

Lynne Baldwin

From: Planning
Sent: 22 April 2024 18:54
To: DC Support
Subject: FW: Ref. 24/00539/F

From: Daphne Hampson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 4:43 PM
To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
Subject: Ref. 24/00539/F

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I wish to say that is quite mistaken on every conceivable ground to go ahead with building this football stadium here.

OUFC has a perfectly good stadium at its present ground, which is a mere 20 years old, and could easily be updated or another stand added on the additional side where there is none. The club has been in financial difficulty before and may be again and having this burden around its neck would make it impossible for them. Meanwhile Kidlington would be left with a white-elephant of a stadium. Furthermore the natural habitat there at present could not be restored.

No one has thought about the parking situation: that is clear. There are grand statements about getting fans to come by train, but they are not going to do that when they can simply get in their cars and come around the ring road. There will be traffic chaos. It is already a busy road and bus route and there is inadequate parking at Oxford Parkway: that parking is for people going into Oxford or London, or taking the park and ride bus. We shall have fans streaming across the road.

Friends of Stratfield Brake have shown that the site is of considerable scientific interest and it is an environmental concern that it should be destroyed. That it could be advantageous to biodiversity to destroy the site (which is closed off and pristine) through building a football stadium is complete nonsense. Moreover it is immediately adjacent to a nature reserve and nature reserves are not islands, they are set within a geographical habitat and the surrounding area matters.

People in Kidlington overwhelmingly do not want this stadium to come: that was shown by a Parish Poll. These fans are not welcome. Whereas the stadium is part of the furniture of East Oxford and belongs to their urban lifestyle. The fans overwhelmingly come from East Oxford and it makes sense for the stadium to be there. Just use a bit of common sense! It is not the case that OUFC are being thrown out of East Oxford, the club has brought its problems on itself.

Finally it is Green Belt land. The Green Belt was put in place for a reason: to separate two communities and keep them distinct. Kidlington is a very good community - or was until this divisive issue came along. You should not force this on us. People like there to be adjacent countryside and want there to be a Green Belt. They want a bit of peace and quiet and they don't want the cars, litter, and noise that the club would inevitably bring with it. We chose to live here.

I appeal to you, together with many other citizens of Kidlington, not to let this go through. It is totally unsuitable to have a building and a club of this nature on our door step.

Yours sincerely,

Daphne Hampson

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