

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 22 Crawford Close
:
: RG6 7PE
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Mohammad Ghazanfar Alam
DATE SUBMITTED : 22/03/2025

COMMENTS:

A new Islamic centre in Winnersh is essential for our growing and diverse community. At present, the existing Islamic centres are concentrated on one side of town, creating significant accessibility challenges for many worshippers. This imbalance leads to long and inconvenient commutes, discouraging regular attendance, especially for families, the elderly, and those with mobility issues. Overcrowding during daily prayers and major religious events such as Eid further exacerbates these issues, making it difficult for everyone to find space to pray comfortably.

Many worshippers must travel long distances, often by car, to reach the nearest Islamic centre. This not only wastes valuable time particularly during work hours but also increases traffic congestion and carbon emissions. A new, well-placed Islamic centre would reduce travel distances, encouraging more people to walk, cycle, or take public transport, thereby cutting down on pollution and promoting environmentally friendly

A new Islamic centre is not just about prayer it would serve as a vital community hub. It could provide educational programs, youth activities, interfaith dialogue, and charitable initiatives that benefit both Muslims and the wider Wokingham population. It would also promote inclusivity and social harmony, fostering a sense of unity among different cultural and religious groups.

For many, the difficulty in reaching a mosque means they miss out on key religious and social experiences, which can weaken their sense of belonging and spiritual well-being. A new mosque in a more accessible location would allow more people especially children, young professionals, and the elderly to participate regularly in prayers, community events, and support

A new Islamic centre would bring positive economic impacts by attracting visitors to nearby businesses, increasing foot traffic, and creating opportunities for local vendors. Additionally, it could serve as a cultural and educational resource, fostering a better understanding of Islam among the wider community and strengthening interfaith relationships.

A new Islamic centre in Winnersh is not just a convenience it is a necessity. By improving accessibility, reducing environmental impact, easing infrastructure strain, strengthening social ties, and enhancing religious participation, it would greatly benefit both the Muslim community and the town as a whole. It's time to invest in a space that truly serves the needs of all residents, now and for future generations.