

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 Stefan Ball

Address: 17 Winterbrook Lane Wallingford OX10 9EH

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
- Other - give details

Comment: I live halfway between Oxford and Reading, in Wallingford. I visit both regularly, but much more regularly visit Oxford, and the reason for that is, live music.

Oxford is fantastic for music. From the standard classics at the Sheldonian to visiting old time acts at the Playhouse, from avant garde modernist weirdness in odd rooms in colleges to touring acts at the O2.

But one part of Oxford's musical life is consistently ignored: its grassroots venues. Just over a year ago we lost The Cellar. Now The Wheatsheaf is under threat.

Upstairs at the Wheatsheaf is a unique venue open to all kinds of music, from punk to metal to indie to folk. It all takes place in a fantastic Edwardian hall. The sound is excellent. It's cheap to attend. It's a place where student bands play their first gigs, and rub shoulders with and learn from (and teach!) bands who have been playing grassroots venues for decades.

I have played there several times with my own band. I have also attended a load of gigs there.

Please stop this proposal. Look at what has happened to London's music scene over the last twenty years - so many historic venues lost - and take that as a warning. Oxford thrives on being a

young city open to new things and experimentation. This proposal is retrograde, and as well as adversely affecting the character of the area and removing an essential community facility, it is nothing less than an assault on a kind of music and a cultural tradition that are essential to any thriving city, however much they are ignored by people who restrict their listening to academic music.