

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

<b>Application Number</b>	24/00539/F
<b>Location</b>	Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington
<b>Proposal</b>	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
<b>Case Officer</b>	Laura Bell
<b>Organisation Name</b>	Jonathan MARIS
<b>Address</b>	15 Portobello Close,Chesham,Bucks,HP5 2PL
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Support
<b>Type</b>	neighbour
<b>Comments</b>	<p>As a former resident of Oxford and lifelong supporter of Oxford United, OUFC, of over 60 years with family living in Oxfordshire who also support the club I wish to offer my comments on this planning application.</p> <p>The proposal clearly delivers a world class sustainable stadium development for OUFC, the only professional football club in the county, with a new permanent home from which to achieve their aims, develop local talent and deliver wonderful family entertainment with fixtures in the national leagues for all to enjoy.</p> <p>The County Council has agreed to lease the land to OUFC for the stadium development that will secure an enduring long term home for the club. This location in the centre of the county at the heart of the community also benefits from excellent connectivity to towns and villages of the county and indeed the country with its proximity to Oxford Parkway Railway Station and public transport routes.</p> <p>As has been widely documented the club's licence to use the Kassam Stadium ends in 2026 and therefore it is imperative for the club to find a new home and thus obtaining planning permission for the development is mission critical for the club and regrettable potentially its very survival.</p> <p>The stadium with its 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, gym and hotel will provide enduring and sustainable social, economic, health, wellbeing and amenity benefits for the community and visitors. The new jobs and the increased economic activities created directly and indirectly e.g. from visitors, tourism and hotels guests will stimulate a significant boost to the local economy and sustain it in the longer term for the benefit of the whole area. The gross impact figures triggering this welcome boost to the local economy are; short-term Construction phase impact - 113M investment, 210 jobs, 20M GVA per annum and a minimum of 10 apprenticeships per annum and enduring long-term Operational phase impact - jobs 320 direct and 160 indirect and induced, 5.8m per annum off-site spectator spending with 95 full time jobs.</p> <p>The design clearly demonstrates the club's commitments for a sustainable, innovative landmark home for this community centred football club. The viewing bowl and spectator facilities look to be best-in-class. In addition, measures to achieve the club's aim for NET Zero by 2040 and reduce GHG by 50% by 2030 have been incorporated; included energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, energy reuse and on-site storage</p> <p>The external concourse/fan-zone, car and cycle parking, access and highway works, utilities, public realm, landscaping and all associated and ancillary works and structures will deliver further significant benefits including;</p> <p>Improved safe cycling and walking routes and access to Oxford Parkway Railway Station</p> <p>Improved access to open space and connectivity with wider countryside, woodland and villages.</p> <p>A biodiversity net gain of at least ten per cent through land enhancements including species rich grassland, pond, green roofs, planting of native trees and shrubs.</p> <p>The club encourages the use of sustainable, healthier and lower carbon modes of transport options to reduce car use. The match day travel plan sets out how the clubs aim to achieve 90% of fans to use sustainable modes of travel. This aim is achievable as many supporters</p>

will be able to use Oxford Parkway Railway Station on match days.

I note that the club set out these founding principles for its new home;

1. Visitor Experience at the heart. Construct a new landmark for Oxford which instills community pride, is accessible, welcoming and puts the visitor experience at the heart, not just for fans of the game, but for all who visit.
2. United with the community. Be an active and positive part of the community, creating a sporting legacy and generating new employment, education opportunities and having a positive impact on the health and well-being of the communities the Club serves.
3. Sustainability at the core. Ensure that environmental and commercial sustainability is at the core, to protect the long-term future of Oxford United and our planet.
4. Improving connectivity and access. Ensure the site and all facilities are a safe and inclusive place for all, with improved connectivity and access to the site, creating a hive of activity and an atmosphere of community, removing barriers to the site.
5. Promoting innovation. Utilise technology to improve the way things are done, nurturing a culture of collaboration and new ideas.

To conclude, I believe the club in its application has demonstrated it has met these principles, the planning criteria and therefore this proposed development should be approved without delay so the club may proceed and build this wonderful stadium development which will be an asset for the whole community to enjoy and be very proud of.

**Received Date**

13/04/2024 11:18:41

**Attachments**