

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: Mx Josie Turner

Address: 7 Osprey Place Didcot OX11 6BX

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: I am a member of Oxford's vibrant and diverse DIY music scene, as a musician, a sometime promoter and a regular gig-goer. I have played and seen countless gigs at the Wheatsheaf and have many wonderful memories there. It is one of Oxford's most beloved music venues and sadly the only one still running in the city centre.

Oxford's music scene continues to survive and thrive in the face of a series of setbacks, including the closure of the Cellar, the loss of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre as a venue, and even through the Covid-19 pandemic by way of virtual events. The hard work of a small but tight-knit core of people has helped to establish Oxford as a regular stop for touring bands. The loss of another key venue would be a major blow, one that will be difficult to recover from. This would be a huge slap in the face by the city council to proud Oxfordshire residents who have poured their time and money into creating and sustaining a thriving music community in Oxford. If the city continues to treat poorly people who have contributed so much to its culture and community, then these people will leave and take the soul of the city with them.

Why a wonderful community hub like the Wheatsheaf should be targeted when there are so many empty buildings in Oxford's city centre is unfathomable. Please consider the devastating effect these plans would have on Oxford's musical character.