

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

<b>Application Number</b>	<input type="text" value="24/00539/F"/>
<b>Location</b>	<input type="text" value="Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station Oxford Road Kidlington"/>
<b>Proposal</b>	<input type="text" value="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>	<input type="text" value="Laura Bell"/>
<b>Organisation Name</b>	<input type="text" value="William Keeble"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text" value="22 Sir Williams Lane,Aylsham,Norwich,NR11 6AW"/>
<b>Type of Comment</b>	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
<b>Type</b>	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
<b>Comments</b>	<input type="text" value="Oxford United means so much to me, and has been the club that I have supported for all 17 years of my life. I started going with my dad and since then we have seen promotion, cup runs, legends and incredible moments that will stay with us all for life. If the club ceased to exist then it would be a massive mental health issue to me, as like other fans, much of my life revolves around the football club being there to provide a mainstay in good or bad times. Not only would it impact me, but it would impact the incredible work that the club does for the community, as well as those who are employed by the club. It would lead to unemployment, severe issues over mental health and day to day lives of fans, as it has done to those who support teams such as Bury or Macclesfield. It would be a travesty for the county if Oxford United ceased to exist, as the memories made and history of the football club would be desecrated. My special connections to the club are mainly through family friends and connections I've made in my life so far through attending matches, football camps and conversing with other fans. A new stadium would mean a lot for me, as the current one does not hold massive positive feelings for a lot of Oxford fans, and something that we own and can develop would mean the world to us all. Being able to have easier travel options due to my current residence, as well as feeling more connected with the club on a matchday are both massive areas of hope and positivity for me and all supporters. Having the opportunity to provide Oxfordshire's only professional sporting team with the facilities that can be used by the community and also continuing with the potential of development and progression in the community through mental and physical health assistance as well as the likely long-term health benefits to residents and supporters through the commitment to the environment and economy, should be seen as a huge driving factor in allowing the stadium to be allowed. Different specific details such as the public transport opportunities, the access through walkways and green areas, and also things such as hotels and gyms to aid the public in health and mind are all aspects that the proposed stadium offers that would have an enormously positive impact on the community and for supporters attempting to access it on matchdays, but also when there are community events or support for charities, local teams and more. As someone who lived in Oxford for 15 years of my life, and someone who also was part of a small business closer to Kidlington in Wolvercote, the aid and help that this would bring to the community whether that be the easier access for more people, the knowledge and understanding that the stadium was ours and also the impact that it would have on financial aspects for local businesses and the surrounding areas are all key points that should not be understated, as the club has a massive aim to support the community and to give back to those who have assisted it in troubled times since it's founding in 1893. The club matters so much to me, and I would love to have the chance to bring my future children to the new stadium, but I may have to tell them how the club ceased to exist over this specific issue, and how there was so much effort and support from all supporters and the club, but it all came to an end. Whether it be purchasing tickets for a matchday, renewing my season ticket, or purchasing a programme at the matches, all aspects of the club matter so much to me, and to not be able to purchase a new shirt, or message my friends about the most recent result would be a serious issue for me. My favourite memories of Oxford United consist of the promotion in 2016, and the final match versus Wycombe which me and my dad went to watch, the multiple cup giant killings versus West Ham, Swansea, Newcastle and others, and also the happiness that I had when I"/>

received my first season ticket as a gift when I was younger. The image of future generations or my own children doing each of these and experiencing their own moments is something that cannot be put into words, and this is why the stadium must go ahead for the future of Oxfordshire and it's people. The club make a huge difference to the community, whether it be through the players, charities, sponsorships, holiday camps, and many more. A recent example is the support that Cameron Brannagan showed to young supporter, Kyle Andrews who has been battling Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and how he has helped and supported him through his recovery. This is one of the many examples of the community being benefitted, and I would like to think there will be so many more examples in the future. I myself have been involved in the community, as I often attended the holiday camps when I was younger, as Oxford was and still remains to be my biggest passion in life. These gave me personal development skills and also the ideas that have lead to me partaking in more coaching roles and to also pursue a career in football through education and job opportunities. The club's commitment to the community, and its definite future commitment to the new stadium and the surrounding area cannot be overstated. It is an incredible honour to be a part of a footballing community that is over 130 years old, and I am so thankful to those who introduced me to it, and to those who have kept me and the club going throughout my time supporting, but also well before then. Overall, the stadium is vitally important and a necessity to the future of my and our club, as it will provide us with a permanent home, that will not be affected by the concern of leases or rent payments. It is integral to the staff, players, fans, communities and the Football League that a club with such history can continue to operate and to not be on the edge of extinction. This club means so much to us all, please support the stadium proposal and give the community of Oxfordshire an improved quality of life through the development of it's only professional sports club. Whether it be memories made 10 years from now, 5 years from now or 100 years from now, this stadium needs to be at the forefront of our development and gives us our only chance of survival past 2026, not allowing this not only destroys the clubs, but the fans and the community also. The importance of a new stadium for Oxford United Football Club is paramount.

**Received Date**

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**Attachments**