

# 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: Dr Stephanie Duensing

Address: 41 Swinburne Rd Abingdon Ox14 2hg

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Amount of development on site
- Effect on adjoining properties
- Effect on character of area
- Effect on existing community facilities
- General dislike or support for proposal
- Other - give details

Comment: This development would have a lasting negative cultural impact on the character of the area and on the existing community facilities. This historic music venue is the last remaining in the heart of the city centre, and should be protected as a cultural heritage asset. The intangible cultural value of having these kinds of historic venues for entertainment and a thriving social scene within a city is at risk of being erased entirely. It is vitally important to retain small venues where affordable regular cultural and social events can contribute to society by helping to build a sense of community and goodwill among the local residents, especially in an environment where few such locations survive. While it is true that many franchised establishments exist in and around the area, the Wheatsheaf is unlike them in many significant and irreplaceable ways. The dedication of this space as a wet bar, with no food service and an emphasis on music and performance at a more local level, has allowed the space to help maintain and support local musicians, young and old alike. This allows a space for a thriving community of artists from broad ranging backgrounds, ages, cultures and a wide array of other cultural diversity to meet and create something meaningful together. It is one of the last remaining social venues that can be said to be serving the community rather than simply profiting from it. This makes it all the more urgent that we take initiatives now to reduce further losses on the community, such as the one this proposed

development would incur. The unique character of this venue, the low-cost ticket prices for events, the atmosphere of community which is evident with the regular weekly programme of local musicians - professional and amateur alike - all culminate into a unique and necessary piece of a rapidly dwindling Oxford City culture and heritage.