



**Support
Our Stadium
Secure
Our Future
24/01/23**



www.oxvox.org.uk

During our work with the club we have continued to feed back your questions and observations. The club are keen to keep supporters and the wider Oxfordshire community informed and up to date so they have answered questions from both ourselves and the Supporters Panel and have produced a selection of FAQs which we have collated for members and supporters.

Why doesn't the club stay at its current stadium?

Fans will be well aware of the situation with our current landlords but we appreciate that not everyone will be. It needs to be understood that there is absolutely no option to remain at our current stadium. The club's licence agreement at the Kassam Stadium ends in 2026 from which point Oxford United will have nowhere to play. This decision was not Oxford United's, it was made by the stadium company, our current landlords.

There is no option for us to buy the present stadium. There is no option to extend our licence. There is no option! Either the club finds a new, permanent home or we lose the only professional sporting team in our County.

Why are the sites being considered at present the only options?

The club and its supporters want to

secure the future of the club at the best possible site. We have extensively researched all options within the designated search area (there are FA rules that dictate how far a club can relocate and still keep its name). Stratfield Brake and the triangular shaped land were not picked out of thin air – they are the only options that satisfy the requirements for the proposed stadium move.

Is Stratfield Brake site now off the table?

No! The club will need to continue to consider any available site given the urgency to secure a site and as detailed above, the only sites that could be suitable are Stratfield Brake and the triangle site. We understand that some residents were opposed to Stratfield Brake and wanted to protect its current use. As local residents who also use Stratfield Brake, we do understand that. However, an alternative site that protects Stratfield Brake and still fulfils the requirements

for a new stadium has been put forward. This could be a win-win!

It is disappointing to hear a few individuals who wanted to protect Stratfield Brake be opposed to the new proposed site without being willing to look at the detail. If they don't want the stadium at all, that is a completely legitimate opinion to have but be honest about it!

Can a stadium be built on the smaller site?

Yes! We can confirm that although the site is smaller it is possible to build a stadium. If the council is serious about helping protect the 130 year history of the club, there is now a viable option that both protects Stratfield Brake and enables a secure stadium.

Aren't local residents opposed to the stadium move?

Absolutely not! It is a given that most fans are very supportive of the move, but we are also



local residents who care about what happens in our neighbourhood. We would not pursue a stadium move at any cost but feel that this is the right location for a new permanent stadium. We also genuinely believe that the stadium could provide a significant, once in a lifetime, boost to our area with significant local and economic benefit. There are also many residents who aren't football fans at all who are supportive of the stadium move. It is important that councillors understand this and do not take the views of self-appointed opposition groups as representative of all Kidlington residents.

How will a 'green barrier' between Oxford and Kidlington be maintained?

As residents we also care about maintaining a green barrier between Oxford and Kidlington. The decision the council is taking is only whether or not the club can proceed to the next stage. As part of the planning process, we will need to demonstrate how we have met all the requirements of planning policy, including maintaining the green barrier. We fully expect will be held to account on this matter and the bottom line is if we aren't able to demonstrate this, we won't get planning permission.

As residents, will we be consulted on any proposals?

Yes! Not only there is a requirement for the club to consult as part of the pre-planning process, we have also made significant commitments to go above and beyond with local consultation. As above, we assure you that the supporters group will make sure the club keep their word on their proposals to consult extensively.

How will concerns about transport, parking and traffic impact be addressed?

It should be noted that the club only play 26 home games a year – all of which are at non-peak times. However, the main advantage of the proposed sites is the fact that they are situated close to a transport hub. There is a train station and a very regular bus services. These two factors alone will encourage visitors to use more public transport. Many other clubs have successfully encouraged visitors to make the switch to public transport and we will learn from and use similar schemes. Our fans want the option to use public transport but the current stadium does not best allow that.

All of these are vital questions to ask but it is through the planning

process that these are best addressed. The club will understandably have to satisfy all of these elements before we get permission but the decision before us at the moment is whether or not we can move to that stage.

Will the stadium have a positive impact on the local and Oxfordshire economy and to our community?

Yes, undoubtedly. This project will add significantly to both the local and Oxfordshire economy in that it will provide additional employment and additional spend in the immediate location – that's why lots of local traders and businesses are extremely supportive of the move. In addition to this the survival of Oxford United Football Club will ensure that the vast amount of local businesses who rely on Oxford United will continue to thrive. OUFC already do fabulous work in the Oxfordshire community and the stadium move would allow us to significantly expand this.

Furthermore, the club want to play a leading role in developing all sports options in our community, which is why so many local sporting groups are also in support of the stadium move.

What can you do?

The County Council Cabinet meeting is on the 24th.

This meeting is a vital step towards the club getting a new home and securing our future for years to come.

Before the 24th January:

Sign the Petition!

Scan the QR code to go to the petition.

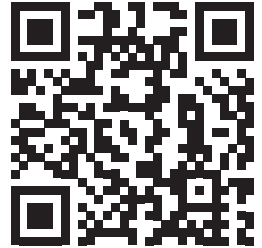
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