

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

Traffic congestion is a serious problem in and around the city of Oxford. Road closures, called 'diversions' in this application will mean that Oxford Road will have to be closed. This is in spite of the fact that Oxfordshire County Council has stated that Oxford Road cannot be closed. The closure of this road for 30 minutes before and after a match would lead to great inconvenience for many people, including those who needed access to Oxford Parkway station. Almost certainly more than 30 minutes would be needed on these occasions. The diversion loop via Peartree, Wolvercote and Cutteslowe roundabouts, already often congested, will only make matters worse.

To claim that many Oxford United fans live within 20 minutes' walk is not true, as the majority of them reside in East Oxford and currently over 80% travel by car to matches. The stated aim of the club that 90% of fans should travel using 'suitable modes of transport' sounds like pure wishful thinking.

Parking provision of 184 places and two coach bays would be totally inadequate and put pressure on local people wanting to use the Park and Ride facility at Oxford Parkway when wanting to use the bus service to local hospitals or to go into Oxford city. In addition, fans will start parking their cars in residential streets.

This application is to build on the Green Belt, something that is only usually permitted in special circumstances. There are no such circumstances here. OUFC could have tried negotiating with the owner of the Kassam stadium, but they did not try this option. Considering that the Cowley Branch line is in the pipeline, this seems to be a very short-sighted decision on their part, since such a large proportion of their fans live in East Oxford.

There is considerable disquiet about the impact of this plan on nature conservation. Although there is a plan for a wild-life rich zone, the arrival of 16,000 people on match days will do nothing to help preserve the area with the inevitable noise made by spectators. According to various studies, there are a number of different bat species and over 160 species of invertebrates have been recorded. The noise, pollution and upheaval caused by building work will do nothing to preserve these species.

Seventeen trees are to be felled at a time when we are all being urged to plant more trees to lessen the effects of climate change. Although it is planned to preserve some woodland at the southern end of the site, planting a hedgerow to deter entry to this spot is hardly sufficient when there will be such an influx of people to the area.

I very much hope that Oxfordshire County Council will not allow this plan to go ahead.

Received Date

Attachments