

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	Antonia Hedges
Address	19 Crown Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AG
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>As a resident of Kidlington for over 20 years, I am writing to object to the planning permission to build a football stadium for Oxford United on the 'Triangle', on land just south of the Kidlington roundabout, as set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proposed road closures: I strongly object to the proposed construction of the stadium as the complete closure of the A4165 (Oxford Road) and A4260 (Frieze Way), both main road arteries providing access from Kidlington to the South of Oxfordshire and vice versa, for a period of time to enable football fans to leave the proposed stadium after a football match will mean that residents of Kidlington will lose their right to travel (via their own or public transport) freely as and when they would like to do so and feel 'trapped' in their own village for the period of the proposed road closures. The proposed road closures will take away resident's liberty and freedom of movement, restricting when they can leave their homes to travel to the South of the County. The road closures could also cause a potential issue in that emergency vehicles could be held up if there are thousands of fans on the highway exiting the proposed stadium. The A4165 and A4260 are already extremely busy roads, and already bottleneck at the Kidlington roundabout by Sainsbury's. To even consider stopping the traffic will cause traffic tailbacks through Kidlington and South along the A4165 and A4260. The situation is only set to get worse once the building of new houses nearby are completed. The infrastructure is simply not in place to accommodate this much change.Proposed parking restrictions: Parking restrictions are proposed to extend from the proposed stadium for some considerable distance into Kidlington and the surrounding areas to prevent fans parking in the village and to encourage them to travel by public transport. The number of parking enforcement officers required to patrol and deal with any offenders will be considerable to cover the whole village. Football fans will park up and 'abandon' their cars anywhere to see a football match, and as a resident of Kidlington, I am concerned that there will not be enough parking enforcement officers to patrol and deal with offenders on match days, potentially leading to residents of Kidlington being blocked in by fans' cars, or not being able to park where the residents usually park freely.Proposed public transport on match days: It appears to be greatly assumed that as Oxford Parkway railway station/Park & Ride is close by and that Kidlington has fairly good bus service, that football fans will use public transport to get themselves to the proposed stadium on match days. A lot of fans will not have access to a train station close to their home address, so will end up driving by car for most, if not all of the journey. Fans will be encouraged to use the park & rides at Oxford Parkway and Pear Tree, but many may not due to the proposed number of buses that would need to be laid on during each match day to ferry fans to and from the proposed stadium, and would not wish to wait around for long periods for the next bus, so will drive to the closest, most convenient place to park their cars, which will either be Kidlington village (see point 2 above) or Oxford Parkway/Park & Ride car park. The Oxford Parkway station parking and Oxford Parkway Park & Ride parking is already used on Saturdays by residents of Kidlington and the surrounding areas when football matches will potentially taking place to go shopping in Oxford. If football fans are parking in the Oxford Parkway/Park & Ride car park, there will be very limited parking

spaces for shoppers. Due to the proposed road closures (see point 1 above) people wishing to use the Oxford Parkway/Park & Ride car park may not be able to gain access to park their vehicles and could abandon trying to park, resulting in a restriction of use for usual Saturday shoppers, then in turn, fewer shoppers travelling into Oxford on match days. This simply cannot be allowed to happen as people who have used Oxford Parkway/Park & Ride car park will no longer be able to do so, with the potential that Oxford has fewer visitors as the public/shoppers can't access the public transport that they have been encouraged to due to the proposed road closures (see point 1 above) and football fans using a large proportion of the parking spaces at Oxford Parkway/Park & Ride car park.

4. The existing wildlife habitat on the 'Triangle': Planning permission for the construction of a new football stadium should not be granted as it will be incredibly devastating to the biodiversity/wildlife that currently exists on the 'Triangle' and to see the destruction/disappearance of this natural and established wildlife haven is extremely distressing. Proposals have been put forward by OUFC to encourage reintroduction of wildlife to address the biodiversity balance as part of the construction of the proposed stadium, but a large construction as proposed will have an irreversible effect on much of the wildlife that currently exists on the 'Triangle' site, taking years for some of it to be reinstated, with some being lost forever. The fact that the proposed stadium is being billed as green construction is laughable. How can it possibly be seen as 'green' to build a brand new stadium when there is a perfectly usable existing football stadium at Kassam which is has good access from the North and South of the City of Oxford and which doesn't cause a bottle neck of fans, potentially 'trapping' residents in their own village for periods of time on match days.

5. Disruption to residents access to Kidlington village amenities: I am objecting to the proposed construction of a stadium as there appears to be little consideration of residents enjoyment of their own village on match days, in particular, where will home and away fans go before a football match. Usually football fans visit local public houses for a drink prior to a match. The majority of public houses are in the centre of Kidlington. This could see thousands of football fans drinking in those public houses in the centre of Kidlington for some period of time prior to the start of the match. What consideration has been made for residents of Kidlington to shop in their village on a match day without having to negotiate thousands of football fans, and no provision made to keep home and away fans separate to avoid brawling on the streets of Kidlington by rival supporters.

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Attachments