

PLANNING REF : 252498
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 6 Trinity Court
: Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham
: RG41 2PY
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Clive Jones
DATE SUBMITTED : 08/01/2026

COMMENTS:

Application 252498 fails to make adequate provision for various faith communities within both the proposed development and the wider Borough.

Within my role as a public representative I have received regular representations from constituents on the pressing need in Wokingham Borough for community facilities for those of Muslim faith as well as community facilities for the Dharmic faiths (which would encompass Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain religions). I have also received representations from Christian faith leaders concerned that there is no church provided for in the application.

All these groups emphasize to me not only the religious aspects of these facilities, but the community opportunities that could be provided at such centres.

Such a large scale development as the Loddon Valley Garden Village presents a unique opportunity to make this provision and it is therefore disappointing to see that space for none of an Islamic community centre, Dharmic centre or church is presently included in this application despite clear demand and local need. I would therefore lobby that a condition be attached to any approval requiring these facilities.

This is a material planning consideration as Section 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework provides under rule 98 that: To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

Conditioning the facilities I mention would be positive planning for meeting places, cultural buildings and places of worship under rule 98(a). It would take into account social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community under rule 98(b). It would represent an integrated approach to considering the location of housing and community facilities in line with local need under rule 98(e).