

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	Mark Saxel
Address	7 Harolds Close,Leafield,Witney,Oxon,OX29 9PU
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I would like to support this application as there are many benefits for the district and the county as a whole.</p> <p>A fantastic opportunity to support a 150 million investment in Oxfordshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sports Facilities: Improved sports facilities with pitch maintenance and management for local grassroots sports teams. There is a chronic under investment in grass routes sports facilities in the district and the county. Oxford United have said that they will help with pitch maintenance of the Stratfield brake pitche which would save the local councils a lot of money that can be spent on other services.- Employment and Economy: Boosting the local economy with a large amount of new employment opportunities and apprenticeships as well as the positive impact to surrounding Kidlington businesses with increase footfall and spending in the area.- Sustainable Travel: This site is the most ideally suited site for a Sports stadium right next to Oxford Parkway that will mean a very large percentage of people can travel sustainably to the ground via train which is not possible at the current location. Cycling parking also available and plenty of existing bus routes and if some people do have to drive there are two under utilised park and ride sites within walking distance of the site. It will be one of the closest stadiums to a train station where as now we are one of the furthest away.- Improved Public access to Green space: This development will open up the land to the public where at the moment it is not accessible. Formerly a motorcycle track and then latterly a commercial willow farm. The biodiversity of the site will be improved and I like that the plans include a pond and landscaped publicly accessible green space with different varieties of trees, which should in turn encourage different wildlife. The plaza also looks like a wonderful public usable area.- Health and Fitness: The provision for an included gym and health facilities encourage people to be more active. This in turn makes people more healthy. I feel this is another positive as the district and the county could do with more health and fitness provision and it saves the health service money in the long term with a fitter population.- Equality and Safeguarding the community work of the only professional football team in Oxfordshire: OUFC in the community do so much good for all different ages and abilities. From work in schools, half term football camps, walking football teams and disability teams to manor club lunches for over 60s who might feel alone and disconnected. The football club helps so many different people from different backgrounds The license agreement at the current ground doesn't allow the women's team to play at the stadium where this would be an equal home for the men's and women's teams. Also the design would make it one of the most accessible stadiums in the country.- Green building credentials: It is fantastic that this build is aiming for at least the BREEM

very good standard. There is so much eco friendly design with Solar panels and the pledge to be all electric without gas. Rain water collection and choice of sustainable materials. This is not a cheap design a lot of thought and money will be invested in this project. It is worlds away from the Kassam Stadium which was a cheap unfinished build by the landlord not the football club. This will be a truly inspiring stadium of great architectural quality and design. The bowl design also helps keep the noise in.

- Threat to the existence of the only professional football club in Oxfordshire: I urge you to support this proposal as a rejection could have very serious consequences putting the very existence of Oxford United in jeopardy as highlighted above the club does so much for some many people and that is without even covering what it means to so many people in Oxfordshire. It's inspired generations of people. At the moment local boys and girls cup finals can't be played at the existing ground at the old Manor ground cup finals were played there and inspired the younger generation, if you got to a cup final you got to play at professional ground which is a special moment. This will be a possibility again with this new stadium just imagine how inspiring that would be to the youth of Oxfordshire.

Please approve these plans. The district and the county is crying out for improved sports facilities. I'm fed up of Oxfordshire being the poor relation and not having the great facilities that this great county deserves. Other places are able to have sports hubs and arenas with thought out placement and design like Bristol, Cardiff and Coventry to name a few. Think of the younger generations not the 'don't build anything anywhere brigade' Oxfordshire deserves something special this is a huge opportunity and investment in the area please support and approve it.

Kind Regards
Mark

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Attachments