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From: Planning
Sent: 13 April 2024 15:48
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: Objection to Oxford United's application no. 24/00539/F

From: Cynthia Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 10:50 AM
To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Oxford United's application no. 24/00539/F

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I object very strongly to this application, for the following reasons:

- 1) It is on Green Belt land.
- 2) It is unnecessary, since Mr Kassam said, in January 2024, that OU could stay at the Kassam Stadium.
- 3) OU continues to present itself as about to be homeless, which is therefore a lie. If they are lying about that, how can one trust anything else they say?
- 4) The current Blackbird Leys site causes no inconvenience to residents or traffic, whereas the access to the 'Triangle' site will cause major congestion on 2 already very busy roads, viz., Banbury Road and the A34. The proposal to close that part of Banbury Road on match days is quite outrageous, and would cause major disruption to the population at large.
- 5) The contention that fans would use public transport, thus alleviating this problem, is quite unrealistic, with or without the suggested footbridge, for which no plans or estimates have been submitted. In any case, it has been demonstrated that conveying so many fans solely on buses and trains would take around 9 hours. The absurdity is plain.
- 6) It is equally unrealistic to hold that all match car parking would be contained on the 'Triangle' site: what would certainly happen is that the Parkway car park would be full and prevent most parking by non-match train users and Park and Ride travellers, with a likely overspill to the residential roads on the northern side of the by-pass.
- 7) The OU proposal also includes a hotel and conference centre. Oxford does not need more conference centres (the University is used extensively for this purpose during the vacations), and the restricted area of the 'Triangle' makes the issue of parking by any hotel a vexed one. (The only solution would be a multi-storey car park on the site, which I do not see on the plan.)
- 8) OU's majority shareholders are 2 Indonesian businessmen, Erick Thohir and Anindya Bakrie. It is unlikely that they are as aware, as Oxford and Kidlington residents are, of the problems that this proposal would face, or of the extent to which local people are opposed to it. I note that OU supporters have, through social media, been soliciting, and receiving, support for the project from all over the world (and using very aggressive language against those who disagree with them). In view of this, I would emphasise that it is the business of local councils to attend primarily to the interests of their constituents, and I urge the Council to do this.

In short,

- a) the enormous disruption that match days would produce, coupled with the basic fact that
- b) the development is predicated on a huge lie (that OU MUST move - see 2) above), not to mention
- c) the fact that OU lost £6 million last year (and increase of £2 million over the previous year) (I trust it is not expecting to be bailed out by any taxpayer money, to add insult to injury), yet has at the same time been prodigally spending double its income,

all shows clear record as a loss-making organisation with shockingly poor financial management, which should ring the loudest of alarm-bells, and indicate clearly to the Council that this application should be rejected forthwith, and OU encouraged to improve its facilities in Blackbird Leys - which is where, after all, most of its local fans live.

Yours sincerely

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