

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Green Lane
: Winnersh, Wokingham
: RG41 5EH
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Amrit Singh
DATE SUBMITTED : 22/03/2025

COMMENTS:

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my strong formal objection to the proposed Islamic Community Centre application, citing several critical material planning considerations that warrant serious examination:

Traffic Safety and Infrastructure:

The proposed center's location and access to and from Reading Road poses significant traffic safety hazards due to:

- o Existing severe congestion patterns that in turn create issues on the Showcase roundabout.
- o Insufficient infrastructure to accommodate increased vehicle movements.
- o Particularly concerning conditions during Friday afternoon prayer times, for which I feel the information from the Transport Scoping Note is misleading given experience of traffic problems near other such centers - especially during Friday prayers.
- o Potential for dangerous queuing and merging maneuvers.

Parking Provision Deficiencies:

The allocated parking spaces are demonstrably insufficient for projected usage, leading to:

- o Unavoidable overflow parking in adjacent commercial lots.
- o Increased risk of illegal parking practices.
- o Predictable conflicts with neighboring businesses (Halfords, Wickes).
- o People will not walk to this center, despite this being outline by some supporting this application during inclement weather conditions or rush to get to prayers on time.
- o Reduced safety for pedestrians and vehicles.

The council need to take into account data from the National Travel Survey that highlighted that the average number of persons in a car during a short trip is 1.5 people.

Impact on Local Commerce:

The development threatens Winnersh's business ecosystem in the vicinity through:

- o Disruption of existing customer access patterns.
- o Loss of parking spaces essential for commercial operations.
- o Negative impact on local employment opportunities.

- o Potential closure of affected enterprises which serve the local community.
- o Potential for conflict.

Community Integration Claims

The application's assertion regarding multi-faith community usage requires scrutiny as I feel there is misleading representations in

the application due to:

- o Lack of verifiable precedent from similar facilities from other sites in the area, which have shown that they only cater for the Muslim community.
- o Unrealistic expectations regarding shared facility management.

Moreover, as mentioned in the other comments on this forum, there is an estimated 15 mosques within the vicinity, which can already cater for the local Muslim population.

I formally request that Wokingham Council takes full responsibility for addressing these material planning considerations. Should approval proceed despite these documented concerns, the council must acknowledge its role in any subsequent issues affecting Winnersh residents and businesses.

Ultimately when accessing this application, it needs to be done based upon assessing the suitability of the location based upon the intended use - and not be concerned about rejection based upon the fear of being seen as racially discriminatory.

Winnersh has a pleasant and harmonious nature - and the council should show it's full support to ensure it remains this way.

Kind Regards