

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 Patrick Kildonan

Address: 16 St. Gabriels Wantage OX12 8FJ

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 would like to register my strong object to this plan to replace The Wheatsheaf with student accommodation.

My reasons for such are due to the crippling impact this would have on the music scene in Oxford and the surrounding area for up and coming bands. There are few small venues that exist in Oxford that as it is (with the closure of the likes of The Cellar amongst others) that are affordable enough to bring in acts that do not pull large audiences. To bring about the closure of the Wheatsheaf would be a hammer blow to the local community and detract from one of the things that this country can be proud of - it's arts and entertainment industry. This industry has nationally faced existential threats in the form of the Coronavirus Crisis and Brexit that have throttled prospects for those within the entertainment industry. The closure of small venues across the country has left the communities they've served worse off for culture and allowing this to pass would be another nail in the coffin for something that makes the community a richer, more vibrant and overall better place.

For bands and musicians to become the stadium fillers that contribute so much to our culture, economy and daily lives, it is absolutely fundamental that they have small venues to cut their teeth at, to grow, develop but also help contribute to the local economy and national economy.

Additionally, it would represent an attack on those within Oxford whom are not affiliated with the University, many of which frequent this venue (I count myself amongst them) for entertainment or social purposes and depend on it for it's relative affordability compared with that of competing establishments and whom do not possess the clout of the university or indeed those attending. Taking away another asset of local persons and handing it away when there are many other choice cuts available for this end, would be shameful.

If this hub of culture is allowed to be lost, it will be for the detriment of all in its local and surrounding area and inhabitants, whether they directly realise or not and Oxford will stand a city poorer for it.

Please do not allow this to happen and reject this application.