

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	James Duffy
Address	21 Kennett Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7BH
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I am Oxford born and bred and have been a supporter of Oxford United since I was at Junior School, growing up in Headington, where I would walk to the Manor Ground. I moved into the house we still own in central Headington in 1993 and spent eight years walking the quarter of a mile to the ground for each match as a season ticket holder.</p> <p>I can reassure residents that while living so close to a football ground, I have never witnessed any loutish behaviour, parking issues, indecent incidents or rubbish thrown in my garden. There was a major benefit to local businesses within walking distance to the ground due to the increase in foot traffic for the thirty or so times a year that it was in use. The stadium will have food and beverage options as part of the development which will concentrate supporters around the stadium pre-game.</p> <p>This is a critical decision for the people of Oxfordshire and those exiled supporters who follow their local team from afar to maintain their connection to the county. I have travelled extensively with my work, and I am astounded by how many people mention the football club when I tell them I am from Oxford. You cannot claim to be a world-class renowned city without a professional football team and our future is on a knife edge. The proposal aligns with the current local and national policies on development, transport, and biodiversity enhancement.</p> <p>Times have changed and the desire of the club is to be the heart of the community, and we have a chance to have a fantastic, sustainable stadium which is sympathetic to the environment for the all-inclusive use of everyone for a multitude of events. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I respectfully request that the members consider their decision with the best interests of the whole of Oxfordshire in determining the development of a piece of land sandwiched between major roads. The advantage of the site is that its location is well served by public transport, and I would use this mode to travel given the ease for this option and the reduction in vehicular traffic compared to the current stadium.</p> <p>Oxford United has been a stable presence throughout my life and a conduit for spending time and staying in touch with friends and family over the last 50 years. My children are avid supporters and will pass this love for the team through the generations. This is an important part of our community and would be a huge loss if the proposal were not to proceed.</p>
Received Date	17/04/2024 11:43:13
Attachments	