

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

I am not a Cherwell resident but I have been an Oxfordshire resident my entire life. I currently live in Witney.

I would like to start by suggesting that a lot of the objections you will receive will focus on anti-social behaviour. I have been attending Oxford United matches for 25 years and I can tell you with absolute certainty that the vast, vast, vast majority of people attending are families with small children, older people, and young professionals. The depiction of football supporters that has spread around the tabloid media in this country is almost entirely false, and the level of antisocial behaviour is much, much less than you'd ever see in Banbury town centre on weekend evening, and also less than you'd see in and around any pubs in Kidlington... and yet right now councils are (rightly) doing everything they can to save pubs. My step-son came to his first match when he was 6, and my brother who is a Kidlington resident occasionally takes my niece and nephew who were as young as 6 and 7 for their first matches - we simply would not do this if football matches were as they are depicted by detractors and objectors.

My current route to the Kassam Stadium on a Saturday due to traffic issues around the other side of Oxford and quite frequently leads me to resort to rat-running through Kidlington and (ironically) past the Triangle site and down to the ring road at Cutteslowe. If the stadium was at the Triangle I'd just get the bus from the new Eynsham P&R.

While we await the club's application on a bridge, I'd also like to point out that the impact on roads immediately after football matches is usually extremely brief - recently we attended at match at Coventry where the attendance was over 18,000 - with some light traffic management from marshals that kept both the traffic and the supporters moving, the ground was cleared in around 20 minutes.

The public amenity value of the stadium for the whole of Oxfordshire would be incredibly high - turning a disused, low-value, shut-off and un-usable piece of land into a high quality social destination that tens of thousands of Oxfordshire residents would make good use of at different times. If the rationale exists to release green belt land for thousands of new-build homes (which I believe it does), then it certainly exists for a one-off, world-class sporting venue that would give our great county another thing to be truly proud of.

The stadium designs are high quality, refined and not ostentatious. They are not intrusive, and the tree-planting will soften the visual impact on the surroundings.

Received Date

Attachments