

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	Martin Halstead
Address	Highview, Main Road, Appleford, Oxfordshire, OX14 4PD
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Until November 2023 I lived in Begbroke. I now live in South Oxfordshire but have family in the area still and visit three to four times a week.</p> <p>I am also an Oxford United fan and season ticket holder. I have been for 26 years. This club is everything to me. It is my community. It is my contact with local issues. It is my sounding board, my support network, my family, my life. I have made so many close friends, business associates and networking opportunities through attending match days and other Oxford United related events. This club is at the very heart of our community and our economy.</p> <p>Firoz Kassam has nearly destroyed Oxford United once before. He will do so again. The Kassam stadium is a crumbling and poorly maintained blight on the image of Oxfordshire. Kassam will hold the county to ransom while he continues to have the power to do so.</p> <p>If the new stadium is not approved there is the very real possibility that professional sport in Oxfordshire will cease to exist entirely. Oxford United cannot survive without it. The impact on the wider community will be huge.</p> <p>Oxford and Oxfordshire presents itself as a welcoming, exceptional, world leading academic, tourist and business destination, yet we lack true 21st century facilities. A new stadium for Oxford United means not just a new space for the mens team, but a community space, a world leading hotel and conference facility, a true focal point for the county.</p> <p>The impact on the wider economy and environment would be hugely positive. The proximity to Oxford Parkway will finally offer fans what they want; usable and practical public transport access. If the councils of Oxfordshire are serious about their desire to reduce our impact on the environment, then this must be a priority, along with the reopening of the Cowley branch line, rail links to Grove and Witney and furthering the East West Rail project all the way to Cambridge.</p> <p>As a city and a county we have been short sighted on so many issues for so long. Relying instead on sticking plasters that inadequately address the fundamental causes of many of Oxfordshire ills such as traffic, pollution and the loss of business to surrounding counties.</p> <p>Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could be progressive as a county and do something that will really make a difference? Not just today, but also for future generations. I have two daughters. I want them to feel like they belong, to feel connected to their city and county and to feel proud of where they live. Their attachment to the football club is already very strong, to lose that would be disastrous.</p> <p>Please, I implore you, approve the new stadium. Approve the economic and social future of our city and our county. Let's make Oxfordshire every bit as good as our worldwide reputation suggest. We have to do that by being progressive, sometimes by making small sacrifices for the greater good. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something wonderful at the triangle. Let's get it done.</p>

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Attachments

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