

# 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 David Crabtree

Address: 16 Newland Close Eynsham OX29 4LE

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Effect on existing community facilities

Comment: The Wheatsheaf is a culturally important part of Oxford City centre. It provides a much needed place where young bands can learn how to perform in front of an audience and gives those same bands the opportunity to see experienced bands who have been on the path they wish to tread up close and personal. Foals are a perfect example of why The Wheatsheaf matters. They honed their skills and stagecraft as a band at the Sheaf. I saw them in all their guises at the Sheaf - from Elizabeth to Edmund Fitzgerald and finally Foals. They were raw, but you could see a determination and that willingness to work hard that stood them out above most other bands emerging from Oxford at that time and much of that that was done at the Sheaf. If there isn't a venue like the wheatsheaf willing to give young, untried bands an opportunity, how are we going to produce the next Foals?

It is also a place where young music promoters can learn how to put on gigs. Look at someone like Alan Day who is now at Killimanjaro - he started off in the wheatsheaf, putting on local metal nights. He now works with some of the biggest bands in the world in one of the country's biggest agencies. Look at me, now I'm no way at the same level of Alan Day and never will be, but I've gone on to promote gigs at venues such as the iconic Factory in Manchester, The Running Horse in Nottingham, The Horn in St. Albans and at venues in all parts of the country. It was at The Wheatsheaf with the help of so many good people that I was able to establish what worked and what di It is the Wheatsheaf that gives these opportunities, and if we were to lose it, we don't just lose a venue that has inspired nearly everyone who has walked through its doors, we lose the beating heart and soul of the city.

Oxford city centre is becoming a ghost town. Shop units lie empty, independent traders have been forced out due to excessive rates. They want to sanitise the area and for what purpose? If people stop coming into the city centre, it dies. You don't need the same stores you see in every mall up and down the country, the same gentrified bars aimed at satisfying students who are only here 30 weeks of the year. The students who do stay and make Oxford their home - and many do (yourself included Rich) - do so because of the rich diversity of life, they immerse themselves into the culture of the city and live music is a major part of that culture. We have a proud history of producing some of the best known bands in the world. That isn't done by pure chance, it done by the hard work put in by people like those who run The Wheatsheaf. dn't when putting on a show.

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The Wheatsheaf is a well-established renowned venue on the national circuit. It brings people into the city who wish to enjoy not just the shows, but also food, drinks at other nearby establishments and benefits the city culturally and economically.