

**Consultation Response from KC,
Highways Development Management**

2024/90952 Masjid Noor & Education Centre, Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, WF12 9HF

Erection of extensions and alterations

Date Responded: 30-7-2024.

Responding Officer: Mark Berry.

Responding Ref: 16-19NE-7.

This application is supported by a Transport Statement (TS) prepared by Paragon Highways. This is summarised as follows:

“The development proposals comprise of the reconstruction of the existing Masjid Noor and Education Centre.

The Masjid Noor and Education Centre provides religious services and teachings to the local community. The centre provides opportunity for regular prayer sessions five times per day for people that reside in the local area.

The centre also offers classes with around 50no. students and 5no. teachers attend classes Monday to Friday between the hours of 5pm and 7pm. There is no increase because of the development in terms of visitors and staff.

The site will be accessed via the existing arrangements off Lees Hall Road.

Car parking already exists to the southern section of the proposed development site in form of 21no. spaces which include spaces reserved for disabled visitors.

Most attendees make their journeys to and from the site on foot as they live locally. As such, the existing parking arrangements have been deemed adequate.

Secure and sheltered cycle storage facilities will be provided towards the eastern boundary of the site.

To estimate the vehicle trips associated with the current building it has been necessary to interrogate the national TRICS database. The TRICS data is based on places of worship. This shows that the existing use would generate up to 5 trips during the network peak hours. The proposed extension to the building would result in an increase traffic generation of 1 trip during the network peak hours (generating up to 6 trips).

It is acknowledged that the network peak hours are not necessarily the busiest period for the centre, and that Friday afternoon prayer sessions are the busiest with between 50 and 70 people attending the centre during these times. Most people attending the prayer sessions are local and generally walk to the site. It is therefore considered that the current traffic and parking demands at the site can be accommodated using the existing access and parking area.

The site provides education facilities with 50 students attending the classes between 5pm and 7pm. There are 5 staff members for the classes. The students generally live within walking distance with the occasional drop off and pick up by car along with staff members travelling to and from the site before and after the classes. The site access and parking area can easily accommodate the staff parking and any drop off/ pick-up movements associated with the classes.

The Transport Statement concludes that is therefore concluded that the development is considered acceptable, and that there are no highway safety or efficiency reasons why planning consent for the proposed development should not be granted”.

Highways Development Managements (HDM) concerns regarding the conclusions of the Transport Statement are that no surveys of the existing traffic generation and parking have been undertaken at the Friday afternoon prayer sessions and that both the male ground floor and female first floor prayer halls are shown to be extended which will increase their capacity.

This application therefore provides insufficient information to allow a proper highway assessment to be undertaken.

The additional capacity of the two halls (The potential number of prayers mats the halls can accommodate) should be assessed and the traffic generation and parking should be based on peak Friday afternoon prayer session traffic and parking surveys.