

# 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 Nick Barber

Address: 33 Peat Moors Oxford OX3 7HS

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- Effect on existing community facilities
- General dislike or support for proposal

Comment: I strongly object to the loss of the Wheatsheaf music venue. Since the closure of the Cellar and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, the Wheatsheaf is the only remaining City Centre live music venue open to the general public. The central location makes it easily accessible from all parts of the City. The venue hosts a variety of different types of music and importantly hosts many up-and-coming young artists who depend on the opportunity to perform live to promote themselves in a world where few people pay for music as they did in the past. Oxford's once thriving music scene is put seriously at risk with the closure of the City Centres music venues. The Wheatsheaf attracts large and varied audiences 7 nights a week into the heart of the City. These people are helping maintain a thriving cultural scene that is nationally and internationally renowned. The venue is also home to a full-time sound engineer who will sadly lose his job as a result of this closure. There are also a good number of full, and part time music promoters who rely on such venues to host their gigs.

I've been going to gigs at the Wheatsheaf for many years and hold many fond memories of the place. Indeed, I celebrated my 30th birthday with a party and live music at the Wheatsheaf venue 27 years ago!!

If the venue were to close, and I sincerely hope it doesn't, the City Council must provide an alternative licenced venue in the City Centre to replace it. I do wonder what the future of the City Centre holds. With the recent closure of many well established shops the City needs a thriving

cultural scene to help maintain it's economic and cultural viability.

It is very sad that the owners have chosen a period of enforced closure of the venue, due to reasons outside anyone's control, as a reason for shutting down the venue. We all know that once lockdown is lifted the venue will very quickly start thriving again.