

# 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: Mrs Victoria Wagg

Address: The Manor, Main Street, Grove, Grove, Wantage OX12 7JJ

## 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

Comment: The Wheatsheaf is a unique and essential venue in Oxford's live music scene - now the only live venue in the centre of the city - and one that must be protected. Without these small capacity venues there is nowhere for young, up and coming performers to learn their craft, nor for touring bands that won't fill the large rooms of the O2 Academy, to visit. Oxford has an enviable reputation for being a city that punches above its weight with the bands that begin here and go on to be world famous - but none of that is possible without a venue like the Wheatsheaf for these artists to start out in. And there aren't any other venues left in the centre of the city now that The Cellar has gone. There is a good economic reason to keep live music in the city centre : The Music Venue Trust states that, "for every £10 spent on a ticket in a grassroots music venue, £17 is spent elsewhere in the night-time economy." And the House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee Report on Live Music states "In addition to the economic benefits, it is important to acknowledge the social and cultural value that live music offers. The Mayor of London highlighted that live music "has the power to bring people closer together and transform communities." As an inherently social activity, live music offers unique benefits, especially for young people for whom venues can be safe and accessible environments that still offer the buzz of discovering something new." Allowing this venue to be turned into yet more student bedrooms, that could be placed anywhere else in the city (and many more appropriate locations), and destroying part of Oxford's musical landscape, would be an inexcusable act, and must be rejected.