

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 Thomas Hitch

Address: 130 Cricket Road Oxford OX4 3DL

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Access
- Effect on existing community facilities
- General dislike or support for proposal
- Light - daylight/sunlight
- Open space provision
- Other - give details
- Parking provision

Comment: I would like to register my strongest objections to the proposed plans outlined here.

Firstly the loss of a vital cultural and historical venue for the provision of 9 student rooms is absurd. The Wheatsheaf is a vital part of a creative, diverse and inclusive local music scene which offers everyone the chance to express themselves. The loss of another venue after the recent closures of The Cellar and the Deaf and Hard of hearing sector would be a further blow for an industry that has already been disproportionately affected COVID. As a music venue the Wheatsheaf offers Oxford residents (both Town and Gown) cultural enrichment, a place within the city, and importantly somewhere to have a lot of fun!

Oxford has a fantastic standing within the UK as a place of culture, and many well loved International artists & creatives hail from the area. Without venues such as the Wheatsheaf these artists such as Radiohead, Supergrass and Foals would not exist.

Furthermore mid-week gigs bring footfall and revenue to the public house, and enhance

employment opportunities for young people in the area. As a regular music performance venue it also offers students at the many universities of Oxford and alternative space to the traditional 'gown' events that are synonymous with the city.

I would also fear for the quality of life for those who are living in the proposed accommodation. Lack of sunlight and zero outside space due to the cramped nature of the location does not sound appealing. Access is extremely limited via Blue Boar Street and the prospect of 9 x persons needing to move in and out of this proposed accommodation, potentially multiple times a year is impractical at best.

With the proposed ULEZ for Oxford city, and the increased cycling infrastructure there are surely more attractive and viable opportunities for housing development, particularly for students, which does not involve the destruction of a culturally significant landmark.

Oxford is more than just a collection of Universities & Rooms for rental. Without the local people of Oxford, our city will become a husk. Please rethink these plans, and preserve a vital piece of the social fabric in our city centre.