

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 18
: Rushall Place
: RG415SY
SUBMITTED BY : Ms Alice Li
DATE SUBMITTED : 25/03/2025

COMMENTS:

Dear Planning Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Islamic community centre in Winnersh. As a long-term resident and working professional, I have seen first-hand the growing need for a dedicated space where the Muslim community can come together for worship, education, and social engagement. This initiative is not just about religion but about ensuring that all residents have equal access to communal facilities that reflect the diversity of our borough.

While some objections have been raised regarding the building's location, we urge the council to assess this application based on fairness, merit, and the genuine needs of the community. The repurposing of existing structures for faith-based supports sustainability and community use is not unprecedented, and similar applications have been granted for other religious communities in the area.

We believe that allowing this Islamic community centre will enrich Winnersh's social fabric, promote understanding, and contribute positively to the borough's diversity and inclusivity. We ask that the committee consider the needs of the growing Muslim population and the broader benefits of this proposal when making its decision.

Concerns have been raised regarding traffic and parking. However, similar places of worship in the area, including the nearby gurdwara, have been granted planning permission with conditions that mitigate these issues. The proposed centre will actively work to minimize disruption through carpooling initiatives, staggered prayer times, and responsible parking management. Additionally, by providing a local facility, the mosque will reduce travel distances for many, decreasing overall congestion.

It is also important to address concerns about noise pollution. Unlike some religious establishments, modern mosques in the UK do not use loudspeakers for calls to prayer, ensuring minimal noise impact. The centre will comply with all local regulations regarding noise and public disturbance, maintaining the peaceful character of the area.

I urge the committee to evaluate this application fairly and in the spirit of equality. Religious and cultural diversity is what makes our community stronger, and this centre will contribute positively to the borough's social and civic life. Approving this proposal will ensure that the needs of a growing segment of our population are met while promoting unity and integration within Winnersh.