

Dear

I am writing to you to outline my objections and concerns relating to the OUFC planning application to build a stadium on Stratfield Break.

1) Parking Provision

My main objection is that the proposed parking provision is inadequate. I understand that the current proposal is for 184 parking spaces and 2 coach bays. Currently 83.1% of supporters travel by private car, so the proposed parking allocation will not accommodate all supporters. It is well known that many football fans will not be able to afford the cost of public transport and will therefore drive to football matches. As there is an insufficient amount of parking spaces it is likely they will seek parking in and around the streets of Kidlington. Parking is already a problem in the closest housing estate (Garden City) as most houses have a shared driveway and therefore have to park on the road. My concern is that football fans will attempt to park, in an already congested residential area, which will lead to blocked driveways and restricted access for emergency vehicles such as ambulances. If ambulances are not able to gain access in emergency situations this will have catastrophic consequence and could lead to a loss of life.

Unfortunately, the local police force are already stretched, so addressing parking issues will not be a priority for them. It is also unlikely to be addressed by the Council.

2) Traffic Congestion

According to <https://www.footballwebpages.co.uk/oxford-united/attendances>, the home match against Exeter City on 23rd September 2023 attracted 10,022 fans. As mentioned in the point above, it is unlikely many fans can afford public transports costs, which means they will travel by private car or van. Based on the above figures, if two people share a car, this would result in approximately 5,000 cars. This will have a

considerable impact on the local traffic on match days. The main road from Kidlington to Oxford, namely Oxford Road, is already very congested. No consideration has been given to the impact the increased traffic flow will have on local residents who have to travel to work along this road.

3) Highway Safety

I would like to raise particular concern for local cyclists who will have to navigate through increased traffic flow, but will also have to deal with unruly fans. Oxford is well known as a City that welcomes cyclists, but no consideration has been given to the welfare of local residents.

4) Landscape Impact

Stratfield Break currently falls within the Oxford Green Belt and the building of a Football Stadium on this ground will go against the intent of the Green Belt provision.

5) Nature Conservation

I would also like to raise my concerns regarding the impact on the local ecology. This is documented in a recent Biodiversity report by Dr Judith Webb.

My final comment is that in 1986 there was a proposal to build the Football Stadium on land adjacent to the Oxford Forte Motor Lodge. However, this was opposed by the local residents as the plan was to build within the Green Belt, resulting in the application being rejected. This is documented in a book entitled *The Battle of Kidlington Gap*, by Ian and Katherine Scargill, Oxford Preservation Trust, 1993. This can be viewed at the Kidlington library.

I hope that you take my concerns into consideration when dealing with this planning application.

Yours faithfully