

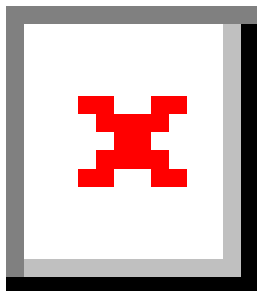
Environmental Protection COMMENTS

Case Number	20250369
Case Officer	Mrs Lisa Fisher
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.
Consultation Expiry Date	21 May 2025
Date of Response	29 May 2025 (JO)

Apologies for the delay in responding to this consultation – a combination of workload and other work priorities.

It's noted that details regarding times of use, expected numbers of worshippers and the nature/style of the worship has been included with this application. In addition, a 'Planning Noise Assessment' by Hepworth Acoustics dated March 2025 (Report Ref: P24-458-R01) has been submitted. The noise assessment includes on site background noise monitoring and also a



comparison of noise associated with the same type of worship at a similar sized venue.

Prayers/worship services are described as generally silent apart from a brief audible part by the Imam for some services. There is no amplification. Some services will take place early in the morning and also late at night dependant on seasons, and it is understood that sunrise and sunset times play an important part in this. These early and late times could be considered as being at antisocial times, however, it is anticipated that there will be less worshippers at these times when compared to afternoon.

Although the noise assessment advises that noise breakout from the prayers in the building will not be an issue or cause adverse impact, clarification of the start/end times is needed. Start times for worship have been cited in the D & A but it's not been made clear if for example 04.30 is the earliest that Fajr prayers will start, and there is no end time given for the Isha prayers which are stated as starting at 22.50 in the summer. This needs clarification as any noise at these times will be far more noticeable than during the daytime and disturbance of sleep could happen.

The noise assessment has based assumptions on windows being kept closed to minimise noise outbreak. If planning is minded to grant the application, a condition should be imposed that prohibits the opening of any windows during the evening and early morning prayers. In addition, any form of amplified voice or sound should be prohibited during these times.

The noise assessment also provides a specification options (section 4) for upgrading the floor/ceiling partition between the ground floor use and the flats/HMO rooms above on the 1st floor. This is based on the criteria previously advised sound insulation level of $D_{nT, W + C_{tr}}$ is not less than 53 decibels (i.e. an enhancement of the minimum levels stated in the Building Regulations of 10dB).

A Travel Plan has been submitted which will assist in minimising noise associated with people coming and going to the building for worship.

The following conditions are therefore recommended, but it would also be advisable to impose a condition based on start/finish times for operation once the timings have been clarified.

Noise mitigation

Noise mitigation measures shall be put into place as follows:

- There shall be no amplified music or voice at any time between the hours of 20:00 and 07:00.
- All windows will be kept closed during services/prayers that take place at any time between the hours of 20:00 and 07:00.
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Sound Insulation

Prior to first use, sound insulation of the ceiling/floor partition between the approved use on the ground floor and the residential use on the 1st floor shall be upgraded such that sound insulation performance of the partitions shall resist the transmission of airborne sound and impact sound such that the weighted standardised difference ($D_{nT, W + C_{tr}}$) is not less than 53 decibels (i.e. an enhancement of the minimum levels stated in the Building Regulations of 10dB) in accordance with the details contained in the 'Planning Noise Assessment' by Hepworth Acoustics dated March 2025 (Report Ref: P24-458-R01).

A post completion noise survey/sound insulation test must be undertaken by a competent qualified acoustic consultant. The results of the survey report shall be submitted to and approved

in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The post completion testing shall assess performance of the noise mitigation measures against the noise levels as set in the report detailed above.

If the post completion survey reveals that the noise emission limit as set out in the above report has not been met further noise mitigation shall be implemented.

The final noise mitigation scheme shall be operated and maintained thereafter.