

PLANNING REF : 250543
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 51 Simons Lane
: Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG41 3HG
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Saleem Khan
DATE SUBMITTED : 01/04/2025

COMMENTS:

I am writing to express my support for the planning application for the proposed Community Hub and Place of Worship in Wokingham Borough.

As a local resident, I believe this development is essential in addressing the needs of a significant and growing Muslim population numbering over 8,500 according to the 2021 Census who currently lack a dedicated facility for worship, education, and community activities.

The proposed centre will serve not only religious purposes but also function as a vital space for community connection, social support, and intercultural dialogue. Members of the Muslim community actively contribute to the borough's economy, social life, and civic landscape. This initiative will further enhance their positive role in the community while promoting inclusivity and social cohesion.

I acknowledge that concerns have been raised regarding matters such as parking, traffic, environmental impact, flooding, and noise. However, these issues are common to most developments in the area, regardless of their intended use. Importantly, a detailed Transport and Flood Risk Assessment has been submitted as part of the planning application, which should be evaluated on its individual merit and in accordance with established planning protocols.

This proposal represents a step towards building a more inclusive and united borough, where all communities feel recognised and supported. I respectfully urge the Planning Committee to consider the wider social value of this project and to approve the application in the interest of fostering harmony and diversity in Wokingham.