

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

Oxford United has always said that remaining at the Kassam Stadium is unsustainable. The rent is prohibitive and over twice the amount that Coventry City, for example, pay for a much larger, completed stadium. When comparing with a team from the same playing level the rent is 10 times that of Cheltenham Town's.

Back in 2002 the owner of the Kassam Stadium stated that the 4th side would be built when long-term leases were taken up at the adjacent Ozone Leisure Centre, particularly referring to the multiplex cinema. That establishment officially opened in February 2004 but the promise of stadium completion was quietly forgotten.

Oxford United cannot move forward and there are even serious threats to its existence if it cannot control events at its home stadium. It needs to own its stadium to ensure that it gets revenues from sales on site, something that is not available to it at present.

The present licence to play at the Kassam Stadium ends in July 2026. Its primary use for football exists only until October 2026. I am seriously concerned about the future of the football club which I have supported since my first game in October 1954. A history of searches for an acceptable new stadium goes back to the 1960s with the backdrop that the local authorities always wanted the club to move away from Headington where it played its home games between 1925 and 2001. The move to Minchery Farm, from owner to tenant, always felt like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. A new stadium is vital to preserve the club's future and finance is available to pay for it, a modern carbon free complex which doesn't rely on access by motor vehicle for supporters.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve Oxford United's future, creating local employment and promoting car-free attendance at a location where multi-bus routes and a nearby train service already exist. Please support the application. Thank you.

Received Date

Attachments