

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 Mike Collins

Address: 13 Rupert Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX4 2QH

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: I strongly object to this proposal. The Wheatsheaf has been serving the community as a much-loved music venue for years. With the closure of the Cellar, there are fewer than ever venues for smaller, less well-known artists to play in Central Oxford. While theatrical venues exist for more mainstream, commercial artists to play to large crowds, small venues like the Wheatsheaf are essential for more diverse and less well-known artists, especially local artists, to have a chance to perform, develop their craft and earn a living; and for local members of the community to be able to enjoy a wider range of music and other performing arts.

Due to the COVID pandemic, all live arts venues are at risk due to financial pressures. To lose one such venue simply to provide a tiny number of new rooms for students, in a city where there already thousands of such rooms, and many brand-new student accommodation blocks, would be a loss felt keenly by many in the city, who would feel betrayed by Councillors who enabled this to happen.

The loss of the Wheatsheaf as a venue would be a catastrophic blow to the musical and cultural life of the City. The Council should reject this proposal, and do whatever it takes to support and encourage venues like this that enrich the culture of Oxford.