

# 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: Ms Jennifer Bell

Address: 1 Rowan Close Kidlington OX5 1EU

## 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 object to this application to change the use of this location, which would remove the only remaining live music venue in Oxford's city centre.

As a musician, I have performed and attended some of my favourite shows at this venue. It is very close to my heart, and one of the places I cannot wait to return to when it is safe to do so after lockdown. I am not alone in this. There is a large community of musicians, gig goers and music fans in Oxford who cherish the Wheatsheaf. Gigs are a place where we can get together and see a group of familiar, supportive faces - not to mention watch live music! It really does feel like a safe space, even a home, for many of us. We have been watching venues in this city being sold off and transformed over the past few years, and the thought of losing this one, leaving us with none at all in the centre, is heartbreaking.

Not only would it limit the arts locally - national and international music acts and fans will have even fewer reasons stop at Oxford on their tours. This means fewer visitors to the city, and Oxford losing its relevance in the music world. Oxford is of course known as the hometown of the likes of Radiohead, Supergrass, and Foals, extremely successful acts who came up playing local shows at venues like the Wheatsheaf. What will their legacy be if we get rid of another one of the places that made them, the last remaining music venue in Oxford's centre? How can we nurture and inspire talent if there is nowhere left for them to perform?

There is so much student accommodation in this city, but as our venues close we are running out of reasons for graduates to stay. Please remember that this city is more than universities, and there are so many residents who depend upon this venue.