

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number	<input type="text" value="24/00539/F"/>
Location	<input type="text" value="Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington"/>
Proposal	<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"/>
Case Officer	<input type="text" value="Laura Bell"/>
Organisation Name	<input type="text" value=""/>
Address	<input type="text" value=""/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<p>Quite simply, this application must be supported and proceed. Oxfordshire has a proud and illustrious sporting history, world-renowned for the first sub four minute mile, an annual boat race between two notable institutions attracting a global audience. Oxfordshire is the "home" of Formula 1 and known world-wide for its University and the research emanating from its Alumni. What it is lacking is any community facility of international stature and standing, and if not passed there is the very real possibility that it will lack any professional sports team.</p> <p>"The Triangle" is currently a patch of scrub/waste land, determined by others to be contaminated. Oxford United are the sole professional sports team in the County and are willing to invest at a significant level to reclaim this land and turn it in to an asset for the community, not just for the residents of Kidlington, but County-wide. It is well served by Public transport, with Oxford Parkway and Pear Tree a stones throw away. Their car-free approach to the plan aligns with the wider County Council transport vision, and learning can be taken from the recent Amex Stadium development in Brighton to prove that this is a realistic and achievable ambition.</p> <p>As a country, our young people are at risk of ill-health and deprivation owing to reductions in local and central Government funding for youth activity and provision. Whilst Oxford United are our only professional sports team, their community work, especially with our young communities, is invaluable and provides significant opportunity and provision that had previously been met by more traditional funding means. Once again, there is the genuine risk that this vital support to some of the most vulnerable in our society will cease, exacerbating the challenges sadly already faced.</p> <p>I am a lifelong Oxfordshire resident, Oxford United supporter and Cherwell resident. During my life, I can only recall Oxford hosting one international sporting event, the final stage of the Women's Tour of Britain, in 2022. How can we as a City and County be so lacklustre in our approach to significant contribution to sporting excellence, despite our celebrated history? Oxford United are a social asset to our County. They encourage and celebrate diversity, inclusion and well-being. When the team are performing well, the mood of the County lifts. They are a significant economical source within our County, and this will only increase as the club progresses and a Stadium is finally under ownership and stewardship of the Club.</p> <p>Their current location at the Kassam Stadium is untenable for a number of reasons. The Kassam is in-accessible for many and in direct convention of the County's transport vision. The club do not own it and cannot generate any revenue from it, it is also in a poor state of repair and will therefore be uneconomic.</p> <p>The "Triangle" proposal has sustainability at the heart and forefront of the development and will benefit the environment, which the site in its current form does not. It will be an asset not just on match-days, but 365 days of the year, providing an open and inclusive space for the community. It will allow Oxford United and the community to flourish and will be an asset our County can be proud of. To succeed we need our communities to be United, this is a generational opportunity to deliver this. Quite simply this application must be supported and succeed.</p>

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Attachments