

# 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	Eleonora Staines Urias
Address	Flat 1,14 Broadway,Kidlington,OX5 1EF
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I rented a flat next to the Millwall Stadium for a few years, and I remember the pedestrian crowds, the noise, the litter, and the general sense of the area being taken over for events I was never a part of. I know first hand what it entails living nearby a venue such as the one proposed by OUFC.</p> <p>There is nothing in the OUFC Planning Application reassuring Kidlington residents that the increased traffic and road closures (the latter specially regarding Oxford Road) will not have a negative effect on the village. The applicants are clearly overestimating the proportion of people that will be attending games using public transportation; and even if their figures were near to the true, the current transport infrastructure and services (trains and buses) are not sufficient to cover the demand that match days will bring. Traffic will be congested from miles before Oxford Parkway station all the way to the stadium. Pedestrians will take over the cycling paths, also making it impossible to cycle in or out in a safe manner. The amount of car emissions will significantly increase, creating further environmental issues (adding to the negatively impacted air quality for residents, there will be loss of green spaces and negative effects on local biodiversity).</p> <p>I still do not understand how the current proposal to build a stadium 10 miles from another one in the region (along with a hotel and commercial zone) can be considered as part of the Council's strategies that aim to promote net-zero carbon new developments, improve air quality, or maintain and improve the natural and built environment including biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure and waterways. Will there be a third stadium built if the one planned for the Green Belt becomes "unsuitable" in 20 years as Kassam Stadium did? There is no way to predict that private interest will not change when the club's ownership changes, and the same thing that is happening with Kassam Stadium may occur with the proposed Green Belt stadium.</p> <p>The current OUFC Planning Application does not fulfil the minimum requirements to even consider building on the Green Belt. Furthermore, it is my understanding that documents in the public domain show conflicting information regarding the possibility of OUFC staying at Kassam Stadium. There is need of full transparency with the public on the matter of those negotiations, otherwise, until the option to stay at Kassam Stadium is confirmed as non viable by all parties, I urge the Council to ignore the emotionally charged statement of "the OUFC being homeless" when reviewing the application and instead prioritise the opinion of the local community.</p>
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Attachments	