

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Reading Road
: Winnersh
: RG41 5HX
SUBMITTED BY : Miss Alison Bar
DATE SUBMITTED : 23/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I would like to object to the planning application for the conversion of the office space into an Islamic Education Centre and mosque in the proposed location. While I respect the importance of community religious and educational facilities, I believe that this proposed development will cause significant adverse effects on the local area. Below are my structural concerns:

1. Traffic and Parking Issues:

o The area surrounding the proposed development is located in a small close that is not designed to accommodate high levels of traffic, especially during peak hours. The proposed development is likely to result in heavy congestion, particularly during prayer times and educational sessions, leading to delays and inconvenience for local residents.

o There is a lack of sufficient parking space in the area, which could result in increased on-street parking. This would obstruct access for emergency vehicles and exacerbate traffic flow issues, especially in such a small area.

o Local roads were not built to handle the volume of vehicles that could be generated by such a facility, leading to possible safety risks for both pedestrians and drivers.

2. Impact on Residential Character:

o The conversion of an office space into a religious facility is not in keeping with the character of the surrounding residential area. The area is primarily residential, and the establishment of a mosque and education centre would alter the local landscape and quality of life for residents.

3. Inadequate Infrastructure:

o The surrounding infrastructure, including roads, public transport links, and local amenities, is not suitable to handle the increased demands that such a development would place on the community. The development could result in strain on existing facilities and lead to overcrowding.

o Public transport options in the area are limited, and given the nature of the proposed facility, many visitors will likely drive, further contributing to the already high levels of traffic and parking concerns.

4. Noise and Disturbance:

o Religious services, educational activities, and large gatherings associated with the mosque may lead to noise disturbances, especially in the early morning hours for Fajr prayers and in the evening. Given the proximity of this proposed facility to nearby homes, this could be disruptive for residents, particularly those with young children or those who work night shifts.

o The noise levels from congregational prayers, amplified calls to prayer, and other activities might be disruptive to the surrounding residential community, further diminishing the quality of life in the area.

5. Health and Safety Concerns:

o Inadequate traffic management in such a congested area raises concerns over the safety of pedestrians, especially children, the

elderly, and people with disabilities. The increased foot and vehicle traffic could lead to hazardous situations.

- o The narrow access roads and lack of emergency vehicle access could create life-threatening situations, especially if emergency services are delayed due to congestion.

6. Environmental and Aesthetic Impact:

- o The proposed development could result in visual and environmental disruptions in the area. Large numbers of people coming and going, the installation of external signs, and the potential for extensive modifications to the building may not blend well with the existing aesthetic of the neighbourhood.

For these reasons, I believe the proposed development is inappropriate for this site.