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Our Ref: CPD12932025
Your Ref: 25/02092/FP
Date: 16th September 2025

Re: 45 Bury Mead Road, Hitchin

Dear Alex,

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the proposal to convert the above address into Mosque. I have studied the documentation published on the Council's Planning site and have the following comments to make.

- I have reviewed the crime figures for both the Bury Mead road area and Florence Street on www.police.uk. The period I looked at ran from the first of August 2024 to the thirty-first of July 2025. Over this period there were forty crimes recorded in the Bury Mead Road area – these included nineteen incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB), seven assaults, four criminal damages/arsons, four burglaries, and one vehicle related incident. Over the same period Florence Street had seventeen crimes – five each of ASB and assaults, and three criminal damages/arsons. Unfortunately, the Planning Statement mentions para 98 of the National Planning Policy Framework but omits to mention para 96 (b) – which deals with crime, disorder and the fear of crime. In order to address this matter, I would strongly recommend that the project team engages with Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Prevention Design Service so that the local Crime Prevention Design Advisor can assist them to design out crime opportunities.

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Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6XF

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- I have substantive concerns with regards to the car parking provision, although the Planning Statement cites that there are sixteen spaces on site this will be wholly inadequate during prayer times. The road is already congested with vehicles at the best of times and the issue of parking could cause conflict between the local community and users of the Mosque. A possible solution could be to come to an arrangement with the landlords of 55 Bury Mead Road and use their car park during prayers etc. this would not only reduce the risk of conflict but also ease the congestion with the on-street parking.
- In order to reduce the risk of the Mosque suffering a burglary I would strongly recommend that the applicants seek to achieve accreditation to the Police preferred minimum security standard that is Secured by Design as this is a proven method of reducing the risks of crime. In addition, it can also assist in the reduction of the Carbon Footprint of the building over its lifetime.

Given the concerns raised above the Police are not in a position to fully support this application. If, however, the applicants engage with Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Prevention Design Service with a view to ensuring that this site has appropriate security measures in place, then our position would change.

Yours faithfully

Mark Montgomery

Mark Montgomery

Crime Prevention Design Advisor

Hertfordshire Constabulary

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