

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 11 Athelstan
:
: RG40
SUBMITTED BY : Miss Fatima Ashfaq
DATE SUBMITTED : 25/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing as a long-standing resident and working professional in Wokingham to express my strong support for the proposed mosque in Winnersh. The growing Muslim community, now exceeding 8,600 individuals, requires an accessible place of worship that meets its religious and social needs. The repurposing of an existing building for this purpose is a thoughtful and efficient use of space that will serve both Muslims and the wider community.

Muslims in Wokingham are integral members of society, contributing across sectors such as healthcare, education, technology, and finance. Many of us work long hours, pay taxes, and actively engage in community service. However, we currently lack a nearby facility for prayer, religious education, and community gatherings. The proposed centre would reduce travel burdens, ease congestion at existing mosques, and provide a space for social cohesion and charitable initiatives.

I acknowledge that concerns have been raised regarding traffic, noise, and integration. However, similar centres nationwide have demonstrated that well-managed places of worship enhance rather than disrupt their surroundings. This mosque will be a place of inclusivity, welcoming interfaith dialogue and strengthening local unity. Furthermore, the Muslim community remains open to discussion and committed to maintaining harmony with our neighbours.

Ultimately, this centre will enrich Wokingham's diverse fabric, promoting understanding and shared values of respect and cooperation. I urge decision-makers to consider the positive social impact of this development and grant approval for a much-needed community