

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 Alex Allmont

Address: 40 Slaymaker Close Oxford OX3 8EP

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Amount of development on site
- Effect on character of area
- General dislike or support for proposal
- Other - give details

Comment: Dear Mr Fett,

I am writing with concern after reading the proposal to convert The Wheatsheaf music venue into student flats. I am a local resident and would be grateful if the council would consider my thoughts against this proposal.

Last year saw the closure of historic businesses like The Lamb and Flag and Boswells, along with music venues like The Cellar. These businesses were part of a cultural draw to the city which is being eroded.

My largest practical objection is that it is not necessary for students to live this centrally; this property is a cultural asset which can draw people into town for the arts. Removing the last live music venue in the town centre for students' convenience is disproportionate action.

My second concern is that this further highlights the economic instability in the town centre. Over the last ten years homelessness has soared and businesses are coming and going at a disturbing rate; property owners appear to be hiking their rates for fast profit. The pandemic makes this an incredibly delicate time financially, and that is more the reason ease off of destabilising

redevelopments. I feel the city should take a breath and consider businesses that are long-term investments that integrate into the community.

Finally, on a personal note I would like to suggest that the longer-term cultural importance goes beyond the ability of a wide variety of artists to perform, that the ongoing closures in are eroding what makes the city flourish: Oxford is not only defined by its architectural and academic heritage, but also by providing a contemporary landscape where people develop ideas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Alex Allmont