

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 David Newman

Address: 3 Pipkin Way Oxford OX4 4AR

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: The Wheatsheaf is a unique and characterful pub and arts venue within the centre of the city of Oxford. It provides a great service to the residents of Oxford city and is an alternative cultural hub with a packed schedule of events and a loyal clientele of local residents and arts enthusiasts. The city of Oxford would not be well served by replacing this pub with further student accommodation and local residents would sorely miss a cherished venue which would not be easily replaced.

The wheatsheaf is a hub of live music and performing arts events representing minority communities such as the LGBTQ+ and a goth/metal cultural scene. It has always had a packed schedule of events, with 18 events scheduled in the first 2 months of 2020 (before the onset of the pandemic) and will certainly resume a busy events schedule once national restrictions ease later in 2021. Many local musicians and performers have had opportunities to play here early in their career, while for new performers The Wheatsheaf is sought after venue to be booked for and is the premier local music venue in the city. In addition the pub itself is always busy and has a distinct character which is beloved by many and a community which is not represented anywhere else within the city.

It would be a mistake to approve this development plan which would turn a cultural highlight of the City of Oxford into a very small amount of further student accommodation. It is prized by local residents and following the closure of Cellardoor in 2018/19 is one of the only remaining

performance venues within the city-centre that is accessible for local performing artists.