

## DC Admin

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 28 October 2024 22:01  
**To:** sheikh.ullha@kirklees.gov.uk; Cllr Donna Bellamy;  
paolaantonio.davis@kirklees.gov.uk; Cllr Eric Firth; Cllr Zahid Kahut;  
susan.leerichards@kirklees.gov.uk; Cllr Tony McGrath; Cllr Paul Moore; Cllr Mohan Sokhal  
**Cc:** Sarah Longbottom; Karen North; Highways ROSS; DC Admin; Cllr Carole Pattison; Andrea Woodside  
**Subject:** 2023/62/91715/E

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Dear all,

By way of introduction, we are the owners of Quality Food Store on Ravenshouse Road WF133QU, residing next door to the Mohaddis-e-Azam mosque.

As some of you were elected last year, I am sure most will not be aware of the long history regarding this application and the difficulties this particular site has caused for many years, which is evidenced in council records. As such, I wanted to touch base and provide a brief overview which I hope each member holds into regard when discussing this application and deciding on its outcome, to aid them in understanding the full extent of its consequences, should approval be obtained.

For the last several years, we and the mosque have run into numerous issues regarding the parking/traffic outside our business, which has caused immense stress, mental exhaustion, and a negative impact on our commercial operations. Their visitors have long been accustomed to blocking, trespassing on our forecourt and parking there during busy times, blocking entrance to the shop for our deliveries, customers (particularly those with wheelchairs/strollers) and contributing to heavy traffic outside the shop.

All evidence of these blockages have been provided to Kirklees Council and the relevant planning officer for many years, and continue to be sent numerous times a week. This too, with the current capacity of the mosque. It is unfortunate to report that these emails fall on deaf ears, and the council have done little to make this situation right and we are left to deal with this all alone. As that stands, we see no reason why the council should make this worse by permitting this application and maximising the capacity of the mosque, especially considering the level of frustration it has been causing in its current capacity for many years.

Although the committee may not be, the council are currently aware of the issues with this site (as referenced above) and there are no implementations to prevent this damage we are facing. I appreciate that in the past attempts have been made, such as yellow lines and parking officer visitations, it has clearly not been adhered to and the council appear to have given up with this issue altogether, as our emails have long gone unnoticed.

There have been many accidents involving other cars and pedestrians at this site, as a result of the mosque traffic, as their drivers pay little to no attention as to what they are doing when visiting the mosque. This too has been reported to the council.

Not only are we affected, but local residents have also been affected as their comments clearly indicate. This site has caused concerns for local safety, with the traffic even extending onto the zebra crossing and beyond, blocking the visibility and putting kids in danger who should otherwise feel comfortable knowing they are walking on a zebra crossing path. Again, photographic evidence of this has been provided to the council in the past.

All this occurs, as a result of a single floor mosque building, and it raises to question as point of reasonable thinking, if the mosque was to increase in size/capacity, then so too would the traffic/parking violations, disturbance to our business and personal rights, and the safety of ourselves and the local community.

Additionally, as these issues have not been eradicated till date, there is nothing to say such eradication will occur in the future, so it begs to question whether these concerns are even being considered by the local authority. It is quite simple, if the issue has not been controlled (which many years have gone by and given the current capacity of the mosque) the issues will only be made worse after development of this proposal, and the council will again be unable to control the issues that they would then be taken to have contributed to by approving this application, knowing fully well that such risk is very likely.

Although police were involved at the beginning, due to a limitation of resources and it being a non-emergency category, they have been unable to solve this issue.

The mosque was given many chances to make right the issues it has caused, such as obtaining land which they said to the council was for the purpose of a car park in 2018, which was shortly occupied with illegal portacabins for 5 years. This shows the mentality of their operations and the lack of regard they pay the local community. The removal of these cabins only occurred as a result of threatened legal action, following years of ignoring requests to do so. Even with the removal of the illegal cabins there is simply not enough space in the car park for the single floor building and the capacity of mosque users it brings.

They have no intention to solve the problems they create and will continue to act as they always have, with little regard to the difficulties others face as a result of them.

Officers such as Karen North, Sarah Longbottom, the Highways, Parking, and Planning departments have all been made aware of all these issues for many years. Some members of the Heavy Woollen committee who will be in attendance in this meeting will know the full extent of this. All I ask is you take consideration of the points raised in this meeting, because if approval is given then it will increase the traffic to a level where it would cause severe damage not only to ourselves and business but also the local community.

As this is now out of our control and in your hands, we have no other choice but to request that if permission is granted, we are then provided with something along the lines of a S106 agreement where this council take full responsibility for any loss/damage/disturbance caused to us or our business, as the mosque have failed to do so in the past.

I've added \_\_\_\_\_ to convey the importance of your decision.

Thank you for taking your time to read this email and I hope you take into consideration all photographic evidence provided for many years, and everything we had discussed as this will impact many of us for the remainder of our lives.

Kind regards,

Quality Food Store