

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

My family are historically from South Oxon/Oxford, but I have never lived within the City. In my 4 decades as an OUFC fan and in a 4th generation family attending games, the stadium that we play in has always been an issue. The Manor was quaint but outdated. Grenoble Road is a well intentioned but failed home, stuck in a location that is hard to get to, done to lowest standard possible. It offers little to the local of the leys. It would be very easy to sit as someone who doesn't live in Oxford but is an OUFC fan, to say just approve it. I don't want that.

A new home for the club, perhaps at last one that is done correctly and can serve as a community asset, will absolutely benefit the wider Oxford community. Grenoble Road does not do that today. Apprenticeships, education opportunities and employment are just 3 net positives for the Oxford economy by building a new football ground ,and this will help to bring success on the pitch. These are a net new positive over the Grenoble Road Stadium today.

Also, Football has a unique ability to make a community of different backgrounds, ethnicities, etc all integrate as 1 for a common cause. Oxford United is the name of the club, but it has the ability to unite Oxford and Oxfordshire where other more traditional local organisations perhaps do not. Losing Oxford United would hurt both the local community, but also be a net negative to the local economy and in any decision, that must not be forgotten.

I very much respect that residents of Kidlington will have significant concerns and agree these need to professionally and openly addressed by OUFC and the relevant local authorities, but equally, it must not be over stated that all issues raised are not unique or cannot be solved.

This is a once in lifetime opportunity to give Oxford United something it's not had for many years - a real home- and a chance to provide Oxford a world class sporting arena that it has never had. I strongly urge that approval for a new ground is given, but done in a manner where all stakeholders are given clear lines of responsibility on what they should deliver.

Received Date

Attachments