

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

<b>Application Number</b>	<input type="text" value="24/00539/F"/>
<b>Location</b>	<input type="text" value="Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington"/>
<b>Proposal</b>	<input type="text" value="Erection of a stadium (Use Class F2) with flexible commercial and community facilities and uses including for conferences, exhibitions, education, and other events, club shop, public restaurant, bar, health and wellbeing facility/clinic, and gym (Use Class E/Sui Generis), hotel (Use Class C1), external concourse/fan-zone, car and cycle parking, access and highway works, utilities, public realm, landscaping and all associated and ancillary works and structures"/>
<b>Case Officer</b>	<input type="text" value="Laura Bell"/>
<b>Organisation Name</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text" value=""/>
<b>Type of Comment</b>	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
<b>Type</b>	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Oxford United FC's application to build a new stadium at Stratfield Brake.</p> <p>I confess that I have a personal interest in the continued existence of Oxford United - I have supported them since 1994, when I was a student, and, although - or, perhaps, because - I have lived away from Oxford ever since then, it has been an anchor in my life, and given me a connection with Oxford and Oxfordshire in a way that the University does not. I return to the city, and to the surrounding villages, about 15 times each season to attend games, and to patronise restaurants and pubs before the games.</p> <p>Beyond my own personal ties to the Club, and the joy and, frankly, structure, it has given me through the past 30 years, it is, manifestly, a very important part of the city of Oxford itself.</p> <p>As someone who both studied and worked in Oxford, it was evident that those not connected to the University can feel disregarded in terms of Oxford national profile (and, given the status of the University, it is only to be expected that it will always be central to the city's "brand").</p> <p>I very strongly feel, though, that the Football Club gives the rest of the city an identity of its own - and something of which everyone in the city can feel that it is part. OUFC gives the people of Oxford an immense sense of pride and belonging.</p> <p>I can remember, when the Club was in serious financial difficulties in the 1990s, walking up to the turnstiles to see fans shaking buckets to collect loose change to pay the Club's staff, and being hit, very suddenly, by the seriousness of the situation. There was an immediate realisation of what a loss the Club would be to me - given the sense of identity I felt through and with the Club, my emotional investment in it, and the cadence, purpose and structure it gave to me every week, it was hard to find any other word to describe the feeling than a "bereavement". This would have very painful on a personal level. It is unimaginable what such a loss would do to a city for whose population it has been so important for 130 years.</p> <p>I very much hope that you will consider this application favourably - for the supporters of Oxford United, but also for the city of Oxford, and the county of Oxfordshire, as a whole.</p> <p>Yours faithfully,</p> <p><input type="text" value=""/></p>

**Received Date**

21/04/2024 21:17:16

**Attachments**