

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

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| <b>Application Number</b> | 24/00539/F  |
| <b>Location</b>           | Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington  |
| <b>Proposal</b>           | 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   |
| <b>Case Officer</b>       | Laura Bell  |
| <b>Organisation Name</b>  |   |
| <b>Name</b>               | Richard Bradley   |
| <b>Address</b>            | 89 Eynsham Road,Botley  |
| <b>Type of Comment</b>    | Support   |
| <b>Type</b>               | neighbour   |
| <b>Comments</b>           | <p>I strongly support this application. A city of Oxford's size with a world-class reputation in other areas, badly needs a proper sports stadium with real roots in the community. The football club is already a huge positive for the city and has immense untapped potential as a force for good, for community cohesion, civic pride, for inclusivity, promoting of healthy lifestyles. Look at the impact of say a successfully run club with a strong community focus and good stadium in Brentford, Brighton or Bournemouth. The stadium plan proposed has clearly been designed with the very latest thinking in mind in terms of eco efficiency and sustainability. It will be a strong magnet for local employment. The fact that it is so close to Oxford Parkway station with its established network of bus routes is another huge plus meaning the stadium can be accessed largely by existing public transport routes, massively reducing the number of cars that are currently needed to access the out of the way Kassam Stadium. It sits apart from Kidlington in an area where there are no immediate neighbours - yet easily accessible transport. This is very rare. The area on which the stadium is to be built is not an area of pristine countryside, its not currently used by the public, nor is it likely to be given its location between major roads. The city of Oxford is dominated by the University. The football club is one of the most important institutions outside the University that gives people who live in the city but are not part of the University - especially youngsters and the old - a sense of shared identity and community. The links between the club with all its community outreach programmes, the local BBC radio and newspaper commentators, the football forums and the broader community of supporters and their families is a strong, powerful and inclusive force for good. During Covid the football club gave proper support and hope to the community. As a long-time supporter of the club I sit alongside men and women of all ages, from the very young to the elderly, ethnically diverse, able-bodied and disabled - and we all share a passion for Oxford. That community spirit can only survive with a viable stadium. With a great stadium fit or the future challenges of climate change and a need to adapt our lifestyles, it can thrive and have be a huge force for good within the community. As someone whose son played briefly for Oxford United boys I have seen at first hand the incredible power of transformation for good in the young lives of boys and girls across Oxfordshire - not just the outstanding footballers, but all those who have lined the sides at games, who have been able to carry flags on the pitch, or be lucky enough to be team mascots and meet their heroes, the young girls who formed the cheer-leading and acrobatic team at last weeks home games. The power of all this to inspire a next generation, give them role models should not be underestimated - but it depends on a proper long-term viable stadium. A stadium of the sort proposed will also be an asset of huge value as a venue beyond just football. OUFC has proven what it can do for the community even when it does not have an attractive stadium that it does not own. At a time when there are so many potential issues of division, and so few grounds for real hope and positivity around, this feels like a once in a generational opportunity to do something positive that could enhance civic pride in a very real way, and impact the city of Oxford for good for generations to come.</p> |
| <b>Received Date</b>      | 21/04/2024 13:53:36   |
| <b>Attachments</b>        |   |