

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 Paul Turner

Address: 3 Beehive Close Cholsey OX10 9BF

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 music venue is of significant cultural value to both local residents and to the city as a whole, having supported local acts/musicians/bands for many decades and raising the profile of the arts in the city. With the general decline of these types of facilities available, with closures of venues such as the Cellar, it seeks to devalue the city as a hub of cultural significance that it has historically been very proud of. The loss of the Wheatsheaf would represent another dent in the city's social and cultural character, leading to a loss of appeal for those who wish to frequent the city, support surrounding businesses and supporting the city as a whole. In order to recover from the aftermath of a pandemic that threatens to damage the economies and footfall in city centres across the country, it makes little sense to close a business that draws visitors in and replace with student accommodation that will be inhabited for limited times of the year, and will not serve to fuel the surrounding economy. Add to this that venues such as the Wheatsheaf offer a small beacon of hope for those who practice hard in order to share their music, thoughts and ideas with like-minded individuals. The availability of centrally located music venues has positive effects beyond the economic benefits, such as a sense of personal worth, a positive effect on the mental health of people who need a voice, as well as being important as people begin to socialise once more and integrate as a community. The Wheatsheaf and the promoters who operate out of it have a proven track record of supporting local acts over other venues in the outer parts of the city, as would be abundantly clear in the Gig Listings section of the local music magazine: Nightshift, meaning the venue acts as a unique selling point for arts and culture in the city. It would be a devastating blow to both the character of the city centre as well as those who have come to rely on

it as a place of social significance.