

5 March 2024

Dear Councillor

Oxford United has misled the public

For the past two years, Oxford United has claimed that it is being forced to leave the Kassam Stadium by 2026 and will be homeless unless it can find a new ground. We note, however, that:

- Oxford United's lease was terminated by Firoka Ltd the stadium company as a result of the club's own actions.
- Oxford United then chose to sign a short lease which ends in 2026 which doesn't include the same right of renewal as the previous one.
- Firoka Ltd has stated it is prepared to negotiate a new lease (subject to terms) when the current one expires in 2026.
- Oxford United has not even attempted to negotiate any new lease with Firoka Ltd despite a recent statement from its chairman that they have a very good relationship.

There may be commercial reasons why Oxford United doesn't want to stay at the Kassam Stadium but this is entirely different from claiming that it can't stay.

The covering letter for the planning application (Ref: 24/00539/F) demonstrates a recent change in narrative: "*OUFC's current home the Kassam stadium is **unsustainable in a number of ways, and remote from public transport.** With the current agreement for the Kassam Stadium coming to an end in 2026, there is an urgent need to develop a new stadium....*"

There is now NO mention of the club being evicted or made homeless: merely claims that the Kassam Stadium is unsustainable. There is also no mention of the re-opening of the Cowley Branch line which will serve the Kassam Stadium area.

Oxfordshire County Council's entire engagement with this proposal; including all its stakeholder engagement exercises to date, and ultimately its decision to lease land to the club, was all based on the premise that Oxford United would otherwise be homeless in 2026.

The club has, over a prolonged period of time, misled the public. If it is prepared to do this to promote its own commercial and financial objectives, how can you trust any of its 'commitments'?

We believe this is an abuse of democratic process and we have written to Oxfordshire County Council to ask them to rescind the decision to lease the Triangle to Oxford United.

We ask for your support: please contact Oxfordshire County Council and tell them that

- **Oxford United has misled the public and the County Council**
- **Ask them to rescind the decision to lease the Triangle.**

Please contact us if you require further information (stratfieldbrakefriends@gmail.com / phone: 07917 739 846). Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

Friends of Stratfield Brake