

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 3
: Easby Way Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire
: RG6 3XA
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Saqib Butt
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/04/2025

COMMENTS:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Islamic community centre and mosque in Wokingham. This project is an essential step towards ensuring that the town's Muslim residents have a dedicated space for worship, community engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Having lived in Wokingham for 8 years, I have observed the steady increase in the Muslim population, which now represents approximately 4% of the local community, as indicated in the 2018 census. Despite this growth, there is no nearby mosque or Islamic centre to cater to their religious and social needs. At present, residents must travel to Reading, Slough, or Maidenhead for congregational prayers and community events an inconvenience that highlights the need for a local facility.

The establishment of this centre would not only provide a place of worship but also serve as a valuable resource for education, youth activities, and charitable initiatives. It would foster a sense of belonging among Muslim residents and create opportunities for intercultural dialogue, strengthening community ties across Wokingham.

While some may raise concerns regarding parking and traffic, I trust that the project organizers will collaborate with the council to implement practical measures that minimize any potential disruption. Thoughtful planning, such as designated parking spaces and traffic management strategies, can ensure smooth integration into the local area.

Additionally, the presence of this centre will have positive economic effects by generating employment, supporting local businesses, and attracting visitors to the town. More importantly, it will reflect Wokingham's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and respect for all faiths and backgrounds.

I respectfully urge the council to grant approval for this application, as it will significantly benefit the community as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration