

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: Miss Linda Worden

Address: 15B Leopold Street Oxford OX41PS

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:I am writing as a student of the University of Oxford and also as a graduate researcher in the field of urban and housing studies. I am originally from Canada but I am now settled in the UK. The Wheatsheaf is one of the only places in the city where the "town/gown" divisions are overcome, and residents from all walks of life get together to enjoy local music and a non-pretentious bar. I remember the first thing I noticed when a close friend took me to the Wheatsheaf for the first time: a punk "townie" with a mohawk and leather jacket. I remember attending a concert of local bands in the months before the lockdown, and meeting a middle-aged woman who grew up in Oxford all her life and played in local bands throughout the decades. In the Wheatsheaf, I felt like I was not only part of the University, but part of the city and the greater community. The touristic pubs in city center, although historic and beautiful in their own way, do not come close to filling the niche of the Wheatsheaf. The Wheatsheaf is like a time capsule of British counter-cultural history: the contemporary hipsters, retired beatniks and goths alike gather and mingle, and the lines between students and residents are blurred. It is, in many respects, a refreshing refuge amongst the cultural homogenization of the elitist University and middle-class chain shops of the High Street. While there is undeniably a need for more housing, it should not come with the loss of one of Oxford's few authentic and eccentric venues.