

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	Neil Carter
Address	18 Harvest Way, Witney.
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>The recent document released by Firoka , the current stadium owner and operator - clearly show their plans for the site including the stadium in 2026 and debunk the often lazy accusation that the club deliberately made it self homeless or can stay there long term with a new lease or licence or make an offer for the purchase of the site.OUFC have made a number of offers since the landlord separated the club from the stadium in 2006. The current stadium site and wider footprint is not for sale. The Kassam Stadium site, though, is badly designed, poorly situated and is not served adequately from a public transport point of view encouraging car use and the damage to the air quality that results.</p> <p>So the planning application submitted by OUFC - a 131 year old beloved institution with a proud history - offers the chance to secure a permanent home and provide world class facilities for both the club and the wider county. It will be excellently situated from a connectively point of view with the soon to be available east-west link up to Bletchley and beyond making the site even more accessible from the North West to Milton Keynes and on to the adjacent Oxford Parkway station.The club are working with local authorities to provide the needed significant number of shuttle services from the Park and Ride sites around the city including the new 850 space Eynsham P&R hub to the West of the city which I plan to use.</p> <p>The new stadium planned for land east of Stratfield Brake and west of Oxford Parkway will be without doubt the best in the country from a sustainable and ecological point of view creating publically accessible green spaces and will improve the biodiversity of the site with more planting etc. There will be new public areas that can be enjoyed all year round. Currently, the proposed site is inaccessible to the public and is effectively scrubland. OUFC will turn this scrub into something that everyone or mostly everyone can be proud of with the enhancements planned. It was also previously used as a motor-X race track in the 90's. What it is not, is some beautiful biodiverse wildlife haven.</p> <p>OUFC have pledged within its planning application to improve and sustain the sporting facilities that exist at the nearby Stratfield Brake potentially providing the current entities whom play there a well maintained and professional playing surface. The erroneously named pressure group Friends of Stratfield Brake, who have proclaimed their everlasting love for SB, have done absolutely nothing to improve the facilities for the Kidlington sporting fraternity who have had to put up with unacceptable playing facilities for too long.</p> <p>Finally, OUFC undertake significant community activities and have pledged to partner with local community organisations to support health and well-being and have also pledged that employment opportunities will be prioritized to the local population. With 4,400 homes planned for Kidlington, Begbroke and Yarnton in the next few years, these new families will need leisure and sporting provision which this proposal can support.</p> <p>So in conclusion, I wholeheartedly support this proposal which is vital to the very existence of a wonderful, long standing, community asset which provides so much interest and enjoyment to so many people in the county and beyond who rely on OUFC as the county's</p>

only full time professional sports outfit who need a permanent home for the 21st century and beyond. Don't pass up on what is a wonderful opportunity to provide a world class stadium and associated facilities for the people Oxfordshire which will also mean a significantly improved economic uplift to the area too.

Up the U's !

Neil Carter

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Attachments