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

David Grace

Address

7 Studdridge Court, Stokenchurch , Bucks

Type of Comment

Support

Type

neighbour

Comments

I fully support this application which will bring in substantial and much needed external investment to the area. It will provide significant economic and social benefits to the local community, the city of Oxford and the wider county of Oxfordshire. It will have an immediate and ongoing positive impact on the lives of a large and diverse section of people, supporters and non supporters of football alike.

This really does feel to me like a once in a lifetime opportunity, to secure the future of a vitally important local institution that means so much to so many. Football clubs also carry out so much good work in the community and the new stadium will undoubtedly ensure Oxford United will willingly be able to do so much more. At the same time generating the external investment referred to earlier from football club owners with a proven track record of success in this area and clear evidence from other professional football clubs who have undertaken the same process, of the positive impact it has on their communities.

The proposed location does not get much better with the transport links available and The Triangle neglected and inaccessible to the public, generating ,I understand, a very modest income that will increase substantially from the new stadium and associated facilities. Moreover it is far enough away from residential properties to have any impact on them on event days.

I am not resident in Cherwell and I do understand some of the concerns of local residents, mine would be the possibility of inconsiderate parking, however implementing appropriate parking restrictions would easily address this. That said ,I cannot help but feel, having read many of the comments since the proposal was first put forward, that a good number of concerns and objections are fuelled by a very small minority driven by their own self interest, pedalling misinformation and scaremongering. This is disappointing and some of the comments levelled at the overseas owners of Oxford United and decent, law abiding people from all sections of society who happen to be football fans is nothing short of disgraceful.

I am confident that the planning committee will see through the aforementioned misinformation and scaremongering and it will not influence the decision making process. I just needed to get this off my chest!

On a final point just as a simple exercise, hypothetically fast forward 3 years after the stadium has been built and is delivering as is proposed/ predicted (a leap of faith, but not a giant one bearing in mind the evidence from other football clubs). Then a planning application is submitted to demolish the stadium, hotel, gym etc and return The Triangle and Stratfield Brake to their current state, retaining the status quo as is currently demanded by the small minority referred to earlier. I wonder with the realisation of the implications that would bring ,what the reaction would be? (at least there would be lots of empty parking spaces at Oxford Parkway!!)

In summary, the benefits of this proposal are overwhelming and I strongly believe any

balanced and impartial view should draw that conclusion.

Received Date

Attachments

21/03/2024 22:11:29