

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: Ms Alice Winn

Address: P. O. Box 635 Gunnison, Colorado 81230

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

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

Comment: The Wheatsheaf is a cornerstone of the Oxford cultural scene. There are simply not enough performance spaces in Oxford, and to reduce that number by one would be a terrible loss to the city. The Oxford comedy scene is only just burgeoning, with important up and coming comedians coming out of groups like The Oxford Imps such as Rachel Parris, Andrew Hunter Murray, Joe Morpurgo, Ivo Graham, Sophie Duker and Chris Turner. Considering the group has been around for so short a time, especially compared to groups like The Cambridge Footlights, this is an impressive number of comedians who are really starting to make headway and draw attention to Oxford as a birthplace of British comedy. The Wheatsheaf plays a KEY role in fostering that creativity, and if it were lost, it is quite possible that the Oxford comedy scene would sink back into obscurity. The notion that the Wheatsheaf isn't financially viable doesn't make sense to assert at this point: nothing has been financially viable during covid. That doesn't mean we should allow Oxford to lose critical parts of its cultural character. This is all before we get to the many, many other groups that use the Wheatsheaf as a convenient and central performance space. Without it, these groups will have nowhere to go, and consequently may well fall apart. As the pandemic begins to wind down, people are going to WANT these performance spaces. Closing the Wheatsheaf seems fundamentally like something that would make Oxford a poorer place, and it would be a huge disadvantage to the city. It's a place of cultural and historical importance, and it makes no sense to wipe it off the map.