

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Arbor Lane
:
: RG415QY
SUBMITTED BY : Mr DS DS
DATE SUBMITTED : 30/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I strongly oppose to the proposition of building any sort of religious place in our vicinity.

1 - I appreciate the fact that Winnersh is a religiously neutral, business oriented place where people from all communities and faith live and prosper together.

> Bringing in a religious place will create religious bias in the area. Take example of other places in the country where religious centres were created and see what the whole areas have become over the time. There are numerous examples in the country, unfortunately. Such places gradually end up losing their unique charm and identity. What often begins as a stand-alone, one-off religious place often grows into dominance presence of one community, compromising neutrality and harmony of the place. Risk here is very long-term as such developments are not reversible in nature and act as a stepping stone of slow transformation to erode secular charm of the area. Do we wish this for our very own Winnersh ??????? I certainly don't.

2 - I expect that the Council should give priority to the development of a centre and activities that benefits each and every person of the community, irrespective of their faith and religion. Like a place that creates employment for its residents, offers educational or skills development opportunities to its youngsters.
> No such project should be proposed where only one community benefits while all others have to face daily challenges.

3 - Winnersh and its surroundings have seen phenomenal housing development in the recent past, which has resulted in increased population and traffic. However, local infrastructure has not followed. There hasn't been sufficient additional infrastructure in the area in terms of schools, grocery shops, restaurants, GP services, dentists etc.

> Addition of a religious place would further increase infrastructure load in area

4 - I want to express my disappointment that I only learnt through a word of mouth about such important proposal in my area. This is not acceptable. I am sure that many people in the area would not be aware of such planning proposal. I have come across local people who had no idea about this development which has potential to impact their daily life in a major way.

-> I expect that Council makes a wider consultation through letters to each local resident address within at least 3 miles radius of the proposed site. (Such consultation was done for Aldi proposal as I remember having received council letter at home informing me of the proposal and offering opportunity to express my views. Similar process should be followed for this application as well considering its impact on all the local residents).

5 - Proposed community centre would have huge negative impact on the practical issues of daily life like traffic situation, parking issues, cyclists, runners and pedestrians safety, environmental concerns, noise pollution and many more. I pay pinching high council tax every month and with that my tax money contributes towards making mine and all my community members daily life better in the area and not quite the opposite.

6 - I am not opposed to building a religious places in principle and i respect the need for such places. However, i strongly believe that it should be constructed in the outskirts, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It should be located in a place where it offers spiritual calmness to the worshipers and in no way causes any disruptions to the neighbourhood.

With above points i want to once again state my strong opposition to the proposed religious centre in the heart of Winnersh.