

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="James Roberts"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="3 Lockton Barns, Church Lane, Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0EZ"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<input type="text" value="I support Oxford United's plans to build a new stadium at 'The Triangle' and would urge councillors to approve the application as soon as possible. As a U's fan living in South Oxfordshire, the only sustainable way I can currently travel to games is on the OX2 bus, which only runs once before and after matches and often takes at least an hour to get from Didcot to the Kassam Stadium. As someone who is environmentally conscious this is far from ideal and often means I have to drive to games if the bus times do not fit in with the rest of my day.

In this respect - and in so many others - The Triangle would be a game-changer. Fans coming from the Didcot area would be able to take the train from Didcot to Oxford Parkway, which is not only environmentally beneficial but also saves time and gives people more flexibility on a match day owing to the regular train services. This would also be true for fans travelling from Thame, Bicester, Banbury and parts of west Oxfordshire, areas where the club has always had a strong supporter base, significantly reducing the number of car journeys taken in Oxfordshire on a match day. The impact would be instant, especially when coupled with the environmental and sustainability commitments United have laid out in their plans for the stadium and associated facilities.

The Kassam Stadium has never been a venue that Oxfordshire can be proud of. The missing stand and general soulless nature of the ground has always been a stick to beat the club with, while the wider community benefit is minimal. The fact that the club pays a crippling service charge to a hated former owner who has never had United's best interests at heart - and would only consider letting the club play at the Kassam beyond 2026 if the terms were even more stacked in his favour - further rubs salt in the wounds. It would mean so much to all United fans to have our own stadium, a proper 'home' that made a positive impact in the wider community - something the club has never been able to maximise at the Kassam. This is its chance and it may never come again."/>
Received Date	<input type="text" value="28/03/2024 14:36:14"/>
Attachments	