

# 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 Stuart Wigby

Address: 3 Chilswell path, Oxford OX1 5AP

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Other - give details

Comment: The Wheatsheaf's 1st floor is one of the most important cultural locations in Oxford, a vital city centre music venue, and an institution of important local economic activity. It is central to the grassroots Oxford music scene, which has seen the early gigs of numerous important bands that have later gone on to enormous international success. It continues to play the essential role of an intimate city centre pop/rock venue. Oxford city centre is now depauperate in these, following the recent closure of the Cellar. With these losses, the tremendous success of Oxford musicians, and the associated benefits that this brings to the city, are at risk. This planning proposal represents cynical short-term opportunism, building on the fact that live music events have been impossible during a global pandemic. Should the application be approved, it would severely impact the local music industry's ability to 'bounce back' when live music becomes possible again. It would not only leave Oxford City Centre's cultural appeal considerably diminished, but also result in economic losses. In the short-term, due to the gig-goers that would no longer visit, who typically eat and drink locally before and after music events, take taxis etc. In the long term, due to the loss of the development of world-leading local musical talent, that draws attention and visitors to the city. For these reasons, I oppose this application in the strongest possible terms.