

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 Owen Edwards

Address: 58 CRAUFURD ROAD OXFORD OX4 2RA

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
- Information missing from plans

Comment: The Wheatsheaf Public House and its live music venue (to which this application pertains) have served the community for over 21 years now, not just locally, but from across the UK. Having attracted bands & musicians not just from Oxford and the UK but also from as far afield as Australia, United States and many other countries globally.

I for one find this application an abhorrent abuse of power but using the pandemic as base for future financial viability is equally immoral. This another example of how the people and the citizens of Oxford are being bulldozed and brushed aside without care and forethought by Oxford University and its financial subordinates.

Having looked over this application fully I can quite honestly say that it has been put together by someone without sense of any culture and the enjoyment of music or having never been to the venue itself. I fear both are correct.

Using the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the venue TEMPORARILY as a basis for projecting future viability is utterly disgraceful. Over 87% of businesses in the UK are also readjusting due to the pandemic. It should not be used as platform for Oxford University Colleges make further inroads and destroy what little remains of a once vibrant music scene.

This my formal objection and I do hope that this application is rejected out of hand. I shall be writing to my local MP with further considerations on this matter. Not least the legislative legality (regarding some almost byzantine financial projections) but also moral accountability of making such a destructive and downright ridiculous application.

Oxford City Council may well grant this application and will cite the pandemic as its the underlying reason. Covid-19 will not close The Wheatsheaf venue but a lack of spine and moral fibre most certainly.

We as people have sacrificed so much over the past 12 months and we talk about how well we will bounce back together. I can say with certainty that the Wheatsheaf will do just the same and then some. We have been prepared to sacrifice so much already, but The Wheatsheaf Music Venue as well? No, that's just going to far.

Owen Edwards

(Former Assistant Manager of Wheatsheaf 1999-2002)

(Former Nightshift columnist & local music advocate)

(Assistant to J.Shearing - Wheatsheaf Promoter - 22+ years)