

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 Neil Hook

Address: 14 Partridge Walk Greater Leys Oxford Ox4 7bz

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
- No opinion expressed on development
- Other - give details

Comment: I am strongly opposed to this proposal, because it would mean the loss of the live music venue above the Wheatsheaf pub.

The Wheatsheaf music venue provides a very significant public amenity. It is a keystone of Oxford cultural life because of the range and quality of live music that it offers to audiences. It allows musicians and promoters locally to develop their skills, professional contacts and audiences. It allows musicians from out of Oxfordshire to play to new audiences. It also provides a focal point for a strong and long-lived social scene.

The Oxford music scene has a national reputation for variety and high quality, which heightens the reputation of the town as distinct from the Universities and attracts people to live here. Arguably, the Oxford music scene has an international reputation from the success of bands like Radiohead, Foals and Supergrass, who are strongly identified with Oxford. The recent loss of the Cellar as a venue of a comparable size and reputation has already dealt a serious blow to the Oxford music scene. Venues like these are crucial to allow musicians, and particularly young musicians, to develop their skills, to learn stagecraft, and to learn how to conduct themselves professionally. This scene allows people to develop confidence and transferrable skills which can be applied to a

wide range of other careers and life situations. Access to a venue like the Wheatsheaf is absolutely necessary for young talent to come up through the ranks, music and the performing arts that thousands of people rely on should not just be swept under a rug for the sake of a few more flats in Oxford.

Losing this space as a music performance venue would have a profound negative impact on a large number of people. The Wheatsheaf music venue should not be converted for different use, but should be protected as a cultural amenity of significant importance.