

Email to Kidlington Parish Council regarding the Triangle Consultation

To: [All members of Kidlington Parish Council]

CC: Layla Moran MP

Sent: 7 August 2023

'Dear all,

Further to Kidlington Parish Council's Policy & Finance Committee meeting last Thursday, we attach a copy of the statement read out by Victoria Campbell on behalf of FoSB.

Please Note: as part of the address, we drew attention to the fact that FoSB has received legal advice that the County Council's consultation was unlawful. It failed to provide important information such as why, in 2021, did OUFC negotiate a new licence agreement which surrenders its right to stay at the Kassam Stadium until 2046. Without answers to fundamental questions like this, the public cannot give an informed response. We have sought clarification directly from OUFC but they have only directed us to existing information on their website which does not answer the questions. **Will KPC support FoSB in seeking the information that the County Council should have provided as part of the recent consultation?**

Please also let us have written answers to the questions we raised at the meeting last Thursday. For ease of reference, these were:

1. 'Will this Council update and/or make additional representations to Oxfordshire County Council which appropriately addresses all of the key issues which this Council has previously raised, and if not, please will this Council explain to the Parish why it believes these issues are no longer important?'

2. 'Does this Council agree that the consultation run by Oxfordshire County Council failed to inform the public about important relevant issues, and will this Council support FoSB's request that the consultation be re-run when proper and detailed information on these have been published?'

We also have additional questions:

3. What is KPC's justification for failing to submit a response to Oxfordshire County Council's consultation regarding the Triangle site? The Terms of Reference for the Policy & Finance Committee include 'Responses to major consultations from other bodies and representing the Parish's interests to other bodies'.

4. How did KPC formulate the list of 4 concerns which OUFC must now apparently meet in order to gain KPC's support, and how can KPC be sure this is an accurate reflection of residents' views?

5. What is the purpose of KPC's meeting with Oxford United on 19 August and who will be attending?

6. Is there a situation in which OUFC could convince KPC by presenting additional information at its meeting on 19 August in response to the 4 areas of concern formulated by KPC, that KPC should support its proposals?

We are concerned that the **minutes from KPC's meeting of June 2023** do not properly represent **residents' views**, as established by the Kidlington Parish Poll. In the absence of any further survey, KPC cannot possibly have an accurate nor comprehensive understanding of residents' concerns in light of the consultation materials published by OUFC and so the results of the Parish Poll must be guiding KPC's response.

We note this sentence from the minutes: **'The Parish Council will object to the stadium proposal unless its four primary concerns are satisfied with further details, and we call upon the County Council not to proceed until they are'**. This implies that all concerns are capable of

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satisfaction and it is simply up to OUFc to keep providing information/promises/pledges on an incremental basis until they are satisfied.

With regard to 'benefits', the minutes state: '**our residents are entitled to expect both parties to firm up these commitments in advance of the decision to proceed.**' This implies the proposals will definitely proceed!

The above phrases are either poorly drafted, misleading or the KPC Policy & Finance Subcommittee has incorrectly represented its residents' views contrary to KPC's [Roles and Responsibilities](#). Please confirm.

Following KPC's failure to respond to the consultation, we note KPC is now planning to meet with OUFc on 19 August. This is concerning. KPC's response will now be influenced by information provided by the scheme promoter (OUFC) outside of the consultation, which has not been made available to the general public. The scheme promoter had its opportunity to present its case as part of a consultation, and KPC should have responded on behalf of Kidlington residents on the basis of such information. This presents a risk of bias towards OUFc, and a lack of transparency to residents. Even if OUFc did now present credible, robust information in answer to KPC's queries, KPC would have to survey residents to see if this affected the general view in the village. There is, however, no time for that before 19 September. **Therefore, in short, how can KPC possibly do anything other than object, and why hasn't it done that already?**

All questions are in blue text and we should be grateful for responses to these questions **by Friday 18 August** (but sooner if possible please).

Please note that we will be sharing this communication with our group, along with KPC's responses once received.

Many thanks in advance.

FoSB