

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number	<input type="text" value="24/00539/F"/>
Location	<input type="text" value="Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington"/>
Proposal	<input type="text" value="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	<input type="text" value="Laura Bell"/>
Organisation Name	<input type="text" value="Elliott Grady"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="65 Stratford Street,Oxford,OX4 1SP"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<p>I am an Oxford resident (OX4) and have been lucky enough to live in the city for the last 16 years. My children were born and go to school here and we see our future as being inextricably tied to the city. I have a big stake in the continued success of Oxford and in the flourishing of our community.</p> <p>First of all, to lay my cards on the table, I am wholly in favour of the the plans to build the new Oxford United stadium at the Triangle.</p> <p>I could make the point about it being a 100m infrastructure project that the taxpayer will not have to pay for but which would regenerate the area, create jobs and will bring money and spending into the county.</p> <p>I could also mention the fact it will be a green stadium with sustainability at its core. It would position our city at the forefront of green technology and become a potent symbol of the city's desire to welcome green investment (possibly attracting other green investments to other parts of the city). I currently go to watch Oxford United play with my daughter (who is a fan) and the transport links to the current stadium are appalling. Like many other fans the green credentials of the stadium will be further cemented by the fact that fans would take public transport there (for us, a stroll to the station and a short train ride). It is also a beautiful stadium and will enhance the aesthetics of the local area.</p> <p>Then I could highlight the wonderful recreational, hospitality and leisure facilities that the project will bring (again at no excessive cost to the taxpayer). I think I'm right in saying that new housing developments are planned in the area. This gives a place for people to go and meet and enhances local community for all those new households.</p> <p>But the thing I really want to focus on is much more intangible than of all this. The key point I want to make is around community. We live in an age where too many of us exist on phones, teenagers struggle with mental health with excess use of social media and many people can feel isolated and lonely at home. Since going to watch Oxford United with my daughter, the bond between us has got even closer, it gives her an outlet away from school and socialising and she can watch great role models (in the men's' and women's' team) and it has made us feel closer to our city. This is such an important benefit to emphasise but so difficult to prove as it is intangible.</p> <p>In the Times this week, Matthew Sayed (a man much more eloquent than I am) wrote a column in the paper's sports section headlined "taking my kids to football brings us together like nothing else". To try and make the intangible impact of football more tangible I'm going to quote him at length. Matthew writes: "And this is why football has been so magical. It has given us a common language. A common passion. A common desire to check the table and the upcoming fixtures. A common instinct to hug when a goal goes in without it seeming too embarrassing. The game itself, one might say, is trivial: 22 people kicking a ball around on a rectangle of illuminated turf. But the game is about so much more than the action on the pitch; it is what's happening in hearts and minds that tells the deeper story. I'd always</p>

known of sport's power to connect people: fans, communities, nations. But I now realise that it is also - for many of us - a way of bringing together the most precious social grouping of all: the family".

It's easy to dismiss football as "just a game" but that means you dismiss the wider community, friendship and family benefits that accrue from it. The new ground will facilitate all of this whilst creating jobs and a "green" asset that will attract further investment into the city.

I really hope you see this the same way as me and many others. This is a major opportunity for our city and will lead to further opportunities down the line. Let's build the new stadium and take Oxford and Kidlington forward.

Received Date

14/03/2024 15:40:02

Attachments