

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	George NIGEL Barlow
Address	77 Mill Street,Kidlington,OX5 2EE
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>The arguments over parking and traffic congestion, not to mention closing the Banbury (or Oxford) road and also restricting traffic on Frieze Way must have been well rehearsed. So I have somewhat different objections.</p> <p>I question the need for a new stadium I was at the public Parish Council meeting where OUFC were present so that the public could ask questions. I think it was March 2023. The argument that was presented by the club to the meeting was one of emotional blackmail. "The club cannot stay at the Kassam stadium, there is no plan B, if you don't give us what we want this fine old institution will fold" Since then, Firoz Kassam has written in the Oxford Mail that he is open to the club staying at the Kassam Stadium, which rather debunks the club's argument as presented.</p> <p>Kidlington and the surrounding area is going to get a great deal of development in the near future. While I am not happy about that either, I see a clear difference. Nobody can deny that there is a housing crisis and that new housing is necessary. But, especially after Firoz Kassam wrote in the Oxford Mail in January 2024 that he is open to the club staying put, I question the need for a new stadium.</p> <p>Spare me the greenwash The club is trying to greenwash us with all this talk about sustainability, a carbon neutral stadium and how the majority of the fans will arrive by sustainable transport.</p> <p>What is the carbon cost of demolishing a mostly concrete and steel structure and replacing it with another? OK, steel can be recycled. Concrete cannot. And concrete and steel are very high emissions materials to make. Don't greenwash me by saying that a structure of that size can be built of "sustainable materials". Then you have the one-off carbon cost by removing all the vegetation that is currently growing at the triangle, followed by a recurring cost. Anything green photosynthesizes and therefore converts CO2 into organic carbon. So replacing all that green stuff with concrete and steel introduces a recurring CO2 emission or, more precisely, removes a CO2 sink. In particular there is the existing CO2 sink of the willow trees that are coppiced and turned into fencing.</p> <p>And spare me the greenwash about how biodiversity will be improved with a few moveable planters.</p> <p>And finally spare me the greenwash about how the majority of fans will arrive by sustainable transport. OK, OUFC conducted its own fan survey and the majority of the fans said that they probably would. Well they would say that, wouldn't they? Fans know it is the response that the club want and need, so it is the response they give.</p> <p>I feel the triangle has far more value, possibly not economic value, if left alone. As with all the green space we are losing, once it has gone, it will never return. Well, not in a human lifetime anyway.</p>

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Attachments