

## Rachel Tibbetts

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**From:** Planning  
**Sent:** 21 April 2024 13:18  
**To:** DC Support  
**Subject:** FW: Ref: (24/00539/F) Objection to the proposed building of a new Oxford United Stadium near Kidlington

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**From:** Charles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 11:17 PM  
**To:** Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Ref: (24/00539/F) Objection to the proposed building of a new Oxford United Stadium near Kidlington

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref: [\(24/00539/F\)](#)

I am writing to object to the planned relocation of Oxford United's Stadium to the outskirts of Kidlington. I have been a resident in Kidlington Garden City for the past 30 years and though we have seen substantial changes over this time, this present proposal of a Stadium, will dwarf the negative impact of all other changes we have seen.

### Loss of Green Belt

When we moved to Kidlington there was a distinct feel that we were not part of Oxford City, with the Golf Course, intervening fields and the now 'at-risk' triangle of trees being an established and recognised Green Belt that made Oxford City pleasantly compact and Kidlington a refuge and calm place outside of the City. Recent loss of the Golf Course and house building opposite is an unfortunate loss to this Green Belt and the loss of the triangle would make Oxford City and Kidlington a conurbation, degrading the living conditions for Kidlington residents and the surrounding villages.

Why the surrounding villages?, because the proposed stadium will adversely affect traffic flow with proposed road closures, and will impact a far wider community than just Kidlington. Though residents of Kidlington will be the most severely impacted.

### Parking

The proposal is to have 90% of people arriving by train, but this is highly unlikely to be the case.

On the rare occasions that public events are held at Strathfield Brake playing fields, overflow parking spills into Garden City increasing risk of accidents, making resident's own travelling and parking much more difficult.

There is no way 90% of OU fans will arrive by train or bus, and overflow parking will affect all residents in Kidlington and those in Garden City the worst. Not now on rare occasions, but every week. Even 10% of 15,000 fans will cause parking overflow and a nightmare for local residents. You may be aware that currently a good number of train travellers prefer to park free in Garden City than to pay for a day's parking at the station.

### Public Safety

I was on a train back from London at around 9pm on occasion last year and at High Wycombe a large group of OU fans got onto the train accompanied by two police constables, who were travelling with the

fan group to maintain public order. The group had been drinking and were foul mouthed and destroyed the peaceful journey back from London to Oxford. The police presence on the train was to ensure public safety in case the inebriated group should abuse or intimidate other train passengers and to ensure no conflict between rival fans. They needed to step in on two occasions to calm the group, on the journey from High Wycombe to Oxford City Parkway.

One of OU's supporters of this present proposal at a public meeting in Kidlington Exeter Hall last year, said 'the majority of police public order activity in Kidlington is around the pubs.' Note this is with no aggravating tribal conflicts.

The proposed Stadium will provide alcohol on site and there clearly will be tribal rivalry. The OU supporter's comment that the majority of police activity in Kidlington is around the pubs, does not bode well for rival soccer fans having access to alcohol.

Living in a quiet part of Kidlington with no pubs nearby, I am very concerned about the building of a football stadium and the increase in anti-social behaviour that generally accompanies this sport.

### **Conclusion**

This is a poorly conceived plan, with insufficient justification to risk lives and the wellbeing of Kidlington and wider area village residents through impossible to plan for safety of the roads and general safety, to destroy and lose the remaining Green Belt / natural environment, and the considerable disruption to a population that did not sign up for this.

The present Kassam Stadium has been around for many years, and is still a challenge for local residents who were living locally before it was built and who still complain of parking and travel problems on match days. However, those who now move into the area near the Kassam Stadium, do so in that knowledge. I strongly object to the closing of a new OU Stadium on the triangle on the outskirts of Kidlington and strongly advocate for Oxford United to stay in the Kasam stadium where it is.

Yours faithfully

Charles King  
39 Hazel Crescent, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 1EH

[Charles King](#)