

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 19 October 2026 18:05
To: DC Admin
Subject: Formal Objection to Planning Application: 2026/62/92385/W

FAO Danielle Cooper

Dear Danielle,

I hereby submit my formal objection to **Planning Application 2026/62/92385/W** by 'Al-Hira Educational Centre'.

To give a little context; these premises, which used to be the Jolly Sailor pub, have been used as a mosque for a number of years now - this is despite not having the appropriate planning permission to do so. I believe that the building owners knew they wouldn't get planning permission for a mosque (their application was withdrawn over 10 years ago due to the number of objections in the community), so they instead changed the planning application to a 'Children's Education Centre' to get it over the line, thinking it would be much easier to apply for a change of use later on if the building had been getting used as a mosque.

I have reported the activity at this building over and over again across 2+ years, with over 30 emails to former Councillors. I have also reported the activity to the Planning Enforcement team at Kirklees Council in terms of breach of planning permission - this was at the beginning of 2025. Sadly, I was never updated and no outcome was advised. I have never heard anything else despite regularly chasing for updates from the Planning Dept. I have also reported to WYP and local PCSOs, and the Highways Dept. (Transport, Roads, and Parking) in relation to the parking debacle. Seemingly, nobody wanted to get involved or take any action.

My concern - which is shared by many others on the local groups on social media - is that the owners of this building have already shown themselves to be deceitful and duplicitous - deliberately and cynically circumnavigating the planning system by intentionally obfuscating the truth about what the building is to be intended for.

The original planning application stated the key points;

1. The building will be used to teach English and Maths to children, in line with the National Curriculum.

- a. *The building is NOT used as a children's education centre. In over 2 years, I have seen children entering the building ONCE. The only thing being taught there is Islam, as demonstrated and confirmed by the mosque's Facebook page which regularly advertises prayer meetings for "brothers only".*
2. The pupils attending will be from the local area, therefore will attend on foot, placing no additional pressure on the road network and parking situation
 - a. *As mentioned in point 1, this is not a children's education centre, and I have counted up to as many as 80 vehicles parked on that junction at prayer time on a Friday afternoon. This is causing significant safety issues on what is already a very busy and dangerous junction. The vehicles park illegally and in an obstructive manner - on pavements, double parked (sometimes even triple parked), at bus stops, on double yellow lines, on bends, and at the junction. They obscure the view of other drivers trying to pull out from the junction and show a complete lack of respect for local residents and those having to drive along those roads. I, personally, have had a couple of very near misses when trying to pull out from that junction because of the mosque parking, and it's only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured, if not killed.*

Incidentally, Kirklees Council's very own Roads and Highways Department suggested that the original application be refused on the grounds of it posing too much of a hazard with parking/congestion at the junction. This recommendation was ignored and the planning was granted.

Now, the new planning application and associated supporting documentation (which is littered with lies from top to bottom), states the following;

1. The site has operated as a children's education centre since 2015 but 'more recently' has hosted Friday sermons.
 - a. *This is completely untrue! It has not operated as a children's education centre at all. Local residents can testify to this - we never see children regularly going in or out - it is used as a mosque by adult men ONLY, and this has been the case for a number of year's now. I have been reporting it for over 2 years and I know it was being used for this purpose for a time before I started reporting it.*
2. In their application, they love to place emphasis on their 'Parking Marshalls' and claim that this alleviates traffic and parking issues.
 - a. *Placing 3 or 4 traffic cones outside the front of the mosque does NOT in any way constitute minimising impact on the surrounding area, especially when vehicles of the mosque attendees are parking as far as 250metres in all directions. Perhaps the 'Parking Marshalls' could explain why they allow so many vehicles visiting the mosque to park dangerously and obstructively right along Carr Green Lane, Hill Top Road, Long Lane, Coniston Avenue, Broad Lane and up in to Robson Drive?*
3. The traffic survey they've paid for is wholly misleading.
 - a. *They have downplayed the effect that the traffic and parking has when prayer meetings are in session.*
4. They claim on their covering letter that this application is, "essentially a rationalisation of an established and valued community use, updating the consent to reflect current use".
 - a. *This is PRECISELY what I knew they'd do - use it as a mosque without permission or consent, and then sneakily submit an application claiming that it's been used for this purpose for a while without issue. They must think we are stupid!*
5. They state in the application form that the work has already been started without consent (on 01/03/2025).

- a. They are demonstrating that they have no intention of following rules, regulations or planning law.
- 6. They state the principle mode of travel will be public transport, walking or cycling.
 - a. Again, this is completely untrue, and if this planning permission is granted, it will essentially make that junction a car park for the mosque.
- 7. They have extended their opening hours - prayers will now be daily, and potentially multiple times a day.
 - a. They've stated that prayers can be held as early as 30 minutes before sunrise (this can be as early as 4:00am in the summer months) and as late as 10:45pm at night! Local residents simply do not want this level of disturbance with vehicles parking, manoeuvring, car doors opening and closing, engines starting, people talking and gathering outside the mosque. It is completely antisocial and will disturb their peace which, I am sure, they should have a right to in their own homes.
- 8. The photos taken by Citystruct on a Friday at prayer time as part of their 'independent assessment' conveniently show an empty road with no vehicles parked!
 - a. How about I supply MY photos that show completely the opposite? It's obvious that they've arranged for this company to come at a certain time and then told the mosque attendees not to park there whilst the photos are taken! My photos, and those of other residents, tell a completely different tale and show - yet again - that the owners are being deliberately deceitful and duplicitous. This assessment that they have submitted cannot be classed as independent.
- 9. They've provided an additional "independent" assessment for noise, stating that the noise is minimal.
 - a. This and the other reports they've submitted can hardly be classed as independent when they're being paid for by the owners of the mosque! My concern, and that of many others in the community, is that if planning is granted for this to 'officially' be a mosque, then the next step could well be a call to prayer 5 times a day, from 5am in the morning. We do NOT want this in our neighbourhood! Give an inch and some people will take a mile. They have already proven that they're not trustworthy, by lying about the use of the building and the parking situation.

The grounds upon which I am objecting are as follows;

1. Parking/Congestion at the junction. The chaos caused outside the building in terms of obstructive parking - reported numerous times over the years by local residents to previous Cllrs, PCSOs, and Kirklees Council. I can provide the countless emails I have sent reporting this. There is genuine risk to life/safety issues, as pointed out by the Roads and Highways department when planning was originally applied for. Resident's vehicles have been crashed in to, dangerous driving and manoeuvres are regularly witnessed by the vehicles turning up at the mosque, and it's only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured, if not worse. It is on a school route so children and parents with prams and pushchairs are having to take a risk walking in the roads due to the inconsiderate parking. They mention they have 12 spaces which will be increased to 14. I think the 12 spaces is a significant exaggeration of the available space to park a vehicle, and increasing it to 14 is a drop in the ocean when you consider the scale of the issue.

2. Unsociable hours. To have extended the hours to daily prayers, potentially multiple times a day, means that junction will end up looking like a car park permanently. It is bad enough on a Friday afternoon and a Thursday evening, but to have prayer sessions significantly expanded will cause a lot of upset for local residents.
3. Noise and Disruption. They have stated that some prayers will be held 30 minutes before sunrise - this could be as early as 4am in summer months, and the mosque will also hold prayers as late as 10:45pm. This is completely unfair on local residents in terms of noise disruption.

Therefore, the valid reasons to object under material planning considerations would be:

1. **Highway Safety and Traffic**
2. **Noise and Disturbance**
3. **Impact on Neighbouring Amenity**
4. **Policy Conflicts** (on the grounds that the applicant has already been deliberately deceitful numerous times and placed the original application whilst obfuscating the truth to try and circumnavigate the planning system. They have already demonstrated that they have broken the council's own published rules).

Other points that I believe are important to note:

- The Muslim population in Moldgreen is 5.7%, and in Dalton it is 7% (I mention both of these areas since the premises falls on the border of the two). These statistics are both significantly lower than the average for Huddersfield as a whole, which is 22.9% Muslim. Furthermore, the Muslim population as a whole across the country, according to the 2021 census, is 6.3%, so the Muslim population in the area in which the mosque is proposed is even lower than the national average! There is no need - based on the religion of the local residents - to have a mosque in this area. The demography simply does not support having one here. What further corroborates this is the fact that people don't cycle there or turn up on foot - it is not serving the local community - it is people driving from other areas to attend the mosque.
- The likely depreciation of property values should this officially become a mosque. People do **not** want to live near to mosques, for all of the reasons stated in the email above.
- The fact the owners have already been deliberately deceitful should be a warning that whatever they're proposing or promising in this application will NOT be adhered to!

If planning for application 2026/62/92385/W is granted it makes an absolute mockery of Kirklees Council's planning authority; essentially suggesting that it's fine to deliberately deceive the authorities, use the building illegally, and then simply apply years down the line for a change of use in a shameless attempt to have planning awarded retrospectively. If planning isn't granted, will Kirklees Council Planning Dept. simply allow the building owners to continue to use it illegally as they have been doing for years, despite being reported numerous times and planning enforcement supposedly investigating?

Yours sincerely,