

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	MR IAN DRURY
Address	21 Broad Close, Kidlington, OX5 1BE
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I strongly oppose the construction of a football stadium in the Kidlington area. First of all it is a reduction of the Kidlington gap and Green Belt which is bad enough but the additional traffic in this area on match days will be catastrophic. Let's not forget that the Kidlington area will have more than 4000 additional homes to alleviate the problem faced by Oxford City Council and that alone will cause difficulties regarding traffic issues in Kidlington. There is even talk of closing roads at certain times on matchdays and this is pure nonsense and should not be considered by any authority who considers itself best placed to safeguard the interests of local residents. There is also talk that public transport will be improved to cover transport of fans - complete nonsense and will not happen. Local transport companies and rail company could not cope and would not have the resources to cater for the volume of fans. Fans have to get to pick up points and that takes time as well as being probably inconvenient and it just will not happen as it just does not happen today with transport to the Kassam. Fans will resort to using private transport and park somewhere in Kidlington. A lot easier to park 4 or 5 in a car as well as being a much cheaper option. There is the Park & Ride but parking in Garden City will be just as close [I have measured it] and in fact most streets in Kidlington are within 1.5 miles from the proposed Stadium and I know that fans will much prefer that to using public transport. Last year I was in Plymouth and attended their stadium to greet their team who had just gained promotion and my friend had a devil of a job to find a parking space within 3/4 of a mile near the ground unlike normal match days when it is easier to park on streets nearer the ground and that was for a crowd of 12000! I have no doubt that private transport will be the favoured option for fans and that will be catastrophic for Kidlington residents whether it be additional traffic on local roads, parking issues or possible parking restrictions if that is a considered option. Either way, I just do not think that it is right any Kidlington resident life should be blighted by the construction of a Football stadium, particularly as the club currently occupies a stadium that meets their needs and which could be improved to meet any future needs. To my mind the decision to shorten the lease on the Kassam was shortsighted and foolhardy to say the least and was done so that they could exercise pressure on Local Authorities to find a home when the lease expires. When I responded previously I said that I thought staying at the Kassam was the best option and I still do. One other problem would be the safety of fans near the stadium. The thousands of fans in the roundabout area would be a nightmare and although there is talk of a bridge I doubt that any bridge would alleviate the problem of fan movement in the area and the proximity of major roads and associated traffic. I have been a football fan for more than 70 years but I really do think that the proposed construction of this stadium would be a disaster for Kidlington residents.</p>
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Attachments	