

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 4
: Bell Road Winnersh, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG41 5RW
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Muhammad Kashif
DATE SUBMITTED : 26/03/2025

COMMENTS:

Dear Wokingham Borough Council,

I am writing as a local resident of Winnersh living within walking distance of the proposed mosque location in Hatchwood Mill and as an IT professional working in the area. I fully support the planning application for the repurposing of the existing building into a mosque and community centre, as I believe it will provide necessary facilities for the growing Muslim community while fostering community integration and inclusivity in Winnersh.

There is a massive increase in Muslim population in Wokingham, which highlights the necessity of a local place of worship. At present, many Muslim residents, including myself, has to travel considerable distances to attend congregational prayers, particularly for Friday prayers and special occasions. This mosque will alleviate that burden while also reducing congestion, pollution and traffic at existing places of worship.

As an IT professional, I see firsthand how diverse and integrated our community has become, with Muslims contributing significantly to key sectors, including healthcare, education, technology, and finance. The proposed mosque will not only serve religious purposes but will also act as a centre for community engagement, offering educational and social programs that benefit both Muslims and the wider community.

I have noticed that concerns regarding traffic and noise have been raised by fellow residents, and I believe these can be effectively managed. Given the proximity of the mosque to many local residents like myself, a significant number of worshippers will walk rather than drive. Additionally, with staggered prayer times and appropriate parking arrangements, any impact on traffic flow can be minimized. Modern mosques in residential areas across the UK operate respectfully without causing disruption, and this proposal is no different.

Furthermore, the mosque will serve as a bridge for cultural understanding, fostering dialogue and strengthening community ties. The Muslim community is dedicated to being responsible and considerate neighbours, and we welcome discussions with local residents to address any concerns they may have.

I strongly believe that approving this application will positively contribute to Winnersh's community spirit, promoting inclusivity and social cohesion. I urge the council to approve this application in recognition of the genuine need for such a facility and the positive impact it will bring to the area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.