

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

I write to object to this application in the strongest terms

- (a) as an inappropriate appropriation of Green Belt land
- (b) as a massive overdevelopment of a tight site
- (c) on the grounds that, if such a development were to be allowed, then it fails to make adequate provision for traffic management on the Banbury Road (A4165), whether vehicular for those not involved with access to the stadium during match times, or for proper management of those attending events at the stadium

while, further, if the Planning Authority is minded to take into account the many submissions made in support of the Proposal solely on the grounds of the "need" to find a home for the Football Club, then it is incumbent upon the Authority also to note the false premise on which such arguments are presented and on which I shall expound at the end of my submission.

So let me take the points on which I formally object in turn. Please note that, while I do not live within the Cherwell District, I live within one mile of the proposed development and use the A4165 regularly.

Inappropriate appropriation of designated Green Belt

The land to the south of Kidlington was purchased by the County Council in 1937 specifically to ensure that there be a Gap between Kidlington and Oxford. This was brought out forcibly in the 1990s at the time of the development of the Stratfield Brake Recreation Ground. I was involved as Chairman of the Kidlington Running and Athletic Club from 1995-2020; it was permitted on the grounds of being a public recreation ground, not just for the benefit of the three founding clubs as a sporting facility funded by a Sport England (National Lottery) grant, but crucially having public access - commercial interest was not part - and the extent of permanent structure limited so that only a grass running track would have been permitted, and the cricket scoreboard had to be movable. At the formal opening, speaking on behalf of the three clubs, I described Stratfield Brake as "the finest sporting facility of any village in the country", and I emphasise that now to remind the Authority that Kidlington proudly maintains its status as a village, rather than be a mere suburb of an expanding Greater Oxford. This is already threatened by the "ribbon" housing developments proposed down either side of Banbury Road north of the City boundary as far as the railway line -

The creation of a four-storey monster alongside Banbury Road to the north of the railway and the A34 would completely destroy the separation of Kidlington from an Oxford conurbation.