

## **OXFORD UNITED'S STRATFIELD BRAKE PROPOSAL**

### **Oxford County Council Cabinet**

The County Council Cabinet passed a motion on 15/3/22 to authorise Officers to enter into detailed discussions as requested by Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) on the use of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) owned land for the development of a new football stadium, subject to approval of detailed plans and undertakings and to planning permission.

Officers will be required ensure that any proposal by OUFC is consistent with the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance's priorities, by achieving the following objectives for the use of the OCC's land:

- I. maintain a green barrier between Oxford and Kidlington and protecting and enhancing the surrounding environment including biodiversity, connecting habitats and supporting nature recovery
- II. improve access to high-quality nature and green spaces
- III. enhance facilities for local sports groups and on-going financial support
- IV. significantly improve the infrastructure connectivity in this location, improving public transport to reduce the need for car travel in so far as possible, and to improve sustainable transport through increased walking, cycling and rail use
- V. develop local employment opportunities in Oxfordshire
- VI. increase education and innovation through the provision of a sports centre of excellence and facilities linked to elite sport, community sport, health and wellbeing
- VII. support the County Council's net zero carbon emissions pledge through highly sustainable development

### **The Parish Council's current position**

Kidlington Parish Council is committed to preserving the Green Belt and the Green Ring around the Village as an essential part of its identity. We are nevertheless approaching discussions on the OUFC Stratfield Brake proposal with an open mind. While we fully appreciate its possible benefits for the Village, we have yet to be convinced (1) that it can be made compatible with our Green Belt and Green Ring commitment, (2) that adequate measures will be taken to mitigate the resultant burdens on residents, particularly match-day parking, traffic congestion and noise, (3) that firm and lasting assurances can be obtained as to the security and sustainability of any agreements we may reach, and of OUFC's financial capacity to deliver and maintain them. We expect to be fully involved in discussions between OCC and OUFC on the proposal and will resist relinquishing our lease on the Stratfield Brake site until and unless we are satisfied on the points above. We will also consult residents before taking a final decision on the proposal.

See the [Chair's Report for March 2022](#) for more discussion of this position.

DAVID ROBEY  
8/4/22