

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 Chris Barker

Address: 48 Minchery Road Oxford OX44LX

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
- Information missing from plans
- Not enough info given on application

Comment: I whole heartedly object to these plans. Firstly, it is a disgrace that the upstairs live venue room of the Wheatsheaf has been completely undervrepresentwd as a 'function room', over many years it has been a thriving music venue showcasing new local artists of all music genres and also hosts an acclaimed jazz night.

After the loss of the Cellar the Wheatsheaf became the only venue in the city where touring artists could play, that would not necessarily be able to fill larger venues such as the Bullingdon or the Academy. These type of gigs are vital for the national AND local music scenes, firstly allowing for up and coming bands to create a fan base in Oxford, but also for connecting local bands in Oxford with touring artists and giving them opportunities and vital experience through local support slots.

Having a venue in the city which hosts local events showcasing young and local artists is so valuable to the city culture, entertaining music fans and generating new artists that the city can be proud of.

Not only is this terrible news for music but also the culture and diversity of the city. Whilst I know the pub will still exist, I am certain that the closure of the upstairs venue will have a negative

impact on the business of the pub and also the hub it has built over many years. The downstairs pub is a place where diverse groups of people feel free to express themselves, which is a result of the arts and culture that is showcased by the venue. What with global moves towards diversity around the world, this venue closure seems to be a backward step.

It must not be overlooked the external business and culture generated from live music. Music fans travel will travel far to see their much loved touring artists, they may get food at a nearby restaurant, stay in a hotel and spend money in local bars and clubs. The closure of this venue will have a negative impact on this, no doubt, as less artists will be touring Oxford, less new artists will be able to hone their craft, less musicians will come out of Oxford because there is literally no where for them to play! Musicians need multiple venues in a city to understand how they need to adapt to different spaces.