

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

I Given the proximity of the A34, railway line and being in the flight path of Kidlington airport, I cannot understand how the stadium would create any noise or light pollution issues.

The stadium's location next to an existing train station and existing bus routes from Bicester, Witney, Woodstock, Kidlington and Oxford make travelling to and from matches by public transport a very attractive option for both home and away fans. For those that may need to arrive by car, the option to use the Oxford Parkway park and ride or any of the other park and ride sites around Oxford further validates the logic of the location.

Having been to many big sporting events (including cricket, rugby and football) at much bigger stadiums than OUFC are proposing, I feel any issues with crossing the Oxford road have been wildly exaggerated. With the new traffic lights being installed on Kidlington roundabout there will be the opportunity for pedestrians to safely cross both the Oxford road and Frieze way at the roundabout. There is also an existing traffic light controlled crossing on the Oxford road for the bus stop/train station. So even without the proposed foot bridge, I believe from my experience at other much bigger stadiums, providing there is appropriate marshalling at the crossing points, there would not be a big impact on traffic flow.

I'd also like to raise the issue of the timing of matches and the potential impact on traffic. The only matches likely to attract very large crowds are the men's first team games. (Although the opportunity for our Ladies team matches and local finals to be played at the new stadium are also extremely welcome). The men's first team will typically only play 23 league games plus a handful of cup games at the stadium each season. The usually kick off at 3pm on a Saturday or 7:45pm on a Tuesday. This is nowhere near the peak rush hour traffic periods and I am confident that any survey of the traffic volume on the Oxford road at those times versus 8am Monday to Friday, would confirm that view.

With regard to parking concerns, I have plenty of friends who live in Blackbird Leys near the stadium and also friends who used to live in Headington whilst OUFC still played at the Manor Ground. All of them tell me the same thing, that providing a CPZ is in place and that they are provided with residents permits, there is no issue with parking. As discussed above the proposed new stadium is right next to a park and ride carpark that is usually virtually empty on a Saturday or in the evenings. With the option for people attending matches to also use public transport or the other park and ride sites and shuttle buses, I don't envisage any parking problems for residents.

To close, I fully support the stadium proposal providing a CPZ is enforced and there is compulsory marshalling of the pedestrian crossing points before and after first team