

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Riverdene Drive
: Winnersh
: RG415TF
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Patrick A. PEEK
DATE SUBMITTED : 30/03/2025

COMMENTS:

This location has already been deemed unsuitable for an "Education Centre" and permission was turned down by the council previously in 2022. (Planning Application No: 220113 at Unit 1).

There is nothing new in this application for an "Islamic education, worship and community centre" which mitigates the lack of parking, drop-on/drop-off problems and other issues which resulted in 'change of use' being refused in 2022. Infact, given that there will be more people, more movements and more activities in-addition to that of "education", such as daily prays, Ramadan, perhaps weddings and other religious events; this location looks even more unsuitable than before.

There is some vagueness in the application as to what events, prayers and practices are going to be observed at what appears to be a Mosque in all but name? There are two large function rooms inaddition to two prayer rooms; so potentially alot of activity. The Muslim prayer timetable published by the London Central Mosque starts as early as 2.39 AM and runs until 22.44 PM at night in summer. So it may be practically be in 20 hour use if prays are done properly now or in the future. It is not a suitable location being fairly close to residential areas which are overwhelmingly non-muslim to have such activities run at absurd hours of the night. In addition to this there is concern for noise, particularly from amplified public address systems which would seem especially unsuitable in summer when windows are open.

I strongly am against change of use for this location and explicitly any use outside office hours.