

Proposals to Develop Worcester Park Public House



Public Consultation Information

Venue: St Mary's Church
The Avenue
Worcester Park
Surrey
KT4 7HL

Date: Friday, 11th October 2013
Time: 19:30 – 21:30

Date: Saturday, 12th October 2013
Time: 10:00 – 16:30

There will be a full set of plans & drawings available to view as well as an opportunity to meet members of the Ismaili Community to answer any questions that you may have.

We represent the Southwest London Ismaili Community who are proposing to convert The Worcester Park Public House, (closed in August 2012), into a centre for its Community. This letter sets out some basic information about the proposal and invites you to attend a public consultation in October. Here, members of the Ismaili Community will be present to answer any questions that you may have.

The site has been chosen for a number of reasons:

- Many Ismaili families live in Kingston, Surbiton, Wimbledon and Worcester Park.
- The venue is very well served by public transport links, which many members will use.
- There is good on-site parking (54 spaces) which is sufficient for peak usage.

The proposal is to use the property to serve the social, cultural, educational and religious needs of its members. The Worcester Park Centre will comprise of three main spaces: i) an activity space which will be used, principally in the evening and at weekends, to hold a weekly youth club, early childhood development programmes, exercise classes and a day centre for elderly members; ii) a small library; and iii) a space for meditation and spiritual practices.

Members of the Ismaili Community have been living in the area for many years. As in other parts of the United Kingdom, the Community comprises

men and women from all walks of life including: professionals, entrepreneurs and students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

In keeping with the ethos of the Community, a significant number are involved in volunteering, with the aim of improving the quality of life of those amongst whom they live. As such, the building will be maintained by volunteers who will be responsible for ensuring that the interior and exterior are kept in good order.

Ismaili Community Centres represent the Community's aspirations and stand as a symbol of their values. The Centres are well-designed, good quality buildings, characterised by a lack of external adornment.

The Community places great emphasis on trying to ensure that the appearance of their Community Centres is in harmony with the architecture and aesthetic of the area in which they are located and that they are good neighbours to all.

The Community is conscious of the fact that the Worcester Park Public House is a local landmark and, accordingly, proposes to retain the character of the building. As such, they are proposing to make very few changes to its external appearance.

Meditational practices and readings are held once a day (in the evening between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on weekdays and from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at weekends) and the use will generate less traffic, particularly during the evening rush hour, than did the public house before.

It is very important to the Ismaili Community that the scheme is appropriate for the site and is fully understood by the neighbours. With this in mind, we have organised a Public Consultation the details of which are above.

An introductory booklet about the Ismaili Community, which is led by His Highness the Aga Khan, will be available on the day for your reference. Further information about His Highness the Aga Khan and the Ismaili Community can be found at www.akdn.org and www.theismaili.org.

The Ismaili Community looks forward to welcoming you at the consultation. However, if you cannot attend, they would still be pleased to hear your comments.

Please forward your views to Nick Davey on consultation@jtspartnership.co.uk.