

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: Miss Faith Cooke

Address: 87 Windmill Road Headington Oxford Ox37bt

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 have lived in Oxford all my life and gradually seen all the live music venues in the city centre been closed down which is genuinely heartbreaking. The Wheatsheaf music venue is the second to last venue in Oxford (the only one in the city centre) that caters for bands and fans alike of the alternative music scene. The closure of this will further stagnate Oxford as a city and minimise its appeal in terms of events for both residents and students alike. As an ex-student who encountered the same sorts of closures in the city I attended university, and therefore speaking from experience, the more venues that close down, the quicker the city loses its appeal as it lacks the variety of music genres to cater for all students' wide variety of taste. Oxford will soon be seen as the boring university/student city that only caters to one type of music taste and because of that people won't want to stay here. Music is something we all have in common and is good for the soul, so why not maintain several venues that can cater for all genres rather than forcing everyone to pile into the same mediocre ones. Also, closing the last remaining alternative venue in the centre will force fans to see their favourite bands in other big cities which cater for more variety. So where Oxford is trying to squeeze as many students in as possible to help boost the economy, by closing venues in order to do this, this will simply force incoming students and longstanding residents to spend their money in neighbouring cities such as London or Birmingham in order to see their favourite bands - ultimately ending up in them boosting other economies rather than Oxford's. I feel like with the closure of the cellar and purple turtle, all the special little hubs are almost gone, Wheatsheaf being the last one making Oxford unique. I have seen a list circulating

since hearing of The Wheatsheaf's closure, a list of music venues in Oxford - many of which I have never even heard of, or are just simply not suited for live music, whether it be too small, unequipped for musical equipment, or simply irrelevant as they are just community centres which would lack the atmosphere many bands create during their performance. The fact that many of these are stated as being suitable alternative venues is an absolute joke as most of the ones that are viable, house only mainstream music and lack an alternative atmosphere. I really hope that these plans do not go ahead for the sake of the community in and around the Wheatsheaf who have supported it for years and years and is truly their home. It is such a shame that rather than embrace the many walks of life that people come from here in Oxford, and support and celebrate cultural and musical diversity, the council would rather hide or snub out communities which don't "fit" to their ideals. Actually quite shameful.