

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number	24/00539/F
Location	Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington
Proposal	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
Case Officer	Laura Bell
Organisation Name	
Name	Adam Gadsby
Address	1 Vicarage Close, Grove
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I have been attending Oxford United matches, home and away, since I was 10. Almost 40 years later, I am still attending matches but now have both my son (13) and my daughter (9) attending with me. They both love matchdays, with all the sights, sounds and smells that come with this. My son lives and breathes football, and unlike a lot of his peers, his loyalties lie with his local side - Oxford United.</p> <p>Its common knowledge that the club CANNOT stay at the Kassam Stadium much longer, despite what some groups may like to think. Without a new permanent home of our own, the club has no future. There are thousands of people of all ages, races, sexes in the local area and far beyond who love this club, for whom this club provides support, meaning, friendship.. its far more than just a bunch of people watching a football match. Bonds are made with people outside of our normal social circles. Friendships are made. People show how caring and community minded they can be. People are too quick to jump on the "football hooligans" bandwagon, but the reality is so different. Its a real community, where people look out for each other.</p> <p>If the new stadium does not happen, this community will be killed off alongside our club. Some people will lose not only their identity, but some of their only contact with other people. Some of the older supporters don't go out and socialise much other than coming to the football. It builds bonds between different generations.</p> <p>Oxford United and the people of Oxfordshire need this. Its much more than a football stadium. Its a place for people to feel wanted and welcome, for people to find employment, for people to find enjoyment and forget their day to day stresses. In a world where mental health is increasingly suffering, football and the sort of environment the new stadium provides, would bring a much needed boost.</p> <p>Please, lets give Oxford United the home it deserves, and a place that Oxfordshire and its wider communities can be immensely proud of. We only have 1 chance.</p>
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Attachments	