April 2025

PLANNING STATEMENT

CHANGE OF USE OF VILLAGE HALL TO PLACE OF WORSHIP; FARTOWN VILLAGE HALL BALL ROYD ROAD, FARTOWN, HUDDERSFIELD

Job Ref: 2907

acumen
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1. This statement has been prepared to support a planning application for the Change of Use of Fartown Village Hall to a Mosque. There will be no external alterations to the building.

2. The building sits within a densely populated area of Huddersfield and within 100m walking distance from the A641 Bradford Road that is well served by public transport.

3. The change of use comprises a change from Class F2 (b) – a hall or meeting place for the principal use of the local community, to Class F1 (f) – for public worship or religious instruction.

4. The applicant purchased the building from Kirklees Council in December 2024. Prior to that the building has been vacant since 2017.

5. Local Plan Policy LP48 refers to the provision and loss of community facility. It explains that "*Proposals which involve the loss of valued community facilities such as shops, public houses and other facilities of value to the local community will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:*
   a. *there is no longer a need for the facility and all options including the scope for alternative community users have been considered."*

6. This building was previously owned and managed by Kirklees Council. The building became surplus to requirements and became vacant in 2017, and then in late 2024 the Council sold the building at auction. We would therefore conclude that there is no longer a need for the facility and therefore the proposed development accords with LP48.

7. Notwithstanding the above, the proposed use should also be considered a community use and will benefit much of the local population. We would therefore conclude that the proposed development is an alternative community use and therefore LP48 does not apply as the building will continue to be used for community use.

8. As explained above the building is in a densely populated area, so the building will be accessible to many of the users who will be able to walk to the facility. Bradford Road, which is well served by public transport, is less than 100m to the west of the site, so we would also conclude that the proposed development is easily accessible by public transport.