

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

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| 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="Jon Harrison"/> |
| Address | <input type="text" value="46 the verne, ,Fleet ,Hampshire"/> |
| Type of Comment | <input type="text" value="Support"/> |
| Type | <input type="text" value="neighbour"/> |
| Comments | <p>The scheme is critical for the survival of the only professional sports team in Oxfordshire. The recent government White Paper lists the following impacts of a football club failure on the local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Job lossesLoss of matchday demand for local retail and hospitality businesses.Loss of football 'tourism'Economic scarringLoss of cultural heritageLoss of civic identity and prideLoss of social cohesionLoss of community initiatives <p>If OUFC can't open the proposed stadium by the start of the 2026 season, it will be homeless. The English Football League (EFL) have confirmed that if OUFC is unable to secure a home ground that is in, or is in close proximity to, the city of Oxford, the Club's membership of the EFL would be at risk.</p> <p>The Club's proposals clearly align with the aspirations and recommendations of playing more women's matches in main stadia to grow attendance and exposure.</p> <p>The stadium will become a landmark for community activity in Oxfordshire. Without the restrictions which are currently in place on the Kassam Stadium, the new stadium will be able to host community events and celebrations like other prominent football clubs do at their home ground.</p> <p>Other community benefits of the proposals are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Boosts to local businesses from an increase in visitors to shops, bars and cafesNew jobs at the stadium which are not limited to match days but year-round at the hotel and other uses, supporting local resident employment and training opportunities.Year-round access to the stadiums inclusive community facilities which can be used by local sports groups and the wider community including a health and wellbeing centre and a gym and fitness centre, restaurant, and flexible community meeting spaces for work, education and leisure.Improving safe cycling and walking by improving connectivity for existing residents between Kidlington and the stadium and surrounding developments. The Proposed Development will lead to an increase in accessible open space and public realm in the local area and aims to connect the stadium with the wider countryside, woodlands, canal walks and nearby towns. As well as more bus services serving Kidlington and the stadium plus improved pedestrian access to Oxford Parkway station. <p>The stadium will be one of the most sustainable in terms of carbon emissions in the UK and the needs of meeting the Biodiversity net gain of 10% are being exceeded.</p> |

Construction Phase Benefits including 113 million invested in construction and 420 construction jobs supported on and off site.

Operational Phase Benefits including 320 direct and 160 indirect full time equivalent jobs supported and retained as well as 28.7m gross value added per annum direct and indirect impact (including retained)

As well as those arising from OUFC working in partnership with local organisations including local resident employment and training opportunities, local business supply chain opportunities and improvements to local community sports facilities. Environmental Benefits

The proposed new is designed and committed to measures to ensure it reaches the highest levels of sustainability, with the full list of measures to ensure sustainable design and operation measures listed in chapter 8 of this statement.

The main sustainable transport objective is to encourage supporters and staff on matchdays to use more sustainable, healthier and lower carbon transport options whilst achieving an overall reduction in car travel. The Club has an aim that 90% of fans will travel to the Stadium by sustainable modes of travel. The full list of measures to ensure these sustainable transport benefits are realised are set out above.

This scheme should be supported for the people of the county and the next generations as this will bring significant benefits which outweigh the potential harm to the greenbelt.

Received Date

04/04/2024 20:14:37

Attachments