

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 Pinching

Address: 24, Marlborough Court Oxford OX2 0QT

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 Wheatsheaf is small but valuable. Without it, Oxford would lose one of its last music venues. Not to underestimate the importance of student accommodation, it would seem that the city centre has more need of protecting its art spaces than adding fractionally to city centre accommodation.

The application refers to its present use as a function space which clearly skirts the issue of it being a treasured music venue, analogous to referring to the Cherwell Boathouse as a space sometimes used for vehicle storage.

It should be clear that one of the reasons students may continue to choose to study in culturally vital cities like Oxford is because of venues like The Wheatsheaf. Each venue lost is another reason for those hoping to create and add to our culture not to study, visit or live here.

Those accepting applications of this kind must be aware that they are responsible for removing our music scene by a thousand cuts, even if they may tell themselves that each application in isolation is valid. It would seem reasonable to consider the accumulated damage done by these applications as we reach the low water mark of "zero popular music venues".