

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 Jack Norman-Curran

Address: 88 Fairacres Road Oxford OX4 1TG

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
- Information missing from plans

Comment:As a live music venue the Wheatsheaf is the last man standing in the city centre, given the recent loss of The Cellar. To find a similar type of venue you'd need to trek out to the Jericho Tavern or the Port Mahon. If the Wheatsheaf's performance space was to close too it would be the extinction of this kind of musical experience in Oxford proper, for both students and residents - and perhaps most importantly for aspiring bands. We've produced some very big, very successful bands in Oxford and it wouldn't have been possible without venues like the Wheatsheaf. We've lost some of those venues already: we can't afford to lose this one too - where Foals played their first gig. Being in a band provides a focus for many young people that they might otherwise lack, while seeing a band is the kind of shared social experience that is in such short supply in a modern society that tends to steer people towards self-isolation, brittleness and depression. Once lockdown is over we're going to need such places more than ever, as we try to undo some of the damage to young people's mental health. And of course we'll also want people out there spending money and stimulating the nighttime economy, helping to repair public and private finances after the mammoth economic slump lockdown has caused. Close down the Wheatsheaf and far fewer customers are going to turn up (or could even be accommodated if they did). We need this space to remain open - for mental health, cultural health and financial health. All of these will suffer if we close it down.