

# 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 Roger Bowley

Address: 93 Fern Hill Road Oxford OX4 2JW

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

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

Comment: The planning application is incorrect regarding the city centre and music venues, there is no viable equivalent/alternative independent music venue in Oxford city centre and hence the building status should be retained for its current use and so avoid cultural impact. The independent music scene and therefore The Wheatsheaf, form an important part of Oxford's cultural mix, heritage and associated nightlife economy. Post-Covid the performing arts will play an important rehabilitating role; The Wheatsheaf venue supports a large community of music goers and artists whereas student accommodation would have zero contribution. City centre student accommodation is amply provided today and further, there's new and alternative planning approved including the proposed Museum Hotel conversion to student accommodation and The Mitre upgrade already completed. New student accommodation should be built sensitively outside the city centre using commercial/industrial brown-field sites if possible with zero impact on the city's heritage and the environment, and be complemented by a forward-looking public transport policy. Oxford City needs a vibrant and diverse range of entertainment options to remain attractive to residents and visitors including a strong music scene - for visitors, considering the number of hotel rooms being constructed and those further planned (new Premier Inns on the outskirts plus city centre buildings including Boswells and Debenhams earmarked to become hotels), Oxford should be developing a policy that supports a varied entertainment and performing arts landscape, and hence retaining The Wheatsheaf as a venue would be aligned to a wider Oxford policy and

play a valuable role supporting the cities economy and community.