

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : prue.bray@wokingham.gov.uk
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SUBMITTED BY : Councillor Prue Bray
DATE SUBMITTED : 16/03/2025

COMMENTS:

Recently the council gave planning permission for the Sikh community to convert a building into a gurdwara (231077), at a site off Gazelle Close, nearby to the site of this proposed Islamic Centre. It is extremely difficult for faith communities to find suitable locations for their needs, including Christian denominations. As this location is not surrounded by residential properties and is accessible by public transport, both bus and train, it seems to me to be a reasonable place for an Islamic Centre. However I do recognise that there are people in our community who have concerns, not least about parking. I would therefore ask that this application is assessed in the same way that the application for the gurdwara was assessed, with a similar condition about parking applied. I would also want to be sure that the traffic movements are managed at the junction with Reading Road. Finally, I note that the proposal includes the possibility of wider community use (as did the Sikh proposal). We have a shortage in Wokingham of community spaces and therefore this is to be welcomed.