

About the application

Application number: 2026/92385	
What is the application for?:	Change of use from ground floor and basement education centre (D1) and first flo
Address of the site or building:	51, Broad Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 9BY
Postcode:	HD5 9BY

User comments

Type of comment: A supporting comment	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

These are my thoughts on some of the comments I have seen from those objecting. I am sure the management of Al-Hira Education Centre remain committed to working constructively with Kirklees Council and local residents to ensure the facility operates harmoniously within the neighbourhood.

1. Operating Hours and Residential Amenity

Islamic prayer times vary seasonally according to the solar cycle, occasionally requiring brief early-morning or late-evening gatherings. These are short, non-commercial activities. Worshippers arrive quietly, observe prayer, and depart promptly – probably around 4 to 5 people! Any potential impact on residential amenity can be managed through appropriate planning conditions, including controls on noise and external lighting. Should the Local Planning Authority consider the absolute earliest or latest seasonal hours unacceptable, then the specific window can be managed via condition or slight adjustment, rather than precluding permission for the core, standard operating hours.

2. Highways, Parking and Traffic Management

I recognise the importance of responsible parking and traffic management. Existing measures I have seen include attendee guidance, temporary traffic controls and volunteer marshals during busier periods, particularly Fridays. I'm sure Al-Hira is willing to work with Council officers and residents to refine and formalise these arrangements through an appropriate Traffic Management Plan. Occasional parking pressure should be assessed proportionately and addressed through practical management measures where possible.

3. Highway Access and Road Safety

Highway safety must be assessed objectively. An independent Transport Assessment has been submitted and concludes that the proposal would not have a severe impact on the local transport network or create unacceptable highway safety issues. The assessment also considers the site's accessibility, existing access arrangements and the expected level and timing of additional journeys. If the Officers feel a single Friday prayer is more appropriate than the proposed two prayers, then this can be agreed upon – I'm sure they are flexible to this.

4. Retention of Frontage Parking

Removing existing frontage parking could reduce the overall parking available in the area and displace vehicles onto surrounding streets. These spaces currently provide a benefit to local residents when the facility is not in use. Their retention should therefore be considered alongside the wider parking arrangements and the potential consequences of removal. The volunteers can actively guide any moving vehicles and other active measures can be applied. There's not been any reported incidents of concern and the centre has been operating for more than ten years.

5. Residential Accommodation and Community Need

The space identified in objections as residential accommodation has not been used as a dwelling since 2013. The proposal would therefore not displace an actively occupied residential unit. Instead, it would enable an existing community building to meet local demand for a place of worship, complementing its established educational role.

I respectfully asks the Council to assess the application on its planning merits, balancing the concerns raised against the proposed management measures, the findings of the professional assessments and the benefits of providing an accessible local community facility.