

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number**

**Location**

**Proposal**

**Case Officer**

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

Creating a Community hub, This Project will greatly improve sporting, educational and leisure facilities in the area. Improve facilities for the Gosford All Blacks Rugby club and Kidlington Cricket Club. With the huge interest in Women's Football, a Stadium that the Oxford United Women's Football team can play and also other Oxfordshire based teams could play ie the Oxfordshire Seniors cup final could be played there.

Securing the future of Oxford United FC as the Licence agreement runs out in 2026 at the Kassam Stadium and leaves Oxford United in real danger of becoming homeless. Ground sharing does not work this hasn't worked for Coventry City. They moved out of the Ricoh Stadium in Coventry due to high rent as they don't own the ground and ground shared with Northampton Town FC, they suffered reduced attendances, got relegated then moved to Birmingham City FC then moved back to the Ricoh Arena in Coventry where they are still experiencing rent issues and now they are looking to move out and build a stadium in Coventry for themselves. Where would Oxford United play post 2026?. This will cripple Oxford United and losing the club will be a huge loss to Oxfordshire, as Oxford United is a proper community local club that supports the local community and Oxford United have got a good track record.

The current Kassam Stadium is not fit for purpose, for example. Pollution caused by over 1,000 to 2,000 cars spending over an hour leaving the one entrance/exit overflow car parks after the match. The safety of parking especially leaving with poor access. The location of the stadium has poor access for people using public transport.

Greatly reduce parking and encourage using public transport as the development is close to Oxford Parkway Railway Station plus close to Water Eaton and Pear Tree Park and Ride Bus stations. We use the car to get to the Kassam Stadium as it's awkward to get to by public transport from Witney. With the development at Strafield Brake or "The Triangle" we would use the bus instead as it's easier to get to.

Create jobs for local people and commercial boost for the area.

Carbon neutral project. This project will protect the local green spaces between Oxford and Kidlington and will not destroy trees which are being protected by the Woodland trust.

I have been a fan of Oxford United since the 1980's and seeing Oxford United being relegated out of the football league in 2006 was awful. The future of the club looked bleak. Fortunately the right people took over the club and steered the club back into the football league. Unfortunately the club does not own the Kassam Stadium and this has hindered Oxford United's progress due to paying high rent to the stadium owner. With a new stadium the club can control it's destiny, even at the recent Oxford United v Arsenal FA cup game at the Kassam Stadium which was covered by ITV1. The ITV1 presenters including Ian Wright and Mark Pougatch all commented on ITV1 "Live" about Oxford United's future and should have a stadium of there own to secure their future and not pay out huge rent to the Kassam stadium owner.