

APPEALS AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE

**MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021
7.00 PM**

VENUE: [Peterborough City Council Youtube Page](#)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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Committee Members:

Councillors: Ansar, Barkham, Coles, Dowson, J Holdich (Chairman), S Lane, D Over, B Rush (Vice Chairman), N Sandford, Simons and Yurgutene

Substitutes: Councillors: Ayres, M Jamil, Qayyum, A Shaheed and Yasin

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Daniel Kalley on telephone 01733 296334 or by email – Daniel.kalley@peterborough.gov.uk

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<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s21850/Protocol%20on%20the%20use%20of%20Recording.pdf>

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APPEALS & PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE

8 MARCH 2021 AT 7.00PM

- 1 Procedure for Speaking
2. List of Persons Wishing to Speak
3. Briefing Update

UPDATE REPORT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SPEAKING SCHEME - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Procedural Notes

1. Planning Officer to introduce application.
2. Chairman to invite Ward Councillors, Parish Council, Town Council or Neighbourhood representatives to present their case.
3. Members' questions to Ward Councillors, Parish Council, Town Council or Neighbourhood representatives.
4. Chairman to invite objector(s) to present their case.
5. Members' questions to objectors.
6. Chairman to invite applicants, agent or any supporters to present their case.
7. Members' questions to applicants, agent or any supporters.
8. Officers to comment, if necessary, on any matters raised during stages 2 to 7 above.
9. Members to debate application and seek advice from Officers where appropriate.
10. Members to reach decision.

The total time for speeches from Ward Councillors, Parish Council, Town Council or Neighbourhood representatives shall not exceed ten minutes or such period as the Chairman may allow with the consent of the Committee.

MPs will be permitted to address Committee when they have been asked to represent their constituents. The total time allowed for speeches for MPs will not be more than five minutes unless the Committee decide on the day of the meeting to extend the time allowed due to unusual or exceptional circumstances.

The total time for speeches in respect of each of the following groups of speakers shall not exceed five minutes or such period as the Chairman may allow with the consent of the Committee.

1. Objectors.
2. Applicant or agent or supporters.

APPEALS & PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 PM

LIST OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

Agenda Item	Application	Name	Ward Councillor / Parish Councillor / Objector / Applicant
6.1		Cllr Ansar Ali Edward Trickett Nazim Khan/Mohammed Iqbal	Ward Councillor Objector Applicant

BRIEFING UPDATE

Appeals and Planning Review Committee-8 March 2021

ITEM NO	APPLICATION NO	SITE/DESCRIPTION
1 .	20/01260/WCPP	Masjid Ghousia 406 Gladstone Street Millfield Peterborough , Variation of condition C8 (to allow the amplified call to prayer 3 times per day every day (early afternoon, late afternoon and sunset) pursuant to planning permission 03/01516/FUL (New mosque, extension to existing mosque and new brickwork facade - revised)

The following written submission has been received from Edward Trickett who will address the committee.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak regarding a variation submitted reference: 20/01260/WCPP in relation to 03/01516/FUL. The application for variation was submitted 3rd September 2020 and Validated 25th October 2020

In this country we have a diverse population and so we as individuals and as communities must work together to promote equality and diversity for everyone.

Therefore I feel it is incumbent upon me to speak out about the proposed amendment to an already established and agreed upon planning application regarding Masjid Ghousia and associated Jaimia Ghousia.

Prior to my main arguments I wish to briefly outline the properties history, whereby there have been a number of applications totalling over 20 separate already requested and accepted by Peterborough Council Planning and Environmental Protection Committee dating back to 1998 such as provision for the existing Mosque to be extended and multiple subsequent alterations to the Mosque in the properties relatively short history since being extended.

I make reference to this because it demonstrates that the council has been accommodating to the submissions made by the Mosque and therefore it is fair to say that the council has facilitated the Muslim population of Peterborough in their religious practices and hasn't been a hindrance, therefore any accusations of discrimination should be dispelled immediately.

The matter at hand is regarding an amendment to a planning application already cited, the application was originally received 13th October 2003 and decided 15th December 2003. The decision agreed to the proposals by the Markazi Jamia Mosque Ghousia Committee which were to allow for a substantial extension of an existing Mosque.

The decision was agreed upon with a number conditions on the planning application however namely C8 (condition) which I quote: There shall be no amplified music or voices projected from the building and R8 (reason) which I quote: In the interest of residential amenity.

The council had already made a decision regarding a practice widely known about within Islam, namely the Adhan. The Adhan is highly revered within Islam, they regard it as the very voice of God itself and therefore I understand the importance of such a practice even though I am not religious myself.

My main points are as such:

The Adhan being played through an amplified system with properties in proximity to the Mosque. Whereby residents may not be from that faith is untenable and this is chiefly due to the noise generated by such a practice. Upon reviewing the associated paperwork regarding this variation request I have counted all public comments made, there have been 78 objections constituting 63.4%, constituting a majority of the community objecting to the Adhan being publicly broadcast as per the originally agreed

upon planning application.

Since the Mosque has been used in its current form for almost 20 years now, the Adhan hasn't been used in public broadcast without issue. The preclusion of public broadcasting of the Adhan hasn't negatively affected the religious practices or beliefs of the Islamic community that use the Mosque.

There is already technology and provisions in place regarding the Adhan and its relevance to the practice of Islam, these include: Masjid radios, apps, alarms and the Islamic community itself as people car share or attend Mosque together. Therefore a public broadcasting of the Adhan is simply not necessary.

There is no reference regarding provision of volume control or any mitigation regarding such an issue, the noise generated by 4 loud speakers positioned high up in a minaret will project the Adhan a considerable distance and would be audible to people who have already lodged their objection to the Adhan being public

There is legitimate concern that if Mosques in any given locale are granted permission to have the Adhan publicly that this will have a cascading effect within that community and the UK as a whole, a cursory search of Peterborough and listed Mosques, shows there are around 9 such properties listed as a Mosque or Islamic centre all within approximately 1 mile radius of Masjid Ghousia. If this Mosque was granted permission to have the Adhan as a public broadcast, this could lead these other properties and any subsequent property that may be permitted to be constructed/converted to also have the Adhan in public form. This would further exacerbate the issue expressed by residents regarding noise pollution and could well lead to unnecessary tensions within the community as a result.

The application is for the Adhan to be broadcast outside of unsociable hours as per noise legislation, however there are concerns that if a sufficient number of Mosques were permitted to broadcast the Adhan publicly, this could potentially give a precedence. Whereby sufficient pressure could be applied to existing legislation to have this amended and then the Adhan could potentially then be broadcast 5 times a day. This could then lead to tensions mounting further within any given community.

I therefore conclude by saying it is my fervent hope that the Appeals and Planning Review Committee uphold the decision made by the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee and that the variation request made be denied.

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