

Statement

Gravesend Muslims

Cultural & Educational

Centre

INTRODUCTION

We hereby submit this planning statement in support of the proposed extension and conversion works at Gravesend Muslim Cultural & Educational Centre at St Hilda's Way, Gravesend. The purpose of this project is to enhance the facilities at the Centre by creating a dedicated women's prayer area and toilets and providing new access via a new front extension with stairs leading to the women's prayer room.

SITE LOCATION

The site sits on a large area on the junction between St Hilda's Way and St Dunstan Drive, with ample parking spaces to the front and re-creation space to the rear.

PROPOSED WORKS

The current proposal that has been presented is to use the existing basement /storage to facilitate the needs of a women's prayer area and toilets/Ablution facilities. Also, a new separate entrance to the basement is proposed, providing for the new women prayer area. This will be via a construction of a new single-story addition which will provide a new staircase to the right-hand side of the property. Also, a further additional single story is proposed on the front left hand

side which will provide additional space to main prayer hall, which will also help achieve a balance look to the property externally.

SCALE

The proposal has been designed to align within the existing boundary, ensuring that any changes implemented will not be excessive or detract from the scale of the development. As a result, the small alteration is unlikely to have any significant impact on the high street scene, vehicle movement, or the cost-effectiveness of the design.

LAYOUT

The layout of the site reflects the character of the local area, and the proposal will not negatively impact it.

LANDSCAPING

The street scene will remain unaffected by the proposal, as it is situated at a considerable distance from the highway.

DESIGN

The design of the proposal was done accordingly to reflect the nature of the site. The proposed design has been done to be sympathetic and balanced like the existing property, not to be visually obtrusive to the existing street scenery. All external finishes and appearance match with existing, contributing to the continuity of the overall aspect of the street scene.

ACCESS

Access to the property will remain as existing.

PARKING

Parking will remain as existing.

Throughout the weekdays and weekends, the Center experiences minimal foot traffic, with only a small number of visitors, typically ranging between 5 and 10 people, particularly during prayer times.

However, during special events like Eid prayers, there is anticipated to be a surge in the number of visitors. To address the influx of worshippers, the Center plans to conduct two separate Eid prayers. This strategic measure aims to mitigate the attendance of worshippers and effectively manage the increased demand during such occasions.

CONCLUSIONS

This planning statement has been provided in accordance with the Planning requirements to accompany the application forms, drawings, and details.

As we hope the proposal is proven, stated above, not to have any negative impact of social, economic, or aesthetical nature on the neighboring dwellings and as it is designed to preserve the aspect and continuity of the local of the area.

We believe that this proposed development is one that is of a well-considered and high-quality design. This will make a positive contribution to the existing local area and the the proposed enhancements for the women's prayer area will be beneficial for the growing community and worshippers.

The proposal is of sensible size, would not give rise to harm, and has been carefully designed to fit in regards its massing, detailed design, and facing materials.

We kindly request that the Local Authority consider the merits of the proposal in light of the provided information and the broader benefits it offers to the growing community.

