

# 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>	Christian Gilliam
<b>Address</b>	26 Morton Close, Kidlington, OX5 1BU
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Objection
<b>Type</b>	neighbour
<b>Comments</b>	<p>I object to Oxford United's proposed 16,000 capacity stadium and 180-bed hotel next to Kidlington roundabout because of the likely impact on the local environment, community and transport infrastructure. At its most basic it represents the loss of another chunk of greenbelt and open countryside with the loss of wildlife, open space, diversity etc. Much of the existing open space and greenbelt around Kidlington has already been earmarked for development or is further threatened by projects like the Botley West Solar Farm and this proposal. The overall effect of all of this will be to turn what was traditionally a rural into an urban area. Kidlington is already swamped with pressures relating to Oxford's housing needs and tourism. There has been a huge build-up in car traffic and traffic jams in Kidlington and major routes in and out of the village making it difficult for residents to access other areas of the City and County. Bus journey times from Kidlington to Oxford, a major commuter corridor, have doubled in the last 10 years or so. Public services and facilities e.g. medical, sports/leisure, supermarkets, are under extreme pressure and often seem unable to cope with demand e.g. the swimming pool and the only major supermarket providing for most of the North Oxford area are often overcrowded. Given the current pressures on the transport infrastructure, the regular influx of an additional 16000 fans on match days is likely to make the traffic situation in and around Kidlington impossible, not only for residents trying to go about their normal business but for the fans. If the main Oxford road is closed this is likely to create gridlock on all the surrounding roads and residents freedom of movement will be seriously impeded. Any controls or restrictions on parking in Kidlington, whilst further inconveniencing residents, will be unlikely to prevent large numbers of cars entering the village in search of parking places. Unless OU is prepared to spend huge sums of money, it is unlikely that parking restrictions will be enforced. Buses between Kidlington and Oxford are already severely overcrowded and the influx of thousands of fans on match days will severely disrupt bus timetables unless the Bus Company is prepared to put on many more buses (presumably funded by OU). Incidentally, unlike other parts of Oxford, only one bus company, Stagecoach, operates between Oxford and Kidlington. Whilst welcoming the increase in business, Chiltern Railways has admitted its current rolling stock and station capacity is well below what will be required for the approximately 5000 fans arriving by rail. Finally, the safety of hundreds or thousands of fans trying to access the proposed stadium on foot along existing inadequate paths and roads, as well as other road users and pedestrians trying to negotiate large crowds of fans, is at stake. In conclusion I feel the proposed stadium and hotel will have a major detrimental impact on the environment and infrastructure of not only Kidlington but surrounding villages.</p>
<b>Received Date</b>	22/04/2024 14:34:38
<b>Attachments</b>	