

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

I'm 77 and have lived in the Cherwell district my entire life. Times have changed a lot over the years but some things have remained of constant importance, two of which come to mind when considering the planning around a new stadium site for Oxford United - the sense of community and access to amenities.

I'm not an Oxford United fan and haven't had a footballing club allegiance since Tommy Doherty was sacked by Manchester United in 1977. But one thing I know from having a large family spanning across multiple generations, is that having the opportunity to play and be excited by sport is a hugely powerful one. I have a young niece and nephew who live in Bicester - when they heard that a professional football club could soon be a short train ride away they were incredibly excited. These plans are far more considerate for public transport, ease of access for fans young and old and lessen the dependency on car travel.

As someone who is very countryside and nature minded, I've seen lots of development across Cherwell over the years, with houses going up en masse across Bicester and Upper Heyford in recent years. However the amenities and infrastructure has often lagged somewhat behind. From these plans, it's clear the club wants to be involved in the wider community, to bring people in from across the county and be supportive not only of the existing green belt, counterbalancing what's removed and being considerate of climate change. It also appears to be aiming to bring healthier lungs to young people of the area in supporting local projects and a hub bringing people in from more locations and backgrounds with the aim of being active. Putting community on the forefront. An example of this is in Stratfield Brake, which has had massive flooding problems over the years meaning it's hard to access and sporting activities have been cancelled - the club's plans will provide a much needed injection of resource to benefit sports teams and those wishing to access the woods in this area. Bringing people together.

I'm also very excited at the opportunity for equality it brings in allowing the Oxford women's team to play at a shared dedicated space. My niece plays football and know that with the growth of women's football in this country over the last few years, having an opportunity to have local heroes in a suited environment providing a positive influence is of massive benefit.

A multi-purpose stadium which is as community minded as these plans suggest, on the triangle which is currently wasteland on the edge of Kidlington town (as it's village really in name only) strikes me as having extremely positive benefit for the residents of Oxfordshire. With Oxford United there's an opportunity to shine a light on this part of the country of how to do things right from both a sporting and community perspective, much like Brighton have succeeded in doing further south.

Received Date

Attachments