

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="Matthew Derbyshire"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="'The Rafters',,Cane Lane,,Grove,,Wantage,,OX12 0AA"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<input type="text" value="The proposed plan under consideration represents a need and an opportunity.

It is a need for Oxford United Football Club, the county's only league club, and a source of pride for all of Oxfordshire. The people of Oxfordshire are rightly proud of the achievements on the field over its 125+ year history, but also what the club does off the field. It is a source of social cohesion, it provides local young people with encouragement to take part in healthy activities, and supports social, community, and charitable endeavours.

Oxford United needs this new ground. Without it it will be homeless and with its existence in question. That would mean the loss of all the good the Club does and be a dereliction of duty and source of shame for Oxfordshire's local governance.

The opportunity is what this proposal for a new ground in the proposed location could do for the local area. I mentioned above the good work the Club is engaged with. But this work is limited by restrictions on the Club's use of the ground by its current landlord. It now has the support of owners who are willing to finance the development of this new stadium. These owners have significantly developed the Club's youth and community work during their ownership, not least in the neighbourhood of Blackbird Leys where the Club is currently based. This new stadium will remove the current limitations on that work and focus it on its new home in Cherwell. The Club have set out proposals for how they can do this: it is a significant opportunity for the area.

There are other opportunities here for the local area too: employment for local people, economic benefits of visiting supporters, and improvement of current local sports facilities.

Of course the development of a new stadium like this will have other potential impacts on the local area. But the proposals set out address the opportunities to move from a stadium that is currently premised on supporters travelling by car to one that is premised on supporters using public transport. The proposals make clear how the stadium will be eco-friendly, address drainage and flooding issues, and improve bio diversity.

Oxfordshire needs to support this proposal to retain its football league club and the local area of Kidlington needs to support this proposal because of the opportunities it offers."/>
Received Date	<input type="text" value="20/04/2024 12:04:54"/>
Attachments	