

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: Dr James Grant

Address: 11 Southmoor Rd Oxford OX2 6RF

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- General dislike or support for proposal

Comment: I was involved in setting up the Oxford Imps improvised comedy troupe in 2003, which has performed at the Wheatsheaf on a weekly basis during term time since January 2004. The Wheatsheaf was by some distance the most suitable performance space available to a group like ours. Other venues were too large or too small, too far from our audience in the city centre, or unable to offer us a regular performance slot. I cannot speak with any authority on the local music scene, but I expect our experience is typical of many performers.

As other members of the public have noted in their comments on this proposal, the Oxford Imps have launched the careers of many nationally renowned comedians, including Rachel Parris, Andrew Hunter Murray, Joe Morpurgo, Ivo Graham, Sophie Duker and Chris Turner. This simply would not have happened without the Wheatsheaf. We would not have had the opportunity to perform as regularly as we did or to attain the same profile without it, and might not have continued as a company at all without the opportunities it gave us.

Throughout our time there, the Wheatsheaf has provided an electric, joyous atmosphere for our shows. Audiences of 70+ people would attend on a weekly basis. I have spent many of the happiest times of my life performing there. Coming to watch the Imps show has been a social ritual for many, many members of the community throughout the past 17 years.

Morale is low everywhere thanks to the last twelve months. I cannot understand why the Council would contemplate taking away a precious source of community at this time.

