

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 14 Eamer Crescent
: Wokingham
: RG41 1AJ
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Abdel Bagegni
DATE SUBMITTED : 28/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed change of use of the building to an Islamic education, worship, and community centre. This facility is essential to meeting the needs of the growing Muslim community in the area while also promoting diversity, inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Community Need & Inclusion

The local Muslim population has been steadily increasing, yet there are currently limited nearby facilities for worship, religious education, and community gatherings. This centre will provide a welcoming space for local families, fostering a sense of belonging and community cohesion. Supporting this application aligns with the council's commitment to inclusivity and the celebration of cultural and religious diversity.

Sustainability & Environmental Benefits

At present, many local Muslims must drive long distances to attend prayers and community events, increasing traffic congestion and carbon emissions. A local facility will allow more worshippers to walk, cycle, or use public transport, significantly reducing the environmental impact.

Appropriate Scale & Local Impact

There may be concerns about the scale of the development, but this is a modest facility designed primarily for local residents within walking distance. It is not a large-scale development that will attract significant external traffic. The centre is intended to serve as a vital space for religious and educational activities without overwhelming local infrastructure.

Traffic & Noise Considerations

Independent assessments confirm that peak usage times for the centre do not coincide with rush hour, minimizing any potential traffic disruption. Furthermore, measures will be in place to ensure minimal noise impact on the surrounding area, maintaining the peaceful character of the neighborhood.

Regulatory Compliance & Community Engagement

The proposed centre will comply with all relevant planning and regulatory standards, ensuring it meets safety, accessibility, and environmental requirements. Additionally, the facility will serve as a hub for community engagement, fostering interfaith dialogue and providing opportunities for wider social interaction.

I strongly urge the council to approve this application, as it represents a valuable addition to our community, enhancing social cohesion, supporting religious freedoms, and promoting sustainable local development.