

# 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 Andrew Murray

Address: Flat 3 5 Buxton Mews London SW4 6RH

## 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
- Other - give details

Comment: Along with the excellent live music scene it provides, the Wheatsheaf is one of very few remaining grassroots comedy venues in the centre of the city. I spent the early years of my comedy career performing at the Wheatsheaf - I am now a professional comedian and writer. Without a space to perform in like the Wheatsheaf, it's doubtful there would have been another suitable place for the group I performed in (the Oxford Imps) to put on shows, learn their craft, and contribute to the city's cultural life.

I'm proud to see the Imps are still going at the Wheatsheaf 17 years after they were founded and I know lots of other professional comedians who got their start there too. Turning the Wheatsheaf into student accommodation would rob Oxford of one of perilously few actual venues anywhere near the centre of town, and would do tangible damage to the cultural life of the city. I'm sure the Wheatsheaf will spring back once Covid restrictions are lifted and I hope the Wheatsheaf stays a home for music, comedy and other culture for years to come.