

# 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>	
<b>Name</b>	Timea Thorpe
<b>Address</b>	45 Laburnum Crescent, Kidlington, OX5 1HA
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Objection
<b>Type</b>	neighbour
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Dear Planning Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposed planning application by Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) to construct a stadium on the Triangle area. As a concerned resident deeply invested in the well-being of our community and environment, I urge you to carefully consider the numerous detrimental impacts this development would have on our neighbourhood. Whilst there is an extensive list of concerns against supporting this application, I include below a non-exhaustive selection of some of key areas.</p> <p><b>Loss of Greenbelt Land:</b> The Triangle represents a crucial green space within our locality, offering not only a significant strategic gap between Kidlington and Oxford, but also serving as a vital habitat for diverse flora and fauna. The construction of a stadium would entail irreversible damage to this cherished greenbelt land, undermining our environmental sustainability and robbing future generations of its inherent value.</p> <p><b>Traffic Congestion and Transportation Infrastructure:</b> Our current train station and parking facilities are not designed to accommodate the increased volume of commuters proposed by OUFC. Whilst the claim of 90% public transport use by home fans by OUFC is highly unrealistic given current behaviours, the plans do not sufficiently address how this increase in usage of Oxford Parkway and surrounding P&amp;Rs would be mitigated, to ensure minimal disruption to locals and visitors to the area for non-Stadium related business. Introducing a stadium into this equation would exacerbate traffic congestion and overwhelm our transportation infrastructure, making it virtually impossible to support the influx of fans on match days.</p> <p><b>Concerns Raised by Thames Valley Police:</b> Thames Valley Police have expressed legitimate concerns regarding the safety and security implications of hosting large crowds at the proposed stadium site. The sheer number of people accessing the area would strain law enforcement resources and compromise public safety, posing significant risks to both residents and visitors alike.</p> <p><b>Inadequate Facilities for Crowd Management:</b> It is evident that the proposed site lacks the necessary infrastructure to effectively manage and segregate crowds, especially during high-attendance events. Without proper facilities in place, there is a heightened risk of disorderly conduct, conflict, and disturbances within our community. As noted in the Design and Review Panel report, the site is too small and 'everything is ever so slightly squeezed and [...] there is no spare land'.</p> <p><b>Emergency Evacuation Concerns:</b> In the event of an emergency or evacuation scenario, the proposed stadium's location presents serious logistical challenges. The limited access routes and congested surrounding roads would impede timely evacuation efforts, putting lives at risk and exacerbating the potential for catastrophe.</p> <p>Despite many claims made by OUFC, I find that many of their statements are supported by</p>

concrete evidence and are the types of claims which can be easily within once development begins. In particular, I find their claims about the lack of viability of staying at the Kassam Stadium without merit, given responses from the current owners. By perpetuating false narratives about their current facilities, OUFC seeks to justify their unjustifiable plans to encroach upon our greenbelt land and disrupt our community.

Given these grave concerns, I implore the planning committee to reject OUFC's planning application and safeguard the integrity of our community and environment. Alternative sites must be explored, to a more meaningful extent than has occurred thus far, that prioritize sustainability, safety, and the well-being of local residents. In particular, I would strongly advocate for the development and retention of the existing OUFC facilities at the Kassam.

Thank you for considering my objections, and I trust that you will act in the best interests of our community in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Timea Thorpe

**Received Date**

21/04/2024 22:36:12

**Attachments**