

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number**

**Location**

**Proposal**

**Case Officer**

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

Firstly, the addition of housing developments will encroach upon the limited natural space and green belt areas that are essential for the well-being and enjoyment of our community. With the rapid urbanisation and expansion of residential areas, we risk losing precious green spaces that provide vital ecological benefits and recreational opportunities for residents. This needs to be a consideration when looking at the Oxford United plans.

Furthermore, the proposed road closures associated with the stadium will severely disrupt local movement and exacerbate existing traffic congestion issues. Kidlington lacks the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the influx of additional cars and people that such a large-scale development would bring. The resulting gridlock and congestion would diminish the quality of life for residents and pose significant safety concerns.

Moreover, there has been a glaring lack of comprehensive planning that takes into account the cumulative impact of already confirmed residential and commercial developments in and around Kidlington. The piecemeal approach to planning fails to consider the broader implications for our community's infrastructure, environment, and overall well-being.

Drawing parallels to the destructive practices seen in South America, where rainforests have been cleared for profit-driven ventures, we must recognize the irreversible consequences of prioritizing development over environmental preservation. Once green spaces are lost to housing estates and stadiums, there is no turning back. We must learn from the mistakes of others and prioritise sustainability and conservation in our planning decisions. Additionally, Kidlington is prone to heavy flooding during periods of intense rainfall and winter months. The proposed residential developments and stadium construction will only exacerbate these flooding risks, placing additional strain on already overburdened drainage systems and infrastructure.

While proponents of the stadium may argue that road closures will be limited to larger games, the intention for the stadium to serve as a "go-to" venue for various events suggests otherwise. The frequent occurrence of road closures for events beyond football matches will further disrupt local life and compound existing traffic challenges.

In conclusion, I urge the planning authorities to reconsider the proposed development plans for the Oxford United Football stadium and surrounding housing developments. It is imperative that we prioritise the preservation of our natural spaces, address existing infrastructure deficiencies, and adopt a more holistic approach to planning that safeguards the long-term well-being of our community.

**Received Date**