

PLANNING REF : 250486
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Ruskin Way
: Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG413BP
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Nouman Rasheed
DATE SUBMITTED : 21/03/2025

COMMENTS:

I am commenting on this as a resident of Wokingham borough. Please consider the following points in support of this application.

1. Meeting Community Needs

Wokingham has a growing Muslim population that requires a dedicated place of worship, cultural engagement, and community support. This would prevent the need for long travel to other location, which would not only make religious practice more accessible but also would be a greener initiative with less burden on other localities with increased loads.

2. Promoting Diversity & Inclusion

Such establishment would reflect the multicultural nature of Wokingham and promote harmony among different faiths and backgrounds. Encouraging religious diversity fosters greater understanding, tolerance, and social cohesion.

3. Strengthening Community Ties

This can serve as a hub for interfaith dialogue, charity work, and social projects that benefit everyone in Wokingham/Winnersh. Open community events, such as educational talks and open days, can strengthen relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.

4. Supporting Local Economy

Construction and maintenance will create employment opportunities for residents.

5. Providing Essential Services

This facility will be able to offer community services such as food banks, youth programs, educational classes, and mental health support.

These services benefit both Muslims and non-Muslims, ensuring broader community well-being.

6. Upholding British Values of Equality & Freedom

The UK supports freedom of religion, and allowing a mosque in Wokingham aligns with values of equality and respect for all communities. Enabling a place of worship ensures all religious groups are treated fairly and have equal opportunities.

Further to add, many mosques implement staggered prayer times and carpooling initiatives to minimize congestion, especially during peak times like Friday prayers.

Local councils can collaborate with mosque authorities to develop traffic management plans, including designated parking areas and public transport options.

A well-planned project can integrate seamlessly into the area, ensuring it does not overburden local infrastructure. Collaboration with local authorities can ensure appropriate site selection and planning to minimize disruption to residential areas.

Also note any public facility in the area will present these challenges, but with proper planning these can be easily addressed.

The leadership team can maintain open communication with local residents, addressing any concerns through meetings and feedback sessions. Policies can be implemented to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding community, including designated prayer times, event planning, and noise control. Encouraging positive engagement between mosque members and the local community can foster goodwill and understanding.

By proactively addressing these concerns, the mosque can coexist harmoniously with the local community while bringing significant social and cultural benefits