

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Rushley Way
: Reading
: RG2 0GJ
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs Tehreem Azmat
DATE SUBMITTED : 27/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposal to repurpose the existing building in Winnersh as a mosque and community center. It is important to understand that such a facility is not just a place for religious observance but also a key resource for fostering community engagement and promoting inclusivity in our area.

The local Muslim population in Wokingham has grown significantly over the past decade. According to the 2011 census, there were approximately 4,000 Muslims in the area. As of recent estimates, this figure has almost doubled to 8,600. With this growth, there is an urgent need for more community-centered spaces that can cater to the diverse requirements of this population.

The Muslim community has always been an integral part of British society. Our contribution spans numerous vital sectors, including healthcare (particularly within the NHS), education, social services, technology, telecommunications, and finance. We are deeply committed to being law-abiding citizens and to contributing positively to the country we proudly call home.

In addition to the social and community benefits, the construction of the proposed mosque will have a practical impact. Currently, many local Muslims travel long distances to attend the nearest mosque, causing unnecessary congestion and increasing travel times. The new facility will not only reduce these distances but will also alleviate the pressure on existing mosques, which are currently operating at full capacity. It will provide much-needed space for religious services, educational programs, and community activities.

There is also a genuine desire within our community to maintain peaceful coexistence and foster understanding with all our neighbors. We are committed to being open to dialogue and addressing concerns in a respectful and collaborative manner. The proposed center is not just a place of worship, but a center for social cohesion, a place where people of different backgrounds can come together and work towards a stronger, more inclusive community.

I am confident that this new mosque will be a positive asset to Winnersh, enhancing community spirit, promoting mutual respect, and contributing to the vibrancy of our local area. I encourage everyone to look beyond any misconceptions and recognize the value this facility will bring to all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.