

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number

Location

Proposal

Case Officer

Organisation Name

Address

Type of Comment

Type

Comments

Having been an Oxfordshire resident for over 20 years, I have a long-standing attachment to Oxford United FC. Having also been a resident in Dunedin, New Zealand, when an application to build a new sports stadium was being made, it's impossible not to see parallels between the decision facing Cherwell District Council, and the one that faced Dunedin not so long ago.

Dunedin is a university city, with a similar population to Oxford. In the early 2000s, it became apparent that the main sports stadium (Carisbrook) was no longer fit for purpose, and that if top level sport (eg, All Blacks test matches) was to continue in Dunedin, a new stadium would be required. Inevitably there was a period of intense debate about how this would be achieved, and whether it was even necessary.

Long story short, in 2011 Dunedin got a state-of-the-art new stadium, which more than 10 years later is still the envy of the rest of New Zealand and a source of pride to the city. The economic benefit to the city has also been considerable - estimated at \$300 million in the stadium's first ten years.

Perhaps most importantly of all, the Dunedin's stadium is an example of how a sports facility can work at the heart of the community - not just as a sports venue, but as a hub for everything from charity fundraisers, to family fun days, to Pacific cultural events, to beer and food festivals, and much more.

In the same way that it's hard to imagine Dunedin without its new stadium now, it's hard to imagine Oxfordshire without Oxford United, and the benefits that the club brings to the community - not to mention the pleasure and enjoyment that the club brings to its tens of thousands of supporters in Oxfordshire and around the world.

So while, as a supporter, I'm obviously keen to see a decision in favour of a new ground for Oxford United, I'm also confident that it will be the right decision for Oxfordshire. I therefore very much hope that the council will decide in favour of allowing development of 'The Triangle' site as a new home for Oxford United.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Received Date

Attachments