

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	
Name	Margaret King
Address	39 Hazel Crescent, Kidlington, OX5 1EH
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour

Comments

21st April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref: Planning Application 24/00539/F

I have lived in Garden City in Kidlington for over 34 years and am writing to object to the relocation of Oxford United football stadium to the land east of Stratfield Brake and west of Oxford Parkway.

Firstly, I consider that the most environmentally friendly situation would be for the football club to remain at the Kassam stadium, with any improvements to the provision needed being done there, therefore being on a site that is already developed. This would mean there would be no destruction of the Green Belt, which would take place if the above planning application is granted. This option should be pursued vigorously with the club and land owner by the council. I do not believe the move of the stadium to a green belt site is warranted or meets the criteria of 'very special circumstances' as set out in the national planning policy framework.

Secondly. Currently 83.1% of team supporters travel to matches by private cars. The aim to have 90% of people arriving at matches by train and public transport is just that, an aim, and is highly unlikely to be realised. This will lead to further congestion and traffic jams on roads which are already busy. On the rare occasions that public events are held at Strathfield Brake playing fields, overflow parking spills into Garden City increasing risk of accidents, making resident's own travelling and parking much more difficult. Currently there is little, to no, enforcement of parking rules for people who park in residential roads, including on pavements. Supporters are likely to park in the residential roads around, to avoid the charges at the Park and Ride, or those wishing to use the Park and Ride will find it is full and so seek street parking, to use the bus. This will be highly disruptive to local residents.

There is no information in the plan for the bridge, which has been talked about, to go from the station to the stadium, so is it expected that thousands of people to be crossing the main road via traffic lights? This would not only be dangerous but highly disruptive to the traffic, causing long delays on an already busy road.

There has also been talk of road closures before and after matches. This is likely to have the effect of regularly cutting off the area where I live for long periods on match days, making it difficult to leave or to have visitors.

In the many years I have lived in Garden City I have found it to be a quiet, safe area with virtually no incidences of anti-social behaviour. This is probably in part due to the lack of a local pub. Football is a game of rivalry, and although many fans are, I am sure, well behaved, there are some who demonstrate anti-social behaviour, such as fighting, using foul language, littering, and worse. This is likely to be fuelled by the availability of alcohol at the

stadium. I am concerned that the stadium will cause an increase in crime and make the area less safe.

In conclusion I feel that this is a poorly conceived plan, with insufficient justification for the loss of Green Belt / natural environment, and the considerable disruption to a population that did not sign up for this.

The present Kassam Stadium has been around for many years, and is still a challenge for local residents who were living locally before it was built and who still complain of parking and travel problems on match days. However, those who now move into the area near the Kassam Stadium, do so in that knowledge.

I strongly object to the citing of a new OU Stadium on the triangle on the outskirts of Kidlington and strongly advocate for Oxford United to stay in the Kassam stadium where it is.

Yours faithfully
Margaret King

Received Date

21/04/2024 19:27:01

Attachments