

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Wokingham Engla 19
: Wokingham
: RG40
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Sajad Mir
DATE SUBMITTED : 01/04/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to express my strong support for the planning application for a Community Hub and Place of Worship in Wokingham Borough. As a local resident, I believe this development is crucial for addressing the needs of the significant Muslim population in our area, which is ~9,000 people according to the 2021 Census and has significantly increased since 2021. Currently, there is no dedicated place for worship and community activities for this group.

The religious needs of different faiths vary, and for Muslims, a place of worship is integral to their faith as they use it more frequently than followers of other religions. This must be taken into consideration and respected. Many of our fellow citizens have pointed out that the availability of places of worship in neighbouring boroughs is practically impossible to access five times a day.

The proposed facility would serve not only as a place of worship but also as a centre for community connection, social support, and intercultural dialogue. The local Muslim community contributes significantly to the borough's economy and social fabric, and this hub would further enhance their positive impact. This centre will also be a cornerstone for charity and meaningful interfaith exposure, which is urgently needed as misconceptions about Islam are increasing due to a lack of understanding of this faith. We are confident that this centre will be an open space for others to come and learn more about this beautiful community.

Muslims cherish and respect every faith and people, creating love and harmony within the community. This project is a vital step towards greater inclusivity and community cohesion. I respectfully urge the planning committee to approve this application, recognising its importance in strengthening our diverse and vibrant borough.