

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

**Application Number**

**Location**

**Proposal**

**Case Officer**

**Organisation Name**

**Address**

**Type of Comment**

**Type**

**Comments**

A football club has a vital role to play in the community in which it is based and the opportunity to grant Oxfordshire's only professional football club with the ability to create a long-term and sustainable foundation from which to enhance the lives of the people within its community is too important to ignore.

The plans here show a sustainable state of the art facility that can benefit the people of Kidlington and Oxfordshire as a whole. The economic benefits for the local area are clear to see, while the ability of the stadium to educate and inspire the next generation is critical. It is really exciting to see that the stadium could host youth international fixtures (and hopefully international women's fixtures), bringing inspiration in the form of world-class sport to our city.

Another key detail is the involvement of the club with the improvement and maintenance of the Stratfield Brake sports facilities. As somebody who has used the facilities here as a visiting player, they are substandard in the extreme. There are dozens of village facilities across the county which run at a far lower cost that are significantly better. Any opportunity to improve the quality of this facility whilst removing the current cost to the council is one that should be jumped at.

It goes without saying that the location is as good as it gets. A large proportion of those who currently drive to the Kassam Stadium do so out of necessity, rather than desire. The prospect of taking a direct train service to Oxford Parkway is one that I am very much looking forward to and having seen the impact of train initiatives at clubs like Brighton and Hove Albion, I am sure many others will be feeling the same way. This is a chance to make a significant change to the environmental impact of football within the county.

This feels like a fantastic opportunity for Oxfordshire and I really hope that we can all look forward to a world-class facility enhancing the community in the years to come.

**Received Date**

**Attachments**