

# 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 Carl Wells

Address: 13 Kirk Close Oxford OX2 8JL

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Amount of development on site
- Effect on character of area
- Effect on existing community facilities
- General dislike or support for proposal
- Local ecology, biodiversity
- Local plan policies

Comment: We have already lost so many public houses, and the 'Sheaf' as it is affectionately known, has both a vibrant and close-knit community, and is one of Oxford's last remaining music venues, a core and crucial part of what remains of Oxford's music scene. Oxford has already lost the Cellar, formerly the Corn dolly, a venue that was crucial in the rise of numerous local bands, not least Radio-head and Supergrass, and formed a cornerstone of Oxford's modern cultural development, and this planning development would set back Oxford's cultural progress, already hit by the Great Financial Crisis of 2008, and now by the coronavirus pandemic, at a time when the less affluent and bohemian members of our society, including artists and musicians, so key to both our cultural development, but also to the ideals of democratic discourse and liberal ideals, are already struggling to survive. The Sheaf was established as a public house in 1654, but to build further accommodation in this location would make its continued existence as a pub untenable. Central Oxford's appeal would be further diminished, and footfall reduced, at a time when the high street is already reeling from technological change: if central Oxford is to become merely a location of expensive housing and accommodation, it is just a matter of time before tourism becomes impaired, and the move out of the town center of all activity will be accelerated, and the nature of the City that we all love permanently killed.

In summary, to allow this planning proposal would cause irreparable harm to Oxford itself, fundamentally negatively impact the public house, a communal facility, and further damage central Oxford's character. I appeal not only to your good sense, but also, your heart, in begging that this proposal be blocked.