

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	Danny Hicks
Address	81 Walton Avenue, Twyford, Banbury, OX17 3LA
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Oxford United Football Club means everything to me, and tens of thousands of people in the County, and beyond. I have followed this club for 45 years, and it has given me countless memories, experiences, and friendships that have been forged.</p> <p>Football is the game of the people. It breaks down barriers, it heals people, it brings communities together, in places all over the globe it is the beating heart of a town, a city, and even a village.</p> <p>Oxford United has experienced turbulent, uncertain times ever since I have been following them. From the Robert Maxwell funded glory days, which ultimately ended in disgrace, to the debacle of our current home sitting unfinished for years. From the period when Mr Kassam withdrew his funding of the club, to the day we were re-born as a club in May 2010. Now we face our most critical chapter. We have no viable future at The Kassam Stadium. Its is neglected, it's soulless, it's three sided - and the butt of jokes for football fans up and down the UK- and Firoz has made it clear on numerous occasions that he has absolutely no intention to sell the ground to the club. And why would he? He is a tough businessman who wants to capitalise on his asset and having a football club as a tenant is just an inconvenience for him. Any suggestion that the club should or can remain at the Kassam is complete folly. Even if Firoz sold us the stadium, he would still own and control the car parks and environs.</p> <p>The entire future of this club is now at stake. This represents a once in generation opportunity to create a lasting, permanent base for the club to call home, a real home. And what a home it will be. Sustainable, modern, vibrant, stylish. This is one of the most affluent Counties in the UK, but the leisure facilities and amenities are an absolute disgrace. The public deserve better, and the new home for OUFC will be massive step in the right direction. Stratfield Brake, as a scheme, would have been seismic in its impact on the County, but this was scuppered by a small number of locals, and more prominently, non-local individuals. The scare-mongering and recent tactics by certain local politicians has done nothing to reassure us that they work in the interests of the people they serve. The County Council has been most generous in providing the land upon which the new stadium can be built. It is NOT a wildlife sanctuary, its is NOT a SSSI, it was declared 'contaminated land' in recent years. What better way of turning this indictment on its head than to provide a state of the art, carbon neutral football stadium, where almost every person attending will use public transport for matches and other events? Progress is inevitable. Nothing is ever achieved by standing still.</p> <p>This is a rural county which can easily afford to allow a small triangle of contaminated land to become the home of its only professional football club.</p>
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Attachments	