

# 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 Ben Walker

Address: 8a Cumnor Hill Oxford OX2 9HA

## 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: The music venue at The Wheatsheaf is an important part of the city's musical life and history, and a crucial community hub for a large group of people who would otherwise have no meeting place in the city centre (now that The Cellar is closed). It is the only rock venue of its size in Oxford, and for years it has provided not only a space for young local bands to master their craft, but also a small venue that independent touring bands from around the country can play. Without it, we'll lose those young bands that will become the next generation of world-famous Oxford acts, and Oxford's music fans will lose even more diversity of cultural experience when touring bands stop playing Oxford because there's no suitably-sized venue.

At a time when the UK music industry (and the live music sector especially) is truly struggling under the double-headed sledgehammer of Brexit (which has killed European touring) and COVID lockdown (which has put over 50% of music venues at risk of permanent closure) it is unthinkable to allow such an important and well-loved venue to be shut down and redeveloped.