

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Northway Northway
: Wokingham
: RG41 3PQ
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Rubio Black
DATE SUBMITTED : 24/03/2025

COMMENTS:

Hello, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the planning application for converting the office space into an Islamic Education Centre and mosque at the proposed location. While I do acknowledge

the importance of community religious and educational facilities, I believe that this particular development will have significant negative impacts on the local area. The proposed site is situated in a small close that is not designed to handle high traffic volumes, especially during peak hours. Even with the new relief road, the A329 remains very busy, and this development is likely to cause heavy congestion, particularly during prayer times and educational sessions. The proposed mosque's proximity to residential properties raises

serious concerns about noise and disturbance from regular prayers and larger events. These disturbances would place an unfair burden on nearby residents, especially without effective measures like soundproofing or restrictions on amplified calls to prayer.

I regularly visit the area for shopping. Already, there is insufficient parking space in the area, which will inevitably lead to increased on-street parking and illegal parking in side roads, posing safety risks for both pedestrians and drivers. The noise from congregational prayers, amplified calls to prayer, large gatherings, and other activities associated with the mosque will be extremely disruptive to neighbouring residents and the surrounding residential community, reducing the quality of life in the area.

In Wokingham and Winnersh, we have a shortage of homes. By building new homes helps to alleviate current housing shortages, providing more options for people looking to buy or rent. This can be particularly important in these areas with growing populations or high demand for housing.

New housing developments can stimulate local economies by creating jobs in construction, real estate, and related industries. Additionally, new residents can support local businesses, contributing to economic vitality. A religious centre will not provide any of those benefits.

We need more Community halls and centres that all religious communities can use equally. They can lead to the development of vibrant, diverse communities. It can attract a mix of people, fostering social cohesion and creating opportunities for community activities and engagement. A mosque or any specific religious centre will be restrictive to community cohesion.

Additionally, converting office space into a religious facility does not align with the character of the surrounding residential area.

Thank you for considering my concerns.