

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 43 Hambleton Way
: Winnersh
: RG41 5SH
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Tabeer Ikram
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/04/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed mosque in Winnersh. As a long-standing, law-abiding resident of this community, I believe the repurposing of an existing building into a place of worship and community use is a step forward in embracing the diversity of our town. A mosque would not only serve as a spiritual center for Muslims but also function as a community hub that fosters

understanding, inclusivity, and shared values among all residents. The Muslim population in Wokingham has grown significantly, from approximately 4,000 in 2011 to nearly 8,600 today. Despite this growth, there are currently limited dedicated spaces for worship and community activities. Many Muslim residents, including professionals contributing to healthcare, education, social services, technology, finance, and telecommunications, must travel long distances to reach a place of worship. Establishing a local mosque will alleviate this inconvenience, reduce traffic congestion at other mosques, and provide a much-needed communal space for education, youth programs, and interfaith dialogue.

Concerns have been raised regarding potential issues such as traffic and noise. However, the proposed site has been carefully chosen to minimize disruption, and effective traffic management strategies will be implemented. Additionally, the mosque leadership is committed to being responsible and collaborative with neighbours, open to addressing any concerns and working with the wider community to ensure peaceful coexistence.

It is essential to recognize that faith-based community centers enrich the social fabric of a town. A mosque in Winnersh will not only cater to religious needs but will also promote charitable initiatives, cultural exchange, and opportunities for social cohesion. This proposal is not about division but about integration and creating a welcoming environment for all.

I urge you to support this initiative and consider the positive impact it will have on the local community. Thank you for your time and consideration.