

# 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: adam franklin

Address: 7 Linkside Avenue Oxford OX2 8HY

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

- General dislike or support for proposal

Comment: Hello there,

I would like to object strongly to these plans on the ground that this really is going to be another nail in the coffin for not only for the Oxford music scene, but for the wider UK music industry as a whole.

I myself am a professional musician who was able to learn my trade by performing at city centre venues such as the Penny Farthing, the Caribbean Club, the CFE, the Dolly (later the Cellar) and of course the Wheatsheaf. We even got to perform at the New Theatre when we were voted best Oxford band of 1987.

This is a city that has produced some of the best selling bands in the UK and the world in Radiohead, Foals, Supergrass etc and each of those bands honed their chops and developed their acts in venues such as these. The Wheatsheaf, as I'm sure you are aware, is now the last rock music venue standing in the city centre and needs to be protected.

The live music industry has already been decimated by Covid and now we have Brexit restrictions on touring within the EU in what really amounts to cultural vandalism when considering that the £5.8 billion that the industry generated in 2019 wasn't deemed important enough for any government assistance.

I can understand that from the owners' point of view turning the venue into student accommodation would appear to be a more reliable source of income in the present climate - Oxford will always have students and who knows when venues will be able to be filled to capacity again? But it would be a short fix and there is a larger issue at stake here, and it is about culture. Where is the culture of the future going to come from if it has nowhere to be nurtured?

I strongly object to these plans to turn the last music venue in Oxford into more student accommodation. We must save the Wheatsheaf as a music venue!

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Yours

Adam Franklin