

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 Colin Robertson

Address: Heyford Hill Lane Sandford-on-Thames OX4 4YH

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: Oxford is known worldwide for the high quality of musical acts that have emerged from this small city. Key to those bands developing, and going on to become global acts, are small live music venues such as The Wheatsheaf. Bands like Radiohead, Foals, Supergrass, Glass Animals, Stornoway and many more cut their teeth playing the small venue circuit.

Oxford City centre used to have a thriving live music scene, but that has now been reduced to just one City Centre venue - The Wheatsheaf. If this goes the way of other venues, such as The Cellar which closed down in 2019, Oxford City Centre will continue on its path towards becoming a cultural desert, with only chain shops and student accommodation left.

It's a simple fact that there really are no other dedicated live music venues in the City Centre. It seems incredible to think that Oxford City would allow this important cultural and community asset to disappear.

Local and touring bands have been playing The Wheatsheaf for the last 20 years or more, and with them come their fans, into the city centre. Personally, without the Wheatsheaf I (and, I'm sure, many others) would probably almost never step foot in the City Centre and so would not buy food and drinks in the pubs and restaurants, and would not be supporting the City Centre economy.

I sincerely hope that the City Council and the Planning Department will take note of the many hundreds of objections to this proposal and help to preserve this important part of Oxford music history - and help it to be part of its future.

When place like this are lost, they are lost forever...