

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 Kyle Mundy

Address: 29 Windrush Road Berinsfield Wallingford OX10 7PF

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

Comment: As a musician for 15 years I am absolutely shocked that following on from the loss of the Cellar the idea of closing yet another music venue in the city is even being entertained. The Wheatsheaf has been a beacon in a city that is otherwise becoming gentrified and sanitised beyond all recognition. The vibrant and diverse music scene in this city used to be a point of great pride and the very students these few flats are looking to house are one demographic who will suffer the most for the venue in question being gone.

As someone who works in property maintenance I am more aware than many of just how much of Oxford is dedicated to student housing: there is neither the need nor the want for additional student housing from the community and this idea can only be seen as a cash grab on behalf of the applicant.

The hundreds of people who visited this venue each year will be impacted infinitely more than the comparatively few people the venue can house.

In short, this is a senseless waste of a valuable local resource, with many solo artists and bands cutting their teeth in places such as the 'Sheaf. This rapidly weakening rung on the ladder of the music scene is deeply worrying to myself and many other musicians: just because there are other venues in the city, it doesn't mean an up and coming group would even get their foot in the door in

any one of them. Many venues want a demo and what can only be described as a CV, and I can guarantee you that today's middle tier bands (and many upper tier bands too) will have the Wheatsheaf somewhere in their repertoire. You only have to look at the names of the bands scrawled around all 4 walls in the gents to see the history, this history continues in the loading hall behind the stage.

To see a piece of my personal history, and the history of many of my good friends (of whom a number have gone on to see success in their careers thanks to places like the Wheatsheaf) threatened in such a way speaks volumes to me as to the direction Oxford is going as a whole, and I'm certain that the rich cultural diversity we all cherish will dwindle further the longer projects like this are allowed to continue.

I implore all who are considering this project to please reconsider. Listen to all of those who are objecting, the sheer quantity of people who are speaking out should tell you all you need to know about whether this is the right decision or not.

Let's not travel further down this road, because once these places go, they'll never come back, 20 years of memories cannot be replaced by simply opening another venue somewhere else.

Save the Sheaf!