

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 Richard Catherall

Address: 126 Balfour Road Oxford OX4 6BT

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's upstairs venue is a hugely important part of the city's musical infrastructure, and has been putting on extremely regular gigs for decades.

Any summary of the importance of Oxford will sooner or later mention some of its major musical exports, but you simply do not get a Radiohead, Supergrass or Foals unless there is a grass roots musical environment to nurture them.

The Wheatsheaf provides a smaller venue than the Academy and the Bullingdon Arms. These are both excellent resources, but the city needs a venue which is a little smaller and cheaper, to allow the performances by acts who are less established or less commercially angled, as well as allowing promoters to bring specialist acts in on tours.

The Wheatsheaf's roster is the most diverse of any of Oxford's venues, covering acts of all ages, backgrounds and musical styles (as well as being a mainstay for the University's comedy performers).

Housing is important, and student accommodation is doubtless required, but as it would (quite rightly) be nigh on impossible to recreate the Wheatsheaf as a new endeavour in a new location, because of the noise concerns, retaining this excellent cultural resource should be an important element in considerations of the building and area's future.

Many thanks for considering these objections.