

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 08/05/2025 5:40 AM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	The Peacock Public House 78 Peacock Street Gravesend Kent DA12 1EG
Proposal:	Change of use from Public House (sui generis) to Place of Worship or Religious Instruction (Class F1) at ground floor.
Case Officer:	Mrs Lisa Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] Week Street Maidstone

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Parish Council
Stance:	Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I am writing in my capacity as [REDACTED] to offer my full and informed support for the above mentioned application, which seeks to convert the long disused Peacock Pub in Gravesend into a mosque and Islamic community centre operated by the Al-Haqq Academy.

[REDACTED] I am very familiar with the Gravesend Muslim community and with the outstanding work Al-Haqq Academy has delivered for years - particularly in the areas of youth support, charitable service, and educational programming. It is with this insight and awareness that I commend this proposal as one that meets genuine local need and contributes meaningfully to social cohesion, sustainable development, and inclusive community infrastructure.

1. Revitalising a Disused Asset for the Public Good

The former Peacock Pub has been closed since early 2024, following several years of unsuccessful attempts to secure viable buyers or operators. This building, a prominent corner site with significant community legacy, risks long term vacancy if not brought back into use. The applicant's plan offers a sustainable and deeply community focused solution: transforming it into a modest scale mosque and community centre that will serve Gravesend's growing population of Muslim families.

This is not simply a change of use; it is a restoration of purpose - ensuring the building continues to function as a gathering place & civic space, aligned with the Borough's objectives to enhance local infrastructure, support brownfield regeneration, and promote inclusive development.

2. Meeting Demonstrable Need in a Growing, Under Served Community

According to the 2021 Census, over 3,300 Muslims reside in the Gravesham Borough, with that number continuing to rise. The two existing mosques in central Gravesend - Gravesend Central and Shah Jalal are operating at or beyond

capacity, especially during Friday congregational prayers & major religious occasions.

Al-Haqq Academy's proposal directly addresses this shortfall by providing a smaller, locally focused prayer facility that will reduce pressure on existing centres, cut down on unnecessary travel, and enable families - especially women, children, and the elderly to engage more comfortably in a spiritual & communal way.

The proposed centre will host not only religious services, but also madrasa classes, mentoring, interfaith open days, and charitable programs open to all. From my experience, these are precisely the kinds of services that prevent youth isolation, encourage social mobility, and build bridges across communities.

3. Respecting Local Character and Minimising Impact

[REDACTED], I appreciate the concerns residents may have about parking, traffic, or late hours. But this application, in my assessment, has taken care to mitigate such concerns:

- Most worshippers are expected to walk from nearby residences, as is customary in Muslim tradition and affirmed in the applicant's own statements.
- Proposed hours of general operation are between 9am-7pm, with short, quiet prayer sessions occurring outside these hours (never accompanied by any public calls to prayer or amplified noise).
- Peak prayer attendance is limited (~65), and staggered across five brief daily sessions - not all day activity.
- The use of the site for a mosque will be significantly quieter and less disruptive than the pub's prior use, which permitted alcohol service, music, and late night footfall.

In essence, this development is far more aligned with a residential neighbourhood than the previous commercial use. It is also notable that a separate planning application for housing above the site was approved, demonstrating both the feasibility of residential integration and the charity's responsible approach to use.

4. Championing Inclusion, Interfaith Relations and Planning Policy

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) encourages the provision of places of worship as part of community infrastructure. Gravesham Borough Council itself espouses values of equality, access, and cohesion. This proposal directly supports those principles by ensuring that an equal right to worship and to convene safely is extended to the Muslim community, just as it is to other faiths.

This project also promotes cross community understanding. The Al-Haqq Academy has a record of inviting schools, interfaith partners, and neighbours to learn about Islamic values, break fasts together during Ramadan, and engage in social good. From Maidstone to Medway, I've seen the power of these initiatives to unite, not divide, diverse populations.

Conclusion

This proposal by Al-Haqq Academy is modest, measured, and deeply needed. It represents inclusive, community led regeneration, and aligns fully with local & national policy objectives around place making, infrastructure, & equality. I respectfully urge Gravesham Borough Council to approve the application & fully support their need

Kind regards