

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 8
: 8, Lincoln Clos Lincoln Close, Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG41 5SZ
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Sinith Chandran
DATE SUBMITTED : 24/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to address several concerns regarding the growing number of religious places of worship in the Winnersh area, particularly the proposed mosque. We believe there are valid reasons why the area needs more development focused on children's play areas and utility shops, rather than additional religious establishments.

Firstly, the majority of the residents in Winnersh do not belong to faiths that require attendance at a mosque. While we understand that a mosque will have visitors at multiple times throughout the day, it is crucial to consider that the local population does not significantly consist of Muslims. This would result in visitors from surrounding areas coming to the mosque, which is likely to cause considerable traffic congestion throughout the day. There was significant opposition when the application for the Gurudwara (Sikh temple) was submitted, yet it was eventually approved despite these concerns.

While we are not against a mosque or Gurudwara in principle, if the local residents do not need these facilities, it would be better suited outside of the residential area.

The area is already experiencing substantial traffic congestion, and with the ongoing construction of new developments, this problem has only worsened. There is already a camera placed in the Winnersh area near Wickes that should provide you with traffic statistics. Additionally, the area lacks safe play spaces for children. With no parks nearby, our children cannot ride their bikes or play outdoors safely due to the high volume of traffic near Wickes.

Moreover, there are already several mosques in the surrounding areas where local residents can worship, including one near Palmer Park and another near Thames Valley Park (TVP). Therefore, it raises the question of why there is a need for another mosque in such close proximity, especially when existing mosques are already serving the community. If you take a moment to observe the parking situation on a Friday afternoon near TVP, you will see cars parked dangerously under the bridge, highlighting our concerns about the safety and practicality of having an additional mosque in the area.

Given these factors, we strongly believe the focus should shift towards improving the infrastructure and amenities that will benefit the broader community. If this application is approved and it leads to safety concerns for our children or worsens the existing traffic problems, we respectfully request that future applications for religious establishments in residential areas be reconsidered.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.