

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 28 Commons Rd
: Wokingham
: RG41 1JG
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Abdus Subhan
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/04/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing as a long-standing resident and professional in Wokingham, expressing my strong support for the proposed repurposing of an existing building into a mosque and community centre in Winnersh. This project represents an opportunity to accommodate the needs of a growing segment of our diverse community while fostering social cohesion, inclusivity, and mutual understanding among all residents.

The Muslim population in Wokingham has more than doubled since 2011, growing from approximately 4,000 to around 8,600 today. Despite this, local facilities have not kept pace with this demographic shift, requiring many Muslims to travel long distances to attend congregational prayers or community events. This centre would significantly reduce congestion at existing places of worship and provide an accessible, dedicated space for spiritual, educational, and social activities.

It is essential to recognize the substantial contributions of the Muslim community to Wokingham and the UK as a whole. Many of us work in key sectors such as healthcare, education, technology, finance, and social services, playing an active role in the region's prosperity. A community centre would not only facilitate religious gatherings but also serve as a hub for charitable initiatives, youth programs, interfaith dialogues, and cultural exchanges, fostering integration and collaboration with the broader community.

Concerns about increased traffic and noise are understandable, but careful planning will ensure minimal disruption. The facility's location, use of staggered prayer times, and commitment to responsible community management will help mitigate any potential concerns. Furthermore, a dedicated centre will reduce the burden on nearby streets that currently experience high footfall due to long travel distances.

It is important to highlight that this proposal is not about creating division but rather about strengthening the fabric of our community. The mosque and community centre will be open to all, encouraging cross-cultural interactions and educational opportunities that will benefit everyone in Winnersh.

I urge you to consider the positive impact of this initiative and support the development of a facility that will enhance community spirit, promote inclusivity, and meet the legitimate needs of Wokingham's diverse population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Abdus Subhan