

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

A football club is the lifeblood of the community it represents and Oxford United, being the only professional football club in the county, represents the whole of Oxfordshire. Failure to secure a new stadium could seriously threaten the existence of the club so it is vital that a new stadium is approved, and this site has proven to be the most suitable for this type of development.

Although the site is within the Green Belt, it is a part of the GB that is seriously eroded - more of a Brown Belt - and as such, the environmental impact of the development will be negligible, and will be more than compensated for given the proposed solutions in the proposals. The argument that this will lead to the closure of the gap between Kidlington and Oxford carry more weight but, unfortunately, it is the proposed housing on the Jordan Hill golf course and to the south-east of Kidlington that will cause more damage. Sadly, I believe the closure of that gap is inevitable and should not be used to justify refusing planning permission for this project, given the numerous positive benefits that approval will secure.

While a major objection concerns access and egress from the proposed stadium of up to 16,000 spectators, and the refusal of the council to approve road closures at key times, this is not an insurmountable problem. Plenty of other, larger, developments (especially Coventry City, Bristol City and Brentford, but plenty of others too) show that there are innovative solutions, such as footbridges, well-timed pedestrian crossings and simple crowd management techniques that mitigate the impact of large numbers of people entering and leaving a venue simultaneously.

In short, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Oxfordshire to have a top-class sporting and community facility on land that is otherwise without virtue. Don't allow this historic chance to falter.

Received Date

Attachments