

Comments for Planning Application 21/00345/FUL

Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00345/FUL

Address: Wheatsheaf Yard, The Wheatsheaf High Street Oxford OX1 4DF

Proposal: Conversion of first and second floors to create 9no. student rooms, shared kitchen and common area. Formation of 2no. front dormers in association with a loft conversion. Removal of 1no. window to front elevation. Alteration to 1no. window and 1no. door to front elevation. Insertion of 1no. door to front elevation. Provision of bin and cycle stores

Case Officer: Tobias Fett

Customer Details

Name: Mr Mark Wilkins

Address: 99A DIVINITY ROAD UPSTAIRS FLAT OXFORD OX4 1LN

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Effect on character of area
- General dislike or support for proposal
- Other - give details

Comment: Following the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a consequence of Brexit, the UK music industry is in a more precarious position than ever. I have attended many gigs at the Wheatsheaf - some local bands, some touring bands -- which would have been untenable for the promoter were it not for the fact that a small venue in such a central location was available with relatively a low hire fee.

Now that the Cellar has closed, there is even less scope for small gigs in the city centre.

It is essential that government at both the local and national scale provides all the support that it can for local and national music scenes, and this includes supporting small independent venues.

I have promoted gigs in Oxford myself, and it can be a stressful enterprise, but when it works it is often a beautiful and vital coming together of an otherwise disparate community of those with cultural interests that lie outside of the mainstream.

If there had been no small independent venues, it is probable that now-internationally renowned Oxford-based acts such as Radiohead, Supergrass, Foals, Ride and Glass Animals would never have made it out of their practice spaces and into the wider world.

Oxford already seems to prioritise University students above those who live and work here, and it is very difficult for working people to watch every available scrap of land from the city centre down to Cowley centre be converted into student accommodation when the provision for everybody is so slim, and housing is so expensive.

Please take this opportunity to preserve a cultural venue over what amounts to a relatively small number of flats for an already overprioritised student population, who, while I concede are very important for the city, will easily be able to find somewhere else to live.

What we stand to lose by allowing this proposed development is huge; what we stand to gain is trivial. Please make the right decision.