

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 James Chen-Wishart

Address: 97 Holywell street Oxford OX13SE

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: Dear Oxford City Council,

I would like to add a quick amendment to my previous objection regarding Planning policy V7 which says: 'The City Council will seek to protect and retain existing cultural and community facilities. Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of such facilities unless new or improved facilities can be provided at a location equally or more accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.'

Please don't support this planning application, you would be changing a community hub the favourite venue of hundreds of Oxford's citizens into bedrooms for 9 students. While I appreciate Oxford is a student town and that accommodation for students is important, places for students to live are being developed all over the city you don't need to close one of the remaining and only rock friendly venues in the centre of town. With the closing of the Cellar in March 2019 the Jericho Tavern is the only place that compares to the Wheatsheaf and that's in Jericho not the town centre. This is about money at the end of the day the suggestion that the venue isn't viable the viability assessment actually confirms that the whole pub including the upstairs bar with venue is a viable business. The Venue is not a separate business financially or in use. So in order to get permission to change the use they have to prove the whole pub (both bars together) are not viable to the criteria set out in planning policy V6 in the Oxford Local Plan 2036. But they have actually

proven it is a profitable business over several years. These plans would go against the Oxford Local Plan 2036, V7 which says: 'The City Council will seek to protect and retain existing cultural and community facilities. Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of such facilities unless new or improved facilities can be provided at a location equally or more accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.' I and over a 1000 other patrons of the Wheatsheaf have now submitted objections please listen to us, our facebook group 'SAVE THE SHEAF' now has over 1.7 thousand members. This venue is a second home to hundreds of people and where hundreds of local musicians first cut their teeth, I myself played my first gigs at the Wheatsheaf. With young British musicians no longer being able to tour Europe freely we need our local venues more than ever or else we risk serious damage to the music industry at a local and national level, please save this venue and this place for young musicians to prove themselves. The end of the pandemic is in sight and like many people seeing live music with my friends is the thing I've been looking most forward too. What have we all suffered for to come out the other side and find all the places we love to be in and spend time together are all gone. Please don't support this application.

Yours sincerely, James Chen-Wishart