

PLANNING REF : 252498
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 21 Avalon Rd
: Earley, Berkshire
: RG6 7NS
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Nathan Hunt
DATE SUBMITTED : 08/12/2025

COMMENTS:

I would like the plan to consider the inclusion of the construction of a church as part of the community building proposed in the development. Churches provide so much benefit to their communities particularly those starting from fresh.

Statistically 12% of people now attend church regularly and the (YouGov 2025). That would mean in a community of 5000 people, 600 would look to attend a church. It would be in the interests of the environment and community for them to have a local church that they could attend, rather than have to drive further afield and be in a congregation dislocated from its community. And numbers are set to increase with the church growing over 56% in the last 6 years with this growth fastest amongst the youngest (all figures from YOuGov 2025)

In the church you will find people of different ages and nationalities, of different interests, political persuasions, experiences and backgrounds working side by side to serve and support their local communities. For example in Shinfield Community Church (which I attend) 15 nationalities are represented as well as ages

from 6 months to 90+ Such inclusion and diversity is so important in our increasingly polarised society.

Local churches benefit their local communities. For example Share, which is a church based charity, redistributes over 40 tonnes of high quality food donated by local supermarkets to over 2000 local people. Fourteen of its fifteen sites are either located in or run by churches.

Churches provide plentiful local services which will be a great help to a community starting from fresh. In the local Baptist network of churches in May 25:

- 8/10 churches ran a toddler group
- 7/10 Social activity e.g. 50+ sports group, men's breakfast, group for parents,
- 7/10 run social outreach e.g. recovery programme, Bed 4 Night, foodbank support
- 5/10 Midweek children's group

Churches of other denominations also run similar levels of activity. I know that in the community I am in (Shinfield) the church partners with local council and schools to provide support and activities that enhance village life such as community BBQs, commemorative events

such as Remembrance, seasonal activities such as Christmas carols, an Easter play for the village as well as raising money for local charities and members running local charities such as Josimah Baby Bank and Helping Hands. This is well received by the community. So to create a community that is diverse yet caring of one another, active in supporting itself and others, environmentally sustainable, local and vibrant, Please consider constructing a church building as part of the community buildings proposed in the LG Village Development.