

The operation will be fully supervised and managed by local volunteers with car parking for larger events and main Friday prayers manned by car parking attendants. Our research identifies a congregation of around 250 for main Friday prayers with a normal daily attendance of 30 for daily prayers. Attendance at the proposed teaching facilities will be split into hourly classes commencing early evening. All attendees will be encouraged to walk to the centre and children encouraged to cycle with secure cycle storage provided. The site will of course provide car parking along with electric charging points and the car park will be made available for use by the local community.

We feel that the sites position within the centre of our community will encourage a walk to prayer rather than a desire to drive, staff will promote walk to prayer or walk to class schemes. Along with our social and community aims our construction will endeavour to promote bio diversity improvement. The construction will encompass solar energy. Air source pumps and rain water harvesting. Additional landscaping and general external paving will enhance the setting. External lighting will provide additional security and a sense of well being for local residents.

In conclusion we feel that our proposal will not only provide a needed local facility but feel that the project will provide a wholly sustainable building for the benefit of the wider local community. We feel that our design will provide a building of note for the wider community and indeed give the area a form of cultural and economic lift

## PLANNING STATEMENT

### INCORPORATING DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Masjid Abu Bakr

Proposed Masjid and Community Centre at Bawtry Road, Sheffield

We submit our scheme for a proposed Masjid and Community Centre to replace the former Methodist Church on site.

The existing church is currently vacant with reduced congregations making its use unviable. The site is a mixed area with commercial and residential use dominant in the immediate location. Our submission/proposal is to demolish the existing building and in essence rebuild with a building offering prayer to an alternative faith along with multi faith and cultural facilities for the wider community.

We will retain the existing access point and we basically submit that our scheme in essence provides a more sustainable religious worship for the local community.

Our submission will provide prayer facilities along with Islamic teaching for boys and girls and provide multi faith facilities for the local community. The applicants hope to attach local youth groups and operate after school and evening activities for local children along with providing function facilities available for the whole district. We feel that the proposal will provide much needed social space that is currently unavailable in the district and encourage the local community to reach socially on a local basis.

Our design is considered to be of significant form to establish a stand out structure that will in our opinion form a focal point for the area and indeed provide a significant structure to the benefit of the wider community. The Charitable Committee operating the project have raised considerable funds locally and are in a position to commence the project and develop the site with immediate affect to instill a new community feel to the area and we feel inspire a new community togetherness. We feel that there are insufficient local prayer facilities currently available in the immediate area and that our proposal to provide prayer alongside our additional provisions will only benefit not just the Islamic community but the whole community.

Operations will be supervised by a local community of Elders who will employ suitable qualified staff for religious evening lessons and we hope to provide fully supervised after school social activities on a regular basis. Our emphasis will be on a full use of our community space not restricted by faith.