

# Comment for planning application 24/00539/F

<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>	Simon Molden
<b>Address</b>	12, Broomfield Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 9AZ
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Support
<b>Type</b>	neighbour
<b>Comments</b>	<p>I have been a supporter of Oxford United since 1984. I support this application for three principal reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The proposed location of the stadium and proximity to Oxford Parkway station will significantly increase the accessibility of the club and, hence, its reach, thus strengthening its long-term viability. In my younger days, I was a regular attendee (when the club was based at the Manor Ground in Headington). However, in adulthood I moved away from the area to London and this inevitably has made attending matches a much bigger undertaking. However, this situation has been significantly exacerbated since 2001 by the location of the club's current home at Grenoble Road. The situation of the stadium on the extreme southern edge of the city, a long way from any major public transport hub makes getting to matches an incredibly difficult proposition. The lack of car parking only makes this situation worse. By comparison, the proposed location of the new stadium would bring the club back within easy reach and would enable me to attend more than the 2/3 games per season that I currently do. I am sure this is the case for those many other fans who, like me, have moved away from the area. I am also very supportive of the fact that the location of the stadium would make the primary mode of access for me and many others public transport. This can only be a good thing;</li><li>2. The new stadium will secure the future of the club. Whatever the rights and wrongs of how the club ended up in its current stadium predicament, those responsible for it from the club's side are long gone. Furthermore, it is abundantly clear to anyone who has followed the club for the past 20 years or more that the current stadium owner, Mr Kassam, has not and will not ever act in the club's best interests. This is evidenced by the fact that every owner of Oxford United since Mr Kassam sold it in 2006 has tried to open negotiations over the stadium purchase and each time has met a total lack of willingness to engage from him. The fact that we are now two years away from the expiry of the club's existing licence to use the stadium and there has not been a single positive, concrete indication from Mr Kassam that he wishes to discuss a new licence or lease should tell you everything you need to know about his intentions. In short, due to Mr Kassam's attitude, the club will be homeless in two years' time and with it will come a very real threat of the going out of existence, something that I do not believe the city or county wishes to happen;</li><li>3. The proposed stadium and wider development will reinvigorate an unused parcel of land that currently contributes very little in aesthetic, environmental or financial terms, bringing employment and economic activity to the area.</li></ol>
<b>Received Date</b>	21/04/2024 19:27:23
<b>Attachments</b>	