

Kidlington Parish Poll

Wednesday 10 May 2023

4pm to 9pm

Should Kidlington Parish Council support the building of a stadium for Oxford United Football Club in Kidlington?

You will probably have heard by now about Oxford United's aspirations to build a new stadium in Kidlington, near Oxford Parkway station. Discussions between the club and Oxfordshire County Council have been taking place for over a year. Initially the proposal was to build a stadium on Stratfield Brake Sports Ground but in recent months the focus has moved to an area known as 'the triangle' which is an area of land between Frieze Way and Oxford Road. The land is currently leased by Oxfordshire County Council to a company who grows willow for commercial purposes.



Detailed plans have not yet been produced by the club to explain exactly what they propose, what benefits there might be for Kidlington residents and how they will mitigate the inevitable challenges of this venture.

Kidlington Parish Council has remained neutral on the proposal throughout the discussions until the detailed plans are received.

We held a Parish Meeting on 30 March at which representatives from the county and the club answered questions from residents about the proposal. At the meeting a group of residents,

opposed to the proposal' called for a Parish Poll in order to better understand the views of the community.

The Poll has not been called by the Parish Council, whose view is that residents should not be consulted on this matter until they can see detailed plans from the club.

Nevertheless, since views in the village on this subject seem to be deeply divided, the Parish Council strongly encourages residents to vote in the Poll, so as to reflect as accurately as possible the current state of opinion.

The outcome of the Poll will have no binding force on the Parish Council, and it will be open to the Council to hold further consultation with residents on the issue once the detailed plans have been received. Neither the results of the Poll nor the views of the Parish Council will have any binding force on the decision the County Council makes.

The Parish Poll will be held at the usual voting stations in the village from 4 to 9pm on Wednesday 10 May. Poll cards will not be issued, postal votes and proxy voting are not allowed. We hope that you will use this opportunity to have your say about the principal even though the full details are not available.



DRAFT

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL: PRESS RELEASE

Parish Poll on the question: Should Kidlington Parish Council support the building of a stadium for Oxford United Football Club in Kidlington

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 30 March a group of residents called for a Parish Poll on the question whether the Parish Council should oppose the building of a stadium for Oxford United Football Club in Kidlington. The wording was subsequently amended after a vote to replace "oppose" with "support".

The law requires that a poll should be held more than 14 days but less than 25 days (excluding weekends and bank holidays) from the date the poll is called. This call was therefore contrary to the decision of the Parish Council NOT to consult residents before detailed plans of the project are available.

The poll is an expression of local opinion and its outcome has no binding force on the Council.

The Parish Council is legally obliged to allow the poll to proceed, whatever its view on the matter may be. Provided that the call is supported by at least 10 electors or one third of the electors present, whichever is the smaller, the poll has to take place. The only voting allowed is on the exact wording of the question, not on the substance.

The poll is expected to take place on May 10, after the local government elections on May 4. It cannot take place at the same time as the elections. All the usual polling stations in Kidlington will be open, but only between 4pm and 9pm.

Extraordinary Council Meeting: 13 April 2023
Draft Notice to Residents and Press Release

The Parish Council has resolved to take a neutral view on United's stadium proposal until detailed plans are received. It will then have to decide whether to consult residents once again on the matter, or whether to leave that consultation to the County Council.

It should be noted that while the Triangle site currently proposed for the stadium is in Kidlington, the Parish Council has no rights over it, and is not in any position to decide whether or not the proposal goes forward: that decision lies with Oxford County Council.

DAVID ROBEY

Chair

11 April 2023