

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	Tim Emptage
Address	28 Yarnton Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AT
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Full declaration</p> <p>I have lived in Kidlington for 67 years I have been a lifelong OUFC fan, I went to my first match in the early 1960's I have been a season ticket holder for 24 years I fully understand the need for OUFC to change their current stadium arrangements, the current stadium is appalling and a disgrace. I have often travelled to away matches, usually by car</p> <p>The location of a new stadium in the proposed site will present enormous traffic and parking challenges and result in massive problems for local people. The transport plan does not address those problems in sufficient detail to allay the concerns and fears of local people.</p> <p>It seems that most people, 55/56%, are expected to use the park and ride facilities in the stadium area. There are several issues with the details provided so far in the transport plan.</p> <p>While people arrive at the stadium in, say a 1.5 hour window, they will all leave at the same time. The questions this throws up are:-</p> <p>How long will it take after a match to move 5000 people from the stadium. With 79 people per bus it will take a minimum of 64 journeys. Even if there was 1 movement per minute it would still take more than an hour to clear all those fans from the stadium. People will not be prepared to wait for an hour to get back to their car in the park and ride, parking in residential areas will be more attractive. When attendances reach 16000 then the situation would be considerably worse.</p> <p>Why would fans pay to use a park and ride when street parking in Kidlington will be free ?</p> <p>What commitments have been provided by the bus companies to provide sufficient vehicles and drivers ?</p> <p>The travel plan says that parking restrictions will be in place for up to 2 km from the stadium. That is nowhere near enough. Currently at the Kassam Stadium car parking is permitted on the Grenoble Road for 1.4 miles, 2.3 km, and this is always full on match days. Parking restrictions would need to be extended to the whole of Kidlington. People would not need to walk that far as there is a bus service going through Kidlington which stops outside the stadium. It is clear that street parking will be used by far more people than is suggested in the transport plan.</p> <p>The plan says that between 17% and 22% of people will arrive by rail. This is a very high percentage when major local areas such as Abingdon and Witney don't have a railway station. Even if a local railway station is available the cost and length of time to make the journey(s) will be prohibitive for many people.</p>

If there is no direct bus or train within walking distance then some people will have the cost of several journeys, even if there is a special ticket at a discounted price. It will be considerably cheaper for several people to travel in the same car and park in a residential street

I have no objection to a new stadium located close to Kidlington but this is not the right location. A far better site would be in the station / park and ride complex itself. There is land behind the park and ride which could be used for the stadium and other planned facilities. Additional car parking spaces could be provided which, together with the fact the stadium would be further from residential streets in Kidlington, would mean people would be less motivated to park in Kidlington.

An even better alternative would be to purchase the existing stadium and refurbished it to provide far better facilities. This solution would be:

Considerably less expensive
Much less disruptive
Far more environmentally friendly

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Attachments