

Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

Application Number	<input type="text" value="24/00539/F"/>
Location	<input type="text" value="Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington"/>
Proposal	<input type="text" value="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	<input type="text" value="Laura Bell"/>
Organisation Name	<input type="text" value="Andrew Allen"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="8 Eldridge Close, Abingdon, OX14 1YQ"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<p>Dear sir/ madam,</p> <p>I wish to take this opportunity to object to the new stadium planning application. I appreciate that I do not live in Kidlington, but I am objecting due to the fact that I spend and have spent a great deal of my life in this area. Also, I feel the new stadium would affect issues that mean a great deal to me.</p> <p>I feel that development of the Green Belt should be avoided at all times and the Green Belt is there for a purpose and the council should be there to protect this valuable resource for the local people and for the nation in general. There are many brown field sites that should be used before any green spaces. I believe that the government state that inappropriate development of the Green Belt should not be allowed. The preservation of an important resource available to all should trump the building of a stadium that will be used by a relatively few people.</p> <p>The building will result in the destruction of both flora and fauna, some of which are rare and possibly protected species. The area is also used as a feeding and general living environment for many species of which several are protected including different bats.</p> <p>The councils emphasis is on the environment, bio-diversity and clean air. Destroying habitats, bio-diversity and removing trees that clean the air, cannot meet the environment aims of the councils that cover this area. Protecting bio-diversity for generations is more important than a home for a football team. One can live without football, but cannot live without a healthy and bio-diverse environment.</p> <p>It seems to be a contradiction when the football club say that the new stadium will be green and environmental, when to construct the stadium a large area of mature bio-diverse habitat will be destroyed and any mitigating replacement will not be to the same environmental level in terms of diversity and maturity.</p> <p>Another objection is the chaos that the stadium will have on transport. The possibility of closing a main road on match days / events makes no sense. It will cause disruption, confusion and have safety implications. The increase of traffic on match days will also add to already congested roads, increased pollution for local residents and inconvenience for those who live in the surrounding areas. You need to ensure a constant flow of traffic and access for emergency vehicles when needed. The stadium has no main parking facilities and this will add to already busy parking in adjacent areas when fans arrive for the matches.</p> <p>As well as the environmental destruction, the new stadium will have other environmental negative effects including light pollution, noise pollution which will adversely impact both local human populations and local wildlife populations.. As with many new developments, flood risks increase due to changes to the water table, natural drainage, natural water retention (plants) and run-off from man made surfaces.</p>

Oxford is still regarded as a historical city with some unique architecture. The new stadium will not enhance this reputation, I feel it will be seen as out of place for a historic city. The council should be doing all they can to approve developmental changes that are in keeping with the traditions of the city,

The football club seem to have an arrogance that their commercial profits should come before the wishes of local people of Kidlington, Oxford and the wider Oxfordshire county. They have a current stadium. They should be asked to negotiate a revised lease with the landlords and assisted if necessary by the council. They have chosen not to renew the lease, but why should their decision have negative impacts on the local population and environment?

I am a life long supporter of football. However, I feel that the environment comes before the sport especially in times of a climate crisis. Preserving the environment and bio-diversity is far more important and long-term than kicking a ball around. The environment does more for people than watching a game. If protected the environment and bio-diversity will be around forever - can one guarantee the football club will be around in a few years, let alone forever?

I feel that the council should put the environment and local people before short-term financial gain. Morals before money. The councils say they wish to enhance the environment, protect nature and make the area better for people to live. Once the environment has gone, it has gone forever and not the best legacy to leave for future generations. So I ask for the council to reject the plans and stand up to the commercial pressure from the club and sometimes aggressively vocal club supporters. Rejecting the plans will earn the respect and gratitude of far more people than those who want the new stadium. I feel it is selfish for those you wish to destroy the area for their football when they already have a perfectly adequate stadium for their current and future league status. It will be a fresh sight to see the council put the best wishes of the majority of people and the environment before money.

Many thanks,

Andrew Allen

Received Date

17/04/2024 00:00:30

Attachments