

Reference 24/00539/F

I want to object very strongly to Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) proposal that they are allowed to move their stadium onto Greenbelt land in Kidlington. There are many reasons for my objection. I am a Kidlington resident so will be adversely affected by this development.

1. OUFC has not been honest in its dealings with Cherwell District Council (CDC). They have said that Kassam will not renew their lease, but they haven't asked him! Why has CDC not challenged OUFC about the truth of the situation?
2. The building of the Stadium was not on the Local Plan.
3. The stadium functions well on its current site so why move? And why build a stadium for 16,000 when their average attendance, as I understand it, is under 10,000.
4. The survey they quote to support their application was done on supporters, not the general public. Kidlington residents voted strongly against the proposal.
5. I have major concerns about the impact on the environment of more concrete in an area that is prone to flooding. The Triangle, along with the golf club, holds copious amounts of water from the main Oxford Road area. Where will this go if building happens on the site?
6. The Triangle provides the much needed "gap" between Oxford and Kidlington.
7. The Triangle is mainly undeveloped scrub land which is a haven for numerous animals, birds and insects. And it is essential for the environment. CDC is allegedly concerned about global warming; building on the green belt adds to global warming. Bats (a protected species) are found on the site including the rare Barbastelle. The ancient woodland around the whole area must be protected. This will be virtually impossible with numerous people on site.
8. Building will necessitate the removal of many trees., all of which are essential to help reduce global warming. Even dead trees/fallen branches are necessary in the life cycle of insects.
9. New building has a big environmental impact and is a cause of pollution. Why build a new stadium when there is one already? Removing the old one will cause significant amounts of pollution. Then there will be noise pollution firstly from the building work then from the stadium itself.
10. In addition, increased lighting on Frieze Way and also events in the evening will cause light pollution which will affect birds from the nearby Stratfield Break Nature Reserve. Also, the increased traffic on match days will lead to increased pollution in the area.
11. Traffic congestion and possible road closures horrify me. The road into Oxford is busy enough already. OUFC were supposed to be building a bridge... but haven't included it in their plans. Will supporters use it or just surge out and over the road? Local people will avoid going into the city to shop which will damage the already struggling businesses. How will local people get to Sainsbury's for their weekly shop when the area is heavily congested/closed. Even on an ordinary Saturday I often need to queue for some time to get out.
12. Why should Kidlington residents be unable to get into the city before and after football games? Why should they be barred from returning home after work during evening matches? I know many medical staff live in Kidlington... how will they get to and from work?

13. Parking will be a major problem. The Kassam stadium has sufficient parking; the Triangle won't have any! The park and ride will be full quite quickly; what happens when evening games occur as commuters will still be using the spaces such as Christmas and evenings?) OUFC say "90% will use sustainable transport". How do they know that? How can they ensure it happens? They can't!! Parking fines from on street Kidlington parking divided between a group in a car will be cheaper than train fares to attend matches! Drives will be blocked by fans as happened in Headington when OUFC played there.
14. Coaches from other park and rides will cause added chaos. Where will they park to unload supporters and whilst waiting to collect them.
15. Traffic is likely to spill over and cause problems on the already congested A34 and A44. What will happen when there is a traffic incident on the A34 as there so often is?
16. The proposed building is far too high and will dominate the local landscape. It is also going to be overdeveloped in terms of what is being offered on the site.
17. How can OUFC say there will be no loss of biodiversity... the only bit of green will be the actual football pitch and a few planters!
18. Gosford Rugby Club on Frieze Way will be badly affected. They will be unable to access their pitches to practice and play when the stadium is in use.

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Kidlington

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