

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Whitethorn
: Reading
: RG67JN
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs A Qureshi
DATE SUBMITTED : 24/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I strongly object to the development of any religious centre in or near the Winnersh area.

Winnersh has traditionally been a residential and business-focused area, which is why many people chose to settle here. The introduction of such a centre would significantly impact the community by increasing traffic, noise, parking issues, and changes in demographics and density. This would particularly affect local businesses and the current residents near the Winnersh Triangle.

According to documents submitted by the group, around 40-50 people are expected to attend prayers and children's activities in the evening and at night. Saturdays will be especially busy from 10 AM to 12 PM peak trading hours for nearby businesses like Wickes, Halfords, Petcare, Costa, and Showcase. This could lead to increased congestion, parking issues (with some people potentially using spaces at Wickes, Showcase, or nearby residential areas), and noise, all of which would affect both residents and local businesses. Additionally, with a Gurdwara also planned nearby, similar issues may arise over the weekends.

There is also concern that people may linger after religious activities, which could influence other activities and impact the surrounding area.

While initial proposals often suggest limited attendance, carpooling, and minimal disruption, we have already seen how roads such as Wokingham Road and Reading Road get congested. Over time, attendance and activities tend to expand, leading to greater demands on space and resources. As a result, commitments regarding traffic management and community impact are often overlooked, placing additional strain on local infrastructure and council resources.

Furthermore, based on the comments submitted by supporters, it appears they would like the site to be used as a full-scale mosque. This raises concerns about the long-term intentions for the site and its potential impact on the future development of the area. I respectfully request that the council notify the local community of any religious planning permissions via email or post, ensuring that their voices can be heard. This would enable the council to make a decision that reflects the interests of the wider community, rather than focusing on the needs of one group alone.