

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Porter Close Lower Earley
:
: RG6 4JB
SUBMITTED BY : Dr Saqib Choudhary
DATE SUBMITTED : 27/03/2025

COMMENTS:

Comprehensive Rebuttal to Objections for Proposed Mosque (250543)

1. Compliance with Planning Policy & Law

The proposal has been rigorously assessed and meets all planning requirements, including traffic, noise, and design considerations. National policy (NPPF) and the Equality Act 2010 protect the right to establish places of worship, provided technical criteria are satisfied which they are in this case.

2. Misconceptions (Myth vs Facts)

Some objections misrepresent the mosque's scale and purpose. This is not a "megamosque" but a modest facility for local worshippers, with parking and traffic impacts professionally mitigated (as shown in submitted reports). Concerns about overdevelopment are unfounded, as the design aligns with the area's character and existing diversity. More importantly, such a hub provides further avenues of community cohesion and diversification and takes us away from divisive community which is quite reflective from the comments and thus even more reason for us to have a hub for Muslims.

3. Community Benefits & Social Cohesion

The mosque will serve as a hub for prayer, education, and interfaith dialogue, strengthening Wokingham's diversity. A growing Muslim population currently travels outside the area for worship; this facility will reduce congestion while fostering inclusivity. Rejecting it would contradict the council's commitment to cohesion.

4. Traffic & Noise Mitigation

Independent assessments confirm that peak usage (e.g., midday prayers) avoids rush hours, and on-site parking provisions meet demand. Comparisons to larger mosques are irrelevant this is a proportionate solution for local needs, with conditions in place to minimize disruption and contrary to the objections, a local hub reduces an overall carbon footprint from Wokingham borough since locals are able to walk and car share to the venue.

5. Moral & Ethical Responsibility

Planning decisions must be based on material considerations, not bias. Wokingham prides itself on being a welcoming community; approving this application would reflect those values. The mosque's benefits social, spiritual, and practical far outweigh unsubstantiated objections.

I would really want to have a hub in the vicinity as provided to other ethnic minorities too (rightly so) to enable a cohesive, less divisive, communal hub that believes in togetherness and helping each other.