## Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number** 24/00539/F

Location

Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington

**Proposal** 

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

**Case Officer** 

Laura Bell

**Organisation** 

Name

**Address** 

Type of Comment

Objection neighbour

**Comments** 

Type

The proposed planning application for a new stadium for Oxford United Football Club raises significant concerns that warrant rejection unless certain conditions are met. Chief among these is the necessity for the developers to construct a suitable pedestrian route, a bridge, connecting the Water Eaton Park and Ride and Rail station to the stadium site. It is deemed unacceptable for local roads to be closed on match days, disrupting traffic flow, and impacting residents' daily lives.

One of the primary objections to the proposal is the inadequate space and poor location of the proposed site. Situated at the convergence of heavily trafficked roads, the stadium would exacerbate congestion and access issues, particularly with inevitable car usage despite assurances of public transport reliance. This would lead to parking problems in Kidlington, impeding resident mobility and emergency vehicle access. Furthermore, the broader context of proposed housing developments between Oxford and Kidlington exacerbates concerns about traffic strain. The stadium's impact on traffic flow, coupled with planned housing expansions, would overwhelm existing infrastructure, posing significant challenges.

The proposed site's current status as a green belt area, cherished by Kidlington residents, underscores the incongruity of introducing a large-scale stadium and associated facilities. The development would disrupt the area's character and negatively impact residents' lives.

Additionally, doubts arise regarding the club's need for relocation due to purported transport inadequacies. Proposed enhancements to the Cowley train line could alleviate concerns, and the club's existing site would meet their requirements sufficiently, calling the necessity of relocation into question.

Concerns about spectator facilities and traffic disruption on match days further compound objections. The proposed number of spectators arriving by public transport seems unrealistic, leading to potential traffic chaos and disruptions, especially along the busy Kidlington to Oxford Road.

There will be detrimental effects on local traffic and public transportation. Road closures would significantly impact commuting routes and access to essential services, while stadiuminduced congestion would hinder travel to nearby destinations.

Environmental concerns, including the loss of green belt land, biodiversity degradation, and increased flood risk, further underscore the unsuitability of the proposed site for stadium construction. Additionally, safety concerns at Oxford Parkway Station due to its small size and unsuitability for large crowds raise alarm.

In summary, the proposal for a new stadium for Oxford United Football Club lacks justification for building on the green belt and fails to adequately address traffic, transportation, environmental, and safety concerns. Decision-makers should prioritise the well-being and interests of Kidlington residents by rejecting this proposal unless significant mitigating measures are implemented.

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Attachments