

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 108
: Reading Road Reading Road, Woodley
: RG5 3AD
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan
DATE SUBMITTED : 02/04/2025

COMMENTS:

Planning Proposal for Mosque (250543)

****Enhanced Community Integration****

The proposed mosque will serve as a multi-purpose community hub, offering not only a space for worship but also educational programs, charitable initiatives, and interfaith dialogue strengthening Wokingham's social cohesion. Currently, many Muslim residents must travel outside the borough to attend prayers, increasing traffic congestion and emissions. A local facility would address these issues while promoting inclusivity and equity. Denying this application would contradict the council's stated commitment to fostering integrated, accessible communities.

****Adherence to Regulatory Standards****

This development has undergone rigorous evaluation and complies fully with all applicable planning policies, including those governing traffic, noise, and design. Both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Equality Act 2010 protect the right to establish places of worship, provided technical requirements are met which they are in this case. There is no lawful or policy-based justification for refusal.

****Dispelling Misconceptions****

Some objections inaccurately portray the mosque as an overdevelopment, when in reality, it is a modest facility tailored to local needs. Detailed assessments confirm that parking and traffic impacts have been adequately mitigated, and the design aligns with the area's character. Far from disrupting the community, the mosque will counter division by providing a shared space for dialogue and unity. Claims of excessive scale are unfounded and ignore the project's thoughtful integration into the borough's diverse fabric.

Traffic and Noise Management

Independent studies show that peak usage, such as Friday prayers, occurs outside rush hours, minimizing traffic interference. On-site parking meets demand, and the design encourages sustainable transport (walking, carpooling), reducing the borough's carbon footprint. Comparisons to larger mosques are irrelevant this proposal is scaled to local needs and designed to harmonize with its surroundings.

**Upholding Equity and Inclusivity**

Wokingham prides itself on diversity, and planning decisions must reflect objective considerations, not unsubstantiated concerns. Just as other faith groups have spaces for worship and community engagement, approving this mosque ensures fairness and reinforces shared values of mutual respect. The social and spiritual benefits of this facility far outweigh speculative objections, advancing unity and collective well-being.