

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

I have been an Oxford United season ticket holder for many years and am writing in support of the application by Oxford United FC, the sole professional football club in the county, to build a new state of the art stadium on the piece of land known as The Triangle, near Kidlington, Oxford. I am supporting this application because the current lease at the Kassam stadium is coming to an end in 2026 and there is no possibility of a long term extension. Oxford United has not owned its own stadium since 2001 when the club left the London Road ground and moved to the Kassam stadium on a 25 year lease. All revenue generated at the stadium goes to the owner and not to the club, so to ensure the club's survival and financial viability it is essential that they own their own stadium to generate revenue for themselves. They will also have 24-hour access to the building rather than the very limited access they have at present.

The location of the proposed new stadium is perfect from a sustainability and environmental point of view, with its close proximity to the Oxford Parkway railway station and the adjoining Park & Ride. In addition, other Park & Ride facilities at Watereaton and Peartree are close by, from which it is proposed to run special buses on matchdays, thereby reducing the amount of additional traffic to the area. This new stadium will benefit the whole community with provision for conferencing, education, exhibitions etc, in addition to football, and the tradespeople in Kidlington will also benefit considerably from the increased footfall on matchdays. The ecological, wrap around design of the stadium (to reduce noise) will make it a facility to be proud of, not just for residents of Oxford but for the whole county, and will provide much needed jobs for the area both in the construction phase but also after completion, with its 180 bed hotel, bar, public restaurant, and gym, which will need both temporary and permanent staffing. There will be sufficient on-site car parking for hotel guests, visitors to the stadium on non-matchdays, disabled users, and also parking for bicycles and motor cycles. There will be a community plaza and green space to the north of the site which will be open to the public and will act as a barrier between the stadium and developments to the north of the Triangle.

In summary, the proposed new stadium is essential for the survival and future growth of Oxford United football club in the community, and the future of our children, and children's children for many years to come. It will provide revenue for the club, and much needed jobs in the area. In addition, when completed, it will become a local community hub where young people can meet and interact, which is very important in an area which currently has little of this nature to offer.

I urge the Committee not to pass over this once in a lifetime opportunity to bring to Oxfordshire this impressive and much needed facility which will be of benefit not only to Oxford United but to the whole community.

Received Date

Attachments