

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	Frank Vreede
Address	180 The Moors,Kidlington,OX5 2AD
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I would hereby like to express my OBJECTION to the proposed Oxford United football stadium in Kidlington in the strongest possible terms.</p> <p>I have many reasons for my objection, but the primary reasons are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building a 16,000-capacity stadium in a village with a similar sized population is simply inappropriate. The club's home city of Oxford has a 10 times bigger population. In addition, a development of this size would obliterate the Greenbelt gap separating Oxford and Kidlington. It is a valuable and highly biodiverse site (of which there are very few around Kidlington) that would be lost forever.2. The current proposal includes road closures on match days. This would result in absolute chaos. My wife works in Oxford Monday to Friday, my son attends school in Oxford on Saturday mornings and the whole family attends church in Oxford on Sunday mornings. So, like a lot of residents of Kidlington, we are totally reliant on access to Oxford, whether by bicycle (mostly), car or bus. A brief look at Oxford United's fixtures tells me that matches are usually on Saturdays, but interspersed with quite a few weekday fixtures. The result of Oxford Road closures would be unimaginable to anyone with any experience of the current traffic situation around the Triangle.3. An article in the Oxford Times of March 14, 2024, reported that the cost of the stadium has soared and could cost 150m. I know nothing of the financial position of the club, but I question what would happen to the stadium if the finances failed. The council who own the land would have little choice but to accept whatever changes the club need to make to their ambitious proposal to complete the project. In the same article, the club's chairman was quoted as saying that "the right to use the stadium will be 100 per cent with the football club 365 days a year. All the economic benefits of that stadium will accrue to the football club. The legal niceties will take care of themselves, but the value of the stadium belongs to the club." So where are the benefits for the residents of Kidlington whose lives and enjoyment of their homes and village will be detrimentally impacted by a development such as this.4. Oxford United have admirable ambitions to encourage supporters to use sustainable transport to attend matches, but ambitions for other people's behaviour are unfortunately worthless. Having spent 150m to build the stadium, the club will unlikely be in a position to incentivise their supporters financially. The rail link is excellent from Oxford and London, but given the long-standing car-culture of British society, I suggest that the majority of supporters from anywhere else, including supporters of visiting teams, will find travelling by car easier and cheaper. This will have massive implications for parking in the village.5. We are a very eco-conscious family and my children actually genuinely prefer to receive used items as birthday and Christmas gifts. Oxford United could learn from them and focus on retaining the use of (and upgrading) their current stadium rather than discarding it in favour of something new. THIS would be serving and future-proofing the interests of the younger generation.
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Attachments	