

# 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 Samuel Spacksman

Address: 31 Boswell Road Cowley Oxford OX4 3HW

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Effect on character of area
- General dislike or support for proposal

Comment: If this proposal goes through, it will ruin the live music scene in Oxford City Centre.

I play in four bands and have been playing affluently in Oxford for 10 years, and I can safely say that the Wheatsheaf is the most lively music venue in Oxford (especially since The Cellar has closed). I have played there countless times and it is an institution of live music.

It is also the last remaining live music venue in Oxford City Centre. Removing it will have a negative cultural effect on the area.

If we take the document 'Viability Assessment - The Wheatsheaf Oxford', prepared by Pavot Property Investments Ltd. in February 2021, page 13 gives a list of seven music venues that are nearby to give strength to the idea that losing the Wheatsheaf would not have much effect. Well I would like to challenge each venue as an alternative:

1. The Bullingdon - firstly, it is on Cowley Road and not in the city centre. Secondly, as it is a good venue and has improved drastically, it is showcasing bands with a bigger following - meaning local, more amateur acts will have a greater difficulty in performing there.
2. The Half Moon - it is, again, not in the city centre and is far too small to be a venue for even standard-sized rock, roots, reggae, jazz bands.
3. Isis Farmhouse - this is no where near the Oxford City Centre, it shouldn't even be used as an alternative to the Wheatsheaf.
4. Jericho Tavern - it is not the the same music venue it historically was, and the layout is not conducive to proper live music. It is also, again, far removed from the main city centre area.
5. The Mad Hatter - I have never had an opportunity to perform at the Mad Hatter, nor have I ever

seen a live act there - it is not a prosperous live venue. It is also not in the city centre.

6. O2 Academy - A dedicated live music venue, with due diligence to local acts but it is too large to host nights for smaller, upcoming acts. It is also not in the city centre.

7. Sandy's Piano Bar - it is far too small to host the acts the Wheatsheaf would be able to accomodate, and is largely aimed at students and not locals.

I think you can see my biggest complaint is that the Wheatsheaf is in a prime part of Oxford and is the only live music venue to offer the proper space to any kind of music within the area.

I am severely opposed to the idea of removing the music venue of the Wheatsheaf - it will cause phenomenal harm to the culture of Oxford and what makes this city so unique and special. Other than the prestigious university, isn't that what attracts so many student to this beautiful city?

Remove the unique and quirky aspects and you're left with a husk of what once was a mysterious and entrancing city.