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

Comments

Type

Objection

neighbour

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed new Oxford United supporter. I am an Oxford United fan but can see no need for the new stadium as the current one is well suited and can be extended. I understand that Mr Kassam has indicated that the current arrangements can continue, but the ideal solution, long term, is for Oxford United to own the Kassam Stadium, and energies should be in that direction, not in building a new stadium. In terms of the planning application, I would like to make the following points: Parking/Roads/Highway safety

1. Extremely poor planning for parking and road safety. It is surely impossible to close roads around the stadium so close to the city. Oxford is already a very congested city and to the north with more housing planned this will become a major headache for everyone. Road closures have been objected to on very stong grounds by the police: it will be unsafe for the area. Surely this must be taken seriously. Roads in the vicinity will be blocked and locals' lives made impossible. Furthermore the Oxford Parkway station is called that for a reason. Its parking for those in the city who need to travel, and for visitors to Oxford who need to get into the city. It would be crazy to close the road to it/near it on match or event days.

Drainage and Flood risk/ Nature conservation/Impact on trees

2. Greenbelt. This is the last piece of green belt between Oxford and Kidlington. The wildlife that will be destroyed and the habitats/trees etc taken away is simply reprehensible at a time of global warming, flood risk and pollution. This is an area of wildlife which is well known to harbour and shelter species which need protection not eradication. We live in the most nature depleted country in Europe and this plan will simply increase this problem further. The citizens of Oxford pride themselves on the greeness and pleasantness of our city; this is precious and makes Oxford special but this is being eroded to the point where the city is being concreted over, this plan simply adds to this. We will lose this aspect of our city. The long term effects of this will be serious for health, welfare and for the safety of residents as more flooding will inevitably emerge as the options for tree replacement are not serious or thought through (it takes decades for trees to grow not years); as well as the loss of local species and flora.

Noise Pollution

3. The amount of noise created in this area will be huge. Summertown and Kidlington are percieved as very attractive places to reside. This will simply be lost completely so that the areas will no longer attract investment. Noise pollution is not acceptable so close to massive residential areas. Kassam Stadium can easily be changed and developed properly into a more appropriate venue. This is not only on match days but when any event is planned at the stadium; noise will become a weekly feature of the stadium. Please consider the long term impact of this.

Above all, Kassam Stadium is ideally placed. It is well served by public transport (buses 1 and 5 amongst others) and is close to Oxford United's traditional fan base of Cowley and Headington. It has an extensive car park and good entertainment and caterng failities nearby. There seems to me absolutely no need for a new stadium, just increased efforts to change ownership of the Kassam to Oxford United.

Received Date