essence of their being, and the heartbeat that drives their progression. Clubs like Oxford need to be able to serve the community because they are part of the community. The proposal for the new stadium is a fresh and exciting one, that keeps the community spirit alive, but also reinvigorates an area that has youth sports at its core. Through my work with the Youth Sport Trust, I can see the difference physical activity makes to young people. It is not only the benefits for the body and mind but the breaking down of social and economic barriers that have a true impact for these young people, opening doors and generating opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have had.

Having a friend who lives behind Stratfield Break, I also get to see how his role as a football coach encourages, supports and nurtures young people in the local area. I feel that the proposal for the new stadium would underpin that sense of community and deliver vital resources to help young people improve their lives.

However, I understand the reservations to the proposal by the local community on the subject of infrastructure. Normally, councils, developers and town planners get the transport infrastructure wrong when building new retail and commercial developments, needlessly exacerbating traffic congestion in the area. The proposal for the use of the triangle land would seem a better fit because Kidlington already has good links to the A34 and Oxford Parkway.

Provided common sense is applied to the transport infrastructure - with multiple egress routes for supporters and vehicles on match day - from all parties involved, I can see this problem being overcome.

So to conclude, I firmly support the proposal for the new stadium. I feel the socio-economic benefits outweigh the infrastructure negatives; building a lasting, sustainable community club for generations of people and local businesses, that they can be proud to support and be supported by.

Received Date

Attachments