

# 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 James Beck

Address: Flat 42 Cordwainer House 43 Mare Street London E8 4RX

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Effect on character of area
- Public transport provision/accessibility

Comment:Oxford has a proud history and heritage of producing outstanding musical talent. This is in no small part thanks to the local infrastructure of quality music venues which have supported a thriving music scene, and kept Oxford on the map as touring city for both national and international artists. This has had untold benefits for both the local economy, but more importantly for the cultural identity and health of the city. It's no exaggeration to say that the loss of a venue such as The Wheatsheaf would be catastrophic to Oxford's cultural ecology. With many other venues in the city either already closed (such as the much missed Cellar) or under threat, The Wheatsheaf remains one of the few remaining independent venues where bands and artists can hone their craft and entertain audiences. For a city which is known for being home to elite, rarified institutions, largely inaccessible to the vast majority of people, losing independent venues such as The Wheatsheaf threatens to turn Oxford into a parody of itself; a place where culture only extends as far as the university walls and those with a love for independent, grassroots music are forced to look elsewhere. As an ex-Oxford resident and touring musician, I would ask that you to please consider the impact this decision will have on the nightlife of the city, and in particular the centre of Oxford. With the aforementioned Cellar now gone, the centre of town is at threat of becoming a cultural wasteland, and with the number of venues in Oxford dwindling, it is becoming harder and harder to include the city in touring plans. My band has enjoyed some of our best shows in Oxford - regularly playing to audiences of 100-200 people (I.e., the capacity of The Wheatsheaf). This may not sound like a lot, but bands like Radiohead, Foals and Supergrass will have all played on these same stages to crowds of this size. By closing The Wheatsheaf, we may

be missing out on the next big musical export from Oxford, which would be a huge shame, and a massive opportunity missed.