

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	Patrick Baddeley
Address	101 Kingston Road, Oxford OX2 6RN
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I am a resident of North Oxford and an alumnus of Oxford University. Unlike my wife and children I am not Oxford born and bred but I have spent most of my life in Oxford and love the city. I do not, however, equate the city to the university. The city is, and needs to remain, much more than that. One thing that helps a city to thrive is a successful football club. Oxford United is, however, not just a football club for residents of the city but for residents of Oxfordshire. I do not have the data to support this contention but I would think that the majority of supporters who attend Oxford matches come from outside the city of Oxford. This application should be viewed in the light of its impact on the county as a whole and not just its impact on the residents of Kidlington and North Oxford.</p> <p>It is clear to me that there is no chance, even if the owner of the current stadium were prepared to allow Oxford United to stay at the stadium, that Oxford United could become an economically viable club. The club has to move and both logic and EFL dictate that the club should remain in or close to the city of Oxford.</p> <p>I genuinely think that the Triangle is the best option available. It is easily accessed by public transport by both local residents and visiting fans. The land on which the stadium would be sited is not land that has any public benefit at the moment nor is it of great value from an environmental or wildlife perspective. Yes, there will be some traffic issues to sort out but they are not insurmountable. Some people are very hostile towards football fans but I think that football fans generally behave in a very different way to that in which they behaved in the 1970s and 80s. I speak from personal experience. I would doubt that fans would, in any event, gravitate towards the centre of Kidlington and the club, on purely commercial grounds, will be endeavouring to ensure that fans spend their money on food and drink at the ground.</p> <p>I believe that there will be great benefits to Cherwell Council and the residents of Kidlington as a result of the presence of the club at the triangle. There will be greater revenue for the council, more employment opportunities for Kidlington residents and also social benefits for those residents, not just from the facilities that will be available at the stadium but also from the club's commitment to maintain the facilities at Strafield Brake and its support of local sports clubs.</p> <p>This project is very exciting for both the club and the residents of Kidlington. Please grant the necessary planning permission.</p>
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Attachments	