

PLANNING REF : 250543
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SUBMITTED BY : Abdullah Attiq
DATE SUBMITTED : 26/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my full support for the proposed mosque in Winnersh, Wokingham, and to share some insights into why this project is of significant value to our community. As a long-time resident of the area and an active member of the local Muslim community, I am confident that this initiative will not only meet the practical needs of our community but will also bring positive social and cultural benefits to Wokingham as a whole.

Supporting Community Needs

Over the past two decades, I have had the privilege of calling Wokingham my home, raising my family, and contributing to the local community in various professional capacities. During this time, I have witnessed firsthand the steady increase in the Muslim population. The census data from 2011 showed approximately 4,000 Muslims in Wokingham, but today, that number has grown to nearly 8,600. This growth has resulted in a corresponding need for appropriate community spaces particularly a dedicated mosque.

Currently, our local mosques are overcrowded, and many members of the Muslim community face long journeys to access the nearest place of worship. This is not only inconvenient but also impractical, especially considering that Muslims are required to attend the mosque regularly for prayers, including the weekly Friday prayers. The proposed mosque in Winnersh would significantly reduce travel distances, decrease traffic congestion, and relieve pressure on existing mosques, creating a much-needed community space that fosters unity and support.

Contributions to the Community

It is also essential to acknowledge the contributions of the Muslim community in Wokingham. Muslims are an integral part of the workforce, making meaningful contributions across a range of sectors, from healthcare and education to technology and social services. Many Muslims in the area work in the NHS, educational institutions, and local businesses, playing a vital role in the success of the local economy. The idea that Muslims are somehow disconnected from or a burden to the community is simply not accurate. On the contrary, we are hardworking, law-abiding citizens who actively contribute to the prosperity and well-being of Wokingham.

A mosque is not just a place of worship; it is a community center where individuals gather, learn, and support one another. It will offer educational programs, social services, and even charitable activities that benefit not only Muslims but the entire community. These initiatives will undoubtedly contribute to Wokingham's values of inclusivity, respect, and social cohesion.

Addressing Concerns

I am aware that some members of the community may have concerns

about the mosque's impact on the local area. However, I would like to reassure everyone that the Muslim community is fully committed to being a responsible, considerate neighbor. We understand the importance of open dialogue and are always ready to listen to and address concerns. The building of the mosque would not cause disruption but would, in fact, be a catalyst for greater community engagement, collaboration, and understanding.

Many misconceptions exist regarding the role and purpose of a mosque. Some individuals may mistakenly assume that a mosque will bring noise, traffic, or social unrest to the area. However, a mosque is a peaceful place of worship and community gathering. It will not only serve as a hub for religious activities but will also be a resource for community-driven initiatives such as educational seminars, charitable events, and family support services.

Furthermore, the mosque's construction would respect the aesthetic and cultural values of Wokingham, with careful consideration given to planning, design, and parking arrangements. We understand the importance of integrating seamlessly into the local landscape and enhancing, rather than disrupting, the local environment.

A Step Towards Greater Social Harmony

The building of the mosque represents an opportunity for all of us in Wokingham to come together as one community, transcending cultural, religious, and social differences. It will serve as a place for individuals of all faiths and backgrounds to learn about one another, build friendships, and work together to address local issues. This project is an important step toward fostering greater inclusivity and understanding in our town.

I am confident that the mosque will add immense value to Wokingham's community spirit, promoting social cohesion, mutual respect, and shared values. It will be a place where individuals can gather, find support, and engage in activities that improve not just their own lives but also the lives of their neighbors.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts. I firmly believe that this mosque will benefit not only the Muslim community but the entire town of Wokingham. It will strengthen our shared sense of belonging and make Wokingham an even more inclusive, diverse, and thriving place to live.

Yours sincerely,
Abdullah Attiq