

## Stanmore and Edgware Golf Centre

# **Alternative Venues Note**

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Appeal Reference APP/M5450/W/22/3299650

October 2022

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## 1 Introduction

1.1 This note is provided by agreement and is principally aimed at the list of venues put forward by members of the public at the inquiry on 11<sup>th</sup> October (List A). But like the appellant and for completeness, I also refer to a second list produced by a member of the public on 13<sup>th</sup> October, and this is referred to as List B, although greater emphasis in this note is on the venues in List A.

1.2 For the purposes of this note I rely on the following sources of information:

1. Venue website extracts

2. Questionnaire survey sent to venues on 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October which I asked the following questions:

- Does your venue host south-Asian and other ethnic weddings?
- What number of people can you accommodate for a seated wedding reception at your venue?
- Are there any barriers to hosting south-Asian and other ethnic weddings at your venue?
- Do you have sufficient ceiling height in order to accommodate stage and Mandaps? Please provide photographic evidence if possible
- Are you able to accommodate gender segregated events?
- Do you offer in house catering option (including vegetarian/halal) ?
- Can customers use external caterers?
- Are you able to meet a requirement for the handling of specific food and beverages which may include the consumption of specific food types or include the exclusion of others?
- Are you able to host a celebration which may involve a number of events spanning a number of days?
- How in demand are your services currently?
- Do you have many vacancies in your bookings over the next 12 months?
- What number of vacancies do you have for both weekdays and weekends over the next 12 months?
- What on-site parking arrangements do you have and how many parking spaces?
- Do you have an over-flow car parking contingency?
- Do you offer wedding packages including catering decorating and photography and other services?
- What are your opening hours and what days are you open?

3. Site visits carried out to the following venues on the 18<sup>th</sup> October:

- Blue Room Sports Venue
- Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Wood Lane
- Husseini Islamic Centre
- The Salaam Centre
- Kenton Hall
- Harrow Central Mosque

4. Telephone calls to listed venues carried out between 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October

1.3 I refer to the list of 11<sup>th</sup> October as List A (Inquiry document 8) and separate the venues into the following categories:

1. Those which have been identified in previous evidence:

- Hertford Suite, Hilton London, Watford
- Bhaktivedanta Manor
- Dhamecha Lohana Centre
- Kadwa Patidar Centre
- Sattavis Patidar Centre

2. Those venues in Harrow not previously covered:

- Blue Room Sports Venue
- Shree Kutch Satsang
- Shree Swaminarayan Temple
- Husseini Islamic Centre
- The Salaam Centre
- Victoria Hall
- Harrow Central Mosque

3. Those venues in appellants sub area not previously covered:

- Bushey Arena
- Kenton Hall
- Mecure London Watford Hotel

4. Venues outside of the appellants sub area but within the wider area which I identified in my proof of evidence (paragraph 7.11) and in my oral evidence. These venues are:

- Oshwal Centre
- Navnat Centre

1.4 In respect of the venues on list B, I separate the venues into the following categories:

1. I add no further evidence in respect of those venues covered in previous evidence which include:

- Bushey Country Club
- The Drum at Wembley
- The Langley
- Ariana Banqueting
- Sattavis Patidar Centre

2. Those venues in Harrow not previously covered and those are:

- Sangam Association of Asian Women
- Shrinathdham National Haveli and Community Centre
- Masefield Suite

3. Those venues in the appellants sub area not previously covered and those are:

- The Grove
- Double Tree by Hilton
- The Penridge Suite

5. Those venues in the wider sub area and identified at paragraph 7.11 of my proof and in my oral evidence. Web site extracts are included at Appendix 6 of my proof. These venues are:

- North Mymms Park
- Saffron D'OR
- VUK Banqueting Suite
- The Stockley Marquee

6. Since I did not identify Haringey or St Albans as part of my wider sub area, I have not considered the venues in these areas.

1.5 List A and List B venues are identified in the tables below

**List A**

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>
Blue Room Sports Venue	Next to 220, Headstone Lane, Harrow HA2 6LY
Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple	Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA
Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Wood Lane	Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4LF
Husseini Islamic Centre	50 Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex , HA7 4LQ
Bushey Arena	London Road, Bushey, Herts, WD23 3AA
Kenton Hall	John Billam Fields, Woodcock Hill, London HA3 0PQ
The Salaam Centre	39 Gloucester Road, Harrow, HA1 4PR
Victoria Hall	Sheepcote Rd, Harrow, Greater London, HA1 2JE
Ramada London Watford Hotel	A41 Watford Bypass, WD25 8JH Watford
Harrow Central Mosque	34 Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2SQ
Oshwal Centre	Oshwal Centre, Coopers Lane Road, Northaw, Hertfordshire, EN6 4DG
Navnat Centre	Printing House Lane, Hayes, Greater London, UB3 1AR

**List B Venues**

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>
The Grove	Hempstead Road, Watford, WD17 3NL
Double Tree by Hilton London Elstree	Barnet By-Pass, Borehamwood, WD6 5PU
The Pendridge Suite	470 Bowes Road, New Southgate, N11 1NL
Sangam Association of Asian Women	210 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8 0AP
Shrinathdham National Haveli and Community Centre	2a Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, HA1 2SU
Masefield Suite	Christchurch Avenue, Harrow, HA3 5BD
Sopwell House	Cottonmill Lane St. Albans AL1 2HQ
North Mymms Park	Hertfordshire, AL9 7TR
The Decorium	22 Western Rd, London N22 6UH
The Stockley Marquee	Stockley Park, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB11 1AQ
VUK Banqueting Suite	Venue Hall, Park Place, Ealing W3 8JY
Saffron D'or	447 Lady Margaret Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2QB

## **Analysis - List A**

- In relation to the venues already covered the KP Centre have confirmed that they currently host around 100 to 125 weddings a year plus other events but have capacity for further weddings to take place. They have outlined that there is no restriction in term so of external catering and the hirer has choice of selecting their own caterer, decorator and other suppliers including for provision of facilities for gender segregation if required. A follow up telephone call with the venue on the 25<sup>th</sup> October confirmed the venue is currently about 45% booked over the next 12 month and the venue is open to all religions and faiths.
- Of the seven venues identified in Harrow in terms of those that can accommodate a seated capacity of 300 plus, from the information I have gathered indicates that Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Husseini Islamic Centre and Harrow Central Mosque should be treated as venues which make significant contributions to South Asian Wedding venues in the borough. In addition, the Blue Room is also considered to make some contribution to the overall venue offer for South Asian weddings.
- Although Victoria Hall is below the guest capacity of 300, this venue has confirmed it is still able to host South Asian weddings and would therefore continue to make a contribution.
- In respect of the seven venues in Harrow, although the exact offering has shades of variation, six of the venues still provide a wide range of choice of venues for South Asian and ethnic communities for weddings and other events. It is acknowledged that the Salaam Centre in North Harrow is not yet operational but its website indicates the building will be completed by January 2024 and as such it is likely to make a contribution in the near future.
- In relation to the three venues in the appellants sub area not previously covered (Bushey Arena, Kenton Hall, Mecure London Watford), it is acknowledged that Kenton Hall and Mecure London Watford Hotel would not be able to accommodate for 300 guests but would nevertheless still make a contribution to the overall South Asian/ethnic wedding market. The Kenton Hall can accommodate a maximum of 200 guests and the Mecure London Watford Hotel 180 guests. In respect of Bushey Arena, this has capacity to accommodate 300 plus guests, it can accommodate Mandaps, gender segregated events and can recommend external catering or allow couples to arrange their own catering. The venue is multi-functional but it has a range of different spaces for hire which can be hired independently. There is no evidence to suggest that a wedding can't take place at the same time as one of the other halls is in use for a different function.
- In respect of the other two venues in the wider area, the Navnat Centre and Oshwal Centre, from the information I have gathered, it is clear that these additional venues should also be treated as venues which make a significant contribution to the South Asian/ethnic wedding market. Both venues can accommodate 300 plus guests. The Navnat centre has indicated they have 70% vacancies in their bookings for weekends and weekdays. It has sufficient space for mandaps, can accommodate gender segregated events and has indicated they can provide food and



beverage requirements but also allow external catering. The site also has a large car park capacity for 400 cars. The only barrier identified by the venue is that they do not allow alcohol or meat. However, if they did allow alcohol and/or meat then my understanding (see for example site specific information for Shree Swaminarayan Temple) is that this would be a barrier to some of those in the South Asian community who would not hold an event in a venue where meat and/or alcohol is served. Nevertheless, they would still provide a choice for a large range of people within south Asian and ethnic communities. The Oshwal centre advertises its venue as 'the perfect venue for your wedding and for celebrating all your special occasions'. It has onsite parking capacity for over 500 cars. The Google reviews (as set out below) clearly indicate this venue is a popular wedding venue for the South Asian Community. Following a telephone call, with one of the event managers, although the venue is busy, there remains good availability for wedding dates at the current time into 2023 and 2024 (see site further information below). This venue can accommodate people of all backgrounds and faiths. The venue is restricted by only 30 days in the year where it cannot hold weddings due to religious events but is available on all other days of the year.

- Based on the information gathered from other venues in Harrow, the appellants sub area and in the wider area, there is no evidence to suggest venues are operating at capacity and are unable to cope with the demand for the South Asian/ethnic wedding market across all religious groups

**Site Information – List A**

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>
Blue Room Sports Venue	Next to 220, Headstone Lane, Harrow HA2 6LY
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## Group 1 – Relevant further information

### KP Centre

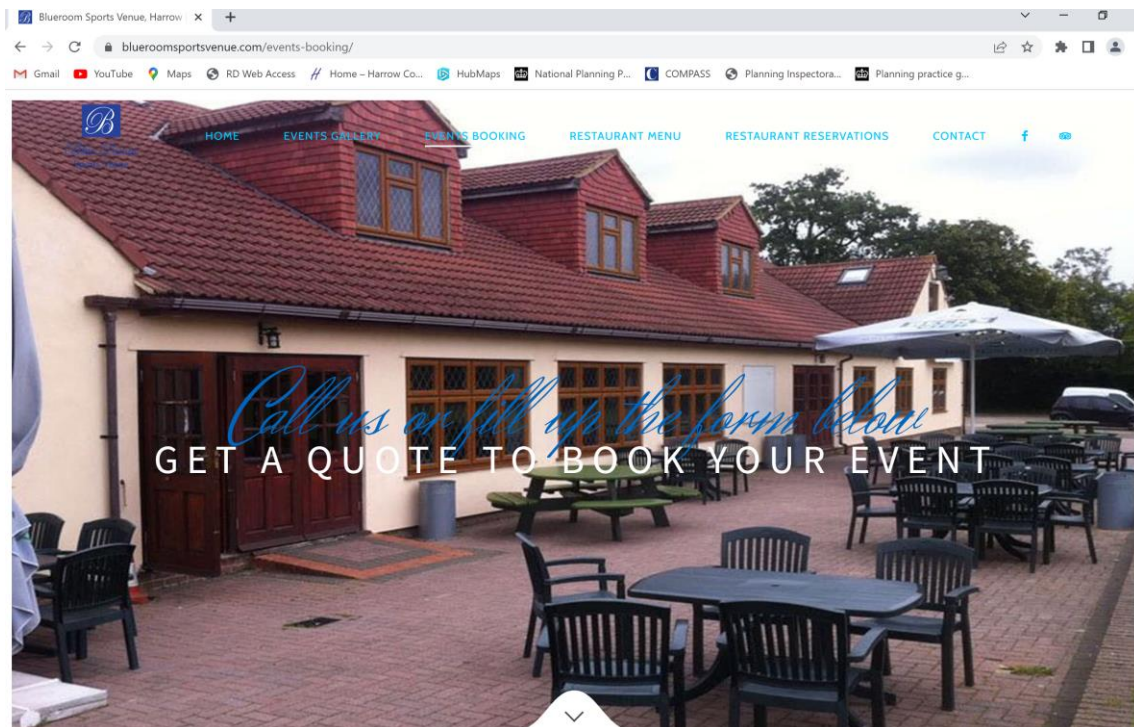
The KP Centre sent a further email to me on 14<sup>th</sup> October and confirmed the following:

- The venue offers dry hire only but there are no restrictions on the hirer in selecting their own caterer, decorator and other suppliers
- The venue typically hosts between 100 to 125 South Asian weddings a year and weddings tend to be booked 12 to 18 months in advance.
- A follow up telephone call with the venue on the 25th October confirmed the venue is currently about 45% booked over the next 12 month and the venue is open to all religions and faiths.

## Group 2 – Venues in Harrow

### 1. Blue Room Sports Venue

Extracts from Website



blueroomsportsvenue.com/events-booking/

HOME EVENTS GALLERY EVENTS BOOKING RESTAURANT MENU RESTAURANT RESERVATIONS CONTACT

## PLEASE FILL UP THE DETAILS AND SUBMIT FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

\*  
Request a date for your event(Try to Book well in advance)  
dd/mm/yyyy

Hire the venue for  
Wedding  Birthday Party  Private Function  Conference  Other

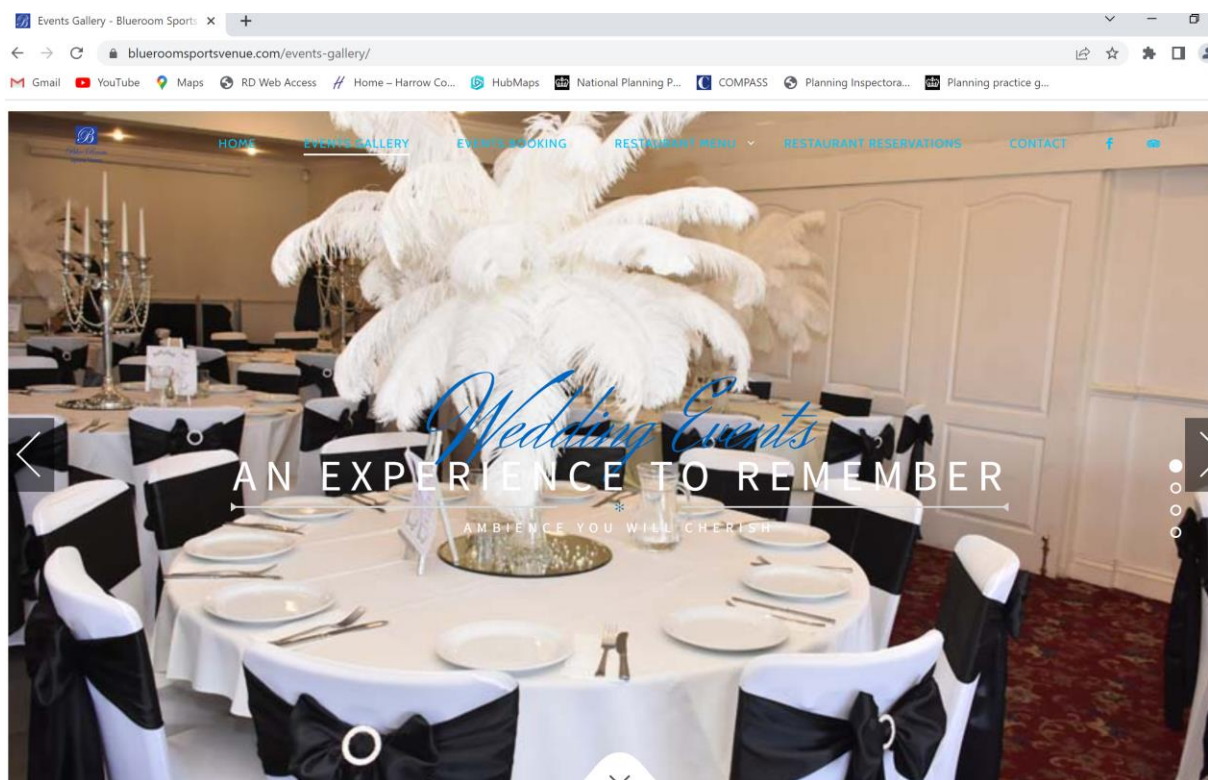
Your contact telephone(required)

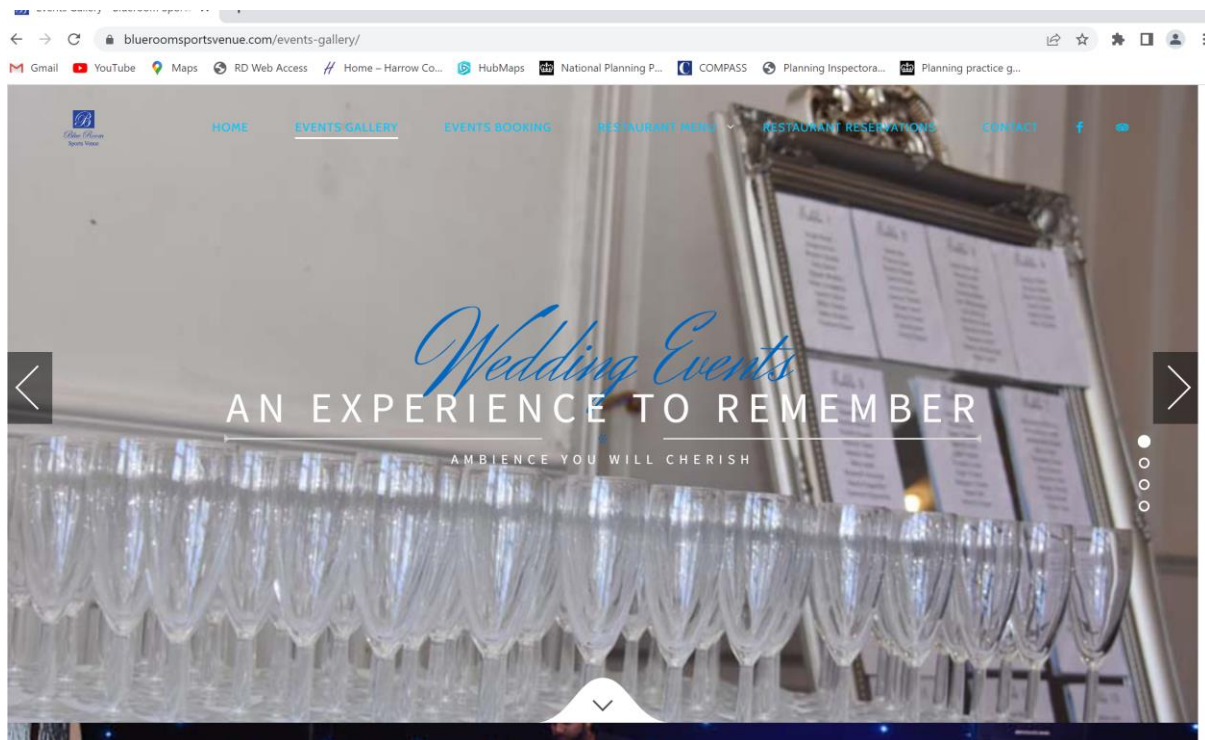
Number of people attending

Catering  
Yes  No

Your Name (required)

16°C Mostly sunny 14:46 19/10/2022





### Questionnaire Response

No response received

### Further Information

I visited the Blue Room Sports Venue on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and was shown around by one of the managers (Mr Naresh Patel). The venue has 3 function halls. The main function Hall can accommodate 500 to 600 guests and can allow for gender segregated events. Although the venue tended to cater more for birthday parties/engagements, it was confirmed by the manager that the venue was able to cater for weddings. It was outlined that the venue did have a restriction on ceiling height for larger Mandaps but it was still able to provide space for smaller Mandaps and had done so in the past. I was advised that the restaurant was in use on the first floor but events could take place in the main function halls at any time. The venue could offer catering but also offered people flexibility to bring in their own catering.



Blue room main function hall



## 2. Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Wood Lane

### Extracts from Website

The screenshot shows the homepage of swaminarayansatsang.com. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to Gmail, YouTube, Maps, RD Web Access, Home - Harrow Co..., HubMaps, National Planning P..., COMPASS, Planning Inspector..., and Planning practice g... Below this is a section for the year 2022, featuring a calendar for Kali Chaudas | Diwali | Laxmi Poojan | Tufsi Vivah & New Year at Shree ... more. A prominent green 'DONATE' button is located below the calendar. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'RECENT POSTS' with articles like 'Celebrating 10 years' and 'Rangai Jaane Rang Ma'; 'MANDIR ACTIVITIES' listing 'Culture nursery' and 'Dhol classes'; and 'FUNCTION HALLS' with images of the Hari Krishna Hall, Ghanshyam Hall, and Sahajanand Marquee. A footer section contains 'OUR MISSION', 'QUICK LINKS', 'WHERE WE ARE', and 'CONNECT WITH US'.

The screenshot shows the contact-us page of swaminarayansatsang.com. It features a Google Map of the temple location at Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4LF. Below the map, there is contact information including an email address (info@swaminarayansatsang.com), a phone number (020 8954 0205), and social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A section titled 'GETTING HERE' provides directions by car, walking or cycling, and bus. The bus information specifies routes 142 and 107. A 'CONNECT WITH US' section is also present, mirroring the social media links.

Questionnaire Response:

I received the following email response from one of the temple trustees on 19<sup>th</sup> October:

*“Our Temple is situated in a quiet area of Wood Lane, Stanmore on the land of 18 acres of Pristine woodland and open space. We opened our Temple in 2006 and since then have been serving the Hindu and local community for prayers and other religious activities such as religious weddings, engagements, and receptions to name a few. We have three function venues on the site: the main hall accommodating 500 guests, a marquee accommodating 400 guests and a smaller function hall accommodating 200 guests. We also have facilities to carry outdoor weddings on our grounds.*

*We offer a fully inclusive (One stop shop) service for religious weddings and other functions, this includes catering for sanctified vegetarian food, mandaps, decorations, priests, and sound systems. However, we appreciate the need for choice so guests are able to choose their own mandaps, decorations, priests, and sound systems from other suppliers. With regards to the wedding ceremony, we are registered to provide civil weddings. The Temple has a large following in Harrow and the surrounding areas.*

*Due to the range of facilities and the large pool of well-trained staff and volunteers, we have the flexibility to have multiple functions on the same day e.g., we can accommodate two weddings in two of our function halls. Indian weddings tend to have the wedding in the morning and a reception in the evening and this turns out to be two functions as our clients often want different décor and table arrangements for their functions, we are able to provide all of this to our guests. With the range of facilities we have, we are also able to provide segregated facilities for patrons who require this.*

*We have not needed any additional parking even when all our function venues and a Temple function have been running at the same time. However, if an event did occur that would exceed our parking spaces, then we could have access to the nearby rugby club parking facilities which is a 2-minute walk from the Temple.*

*Even though we are a popular venue and have many advanced bookings we still have many dates available for both weekdays and weekends.*

*We provide in-house catering. Our cuisine is pure vegetarian and sanctified food and we have a range of menus to satisfy client wishes. Our religious beliefs and traditions, supported by various scriptures, precludes us from serving meat and alcohol on our premises and this actually reassures our clients, many of whom will not even set foot on premises that serve meat and*



*alcohol. In doing so we not only provide a very essential and bespoke service for the Indian community who are our major patrons but also provide a service that many wedding venues would not be able to match as they cook and serve meat. We believe that the range of our menus is capable of satisfying all palates and given the demand for weddings at our Temple, we do not believe it stops anyone from having their function at the Temple.*

*In fact, many of our clients prefer to get married at a place of worship which gives them the added reassurance of religious blessings of their union. It is believed by some that auspicious days in the Indian calendar mark the days on which people can get married. This is not true as these days are regarded as days that are lucky for getting married to increase the odds of a happy successful marriage. These days are not there to stop people from getting married on other days. Our venues are therefore available and booked for weddings throughout the year.*

*In a similar fashion, there are several one-and-a-half-hour auspicious times windows throughout every day of the week called 'muhurat' when a ceremony started in that window is supposed to bode well for a couple's happiness and prosperity. Again, this is simply a means of improving people's chances of a happy life, but this does not appear to stop people from getting married at other times of the day.*

*This concept of auspiciousness on certain days is there to increase the odds of a happy marriage but not to prevent the marriage.*

*We also provide our own Mandaps for weddings. The concept of a mandap is having four pillars and a canopy. There is no requirement for a Mandap to be of a certain height. A mandap is often placed on a stage to enable a clear all-around view of the wedding for the guests, but there is no requirement for the Mandap to be on a stage. The mandaps are sometimes at different heights and this is entirely the choice of a couple. There is no religious requirement for a mandap to be a certain height.*

*We attract people of all ages who come to worship and learn about the Hindu religion, culture, and traditions at the Temple. Recognising that the young are our future, we actively encourage the engagement of the younger generation in our activities. We run religious, cultural, and language classes at the Temple. We have a very large pool of volunteers of all ages who support our activities.*

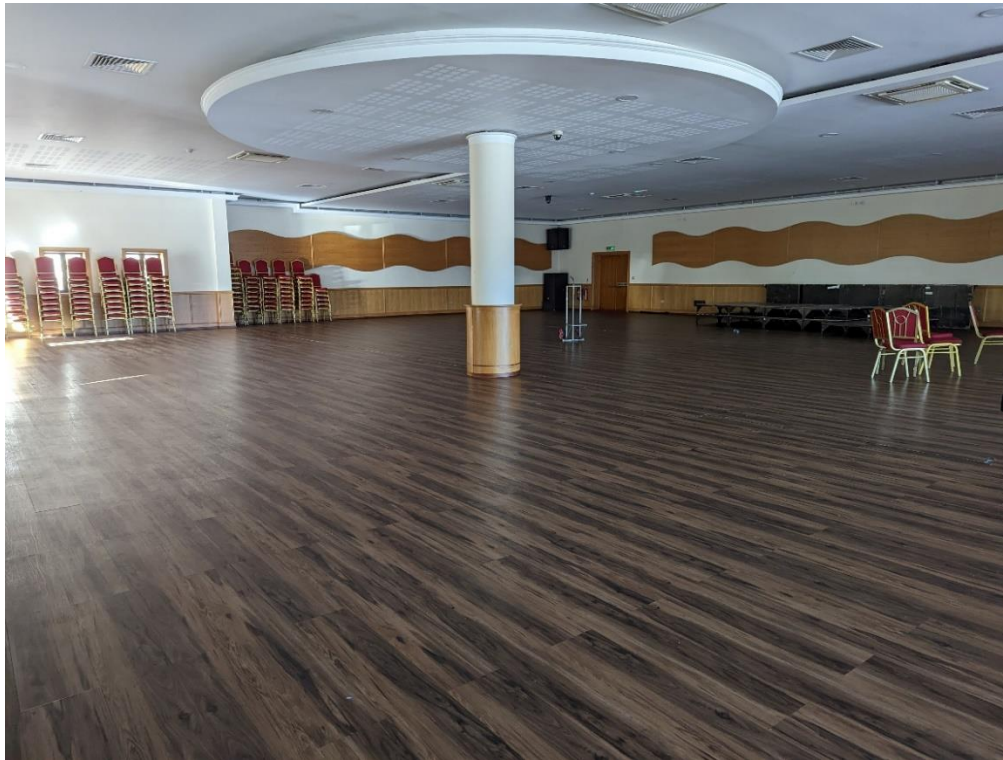
*We take note that there are other sister Temples that offer similar facilities namely Shree Swaminarayan Temple Willesden, Temple which offers similar facilities in Brent together with purpose-built Parking suitable to cater to its needs."*

### Further Information

I visited the Wood Lane temple on Tuesday 17th October. I was shown around the various event rooms by one of the temple trustees which included an external marquee and two large event halls which are shown in the images below. I was advised that the site regularly hosts events and three events can be accommodated at the same time. The main event hall can accommodate 500 guests, the external Marquee 400 guests and the smaller event hall 200 guests.

I was advised that since Covid events including weddings are becoming smaller. The site has good availability throughout the year and can host events all year round. I was advised that there was no restriction at the site to get married on any particular date. It was outlined that there had been a slight backlog since Covid but this had now gone. The venue can provide for vegetarian catering, decoration and Mandaps as well as segregation (although they don't have a requirement for segregation in their religion). However, people also had the option to use external catering if they chose to. It was also pointed out that it is the bride who dictates the location of the wedding which is usually the location where they have family and were brought up. The trustee outlined that although he lived in the local area, his own wedding was in Cardiff as that was where his wife was from and not because they couldn't find a venue in Harrow. I saw that there was large parking availability on site in three separate parking area with space for a very large number of vehicles. The trustee outlined that because of the onsite parking space they rarely needed overflow parking space but that if required this could be provided by the adjacent Islamic temple or Rugby club opposite the site. The photographs below were taken on my visit.

In relation to the marquee on site, it is noted that the appellant outlined they could not find a record of planning consent. The Council are aware that the Marquee is not on site permanently and is put up as a temporary structure under permitted development rights when needed for events.



Main Event Hall



Marquee event space



Second event hall

### 3. Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple, Kenton Harrow

Extracts from website



Nilkant Hall which can accommodate upto 350 guests

#### Questionnaire

No response received

#### Further Information

I tried to contact the venue between 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October but was not able to get through to anyone who was able to advise. The venue website indicates it can accommodate 350 guests in one of its halls. The venue website outlines that only approved caterers are permitted to cook or provide catering facilities. The web site notes that Nilkant hall can be hired between 1030 and 330pm on Sundays only and can be used for specific events such as engagements and birthday parties. It doesn't rule out weddings but it is not clear from the venue website whether they can be accommodated.

#### 4. Husseini Islamic Centre

##### Extracts from website

The KSIMC of London (colloquially known as Hujjat Stanmore) first opened its doors in 1983. We are now one of the largest Islamic institutions in North-West London, regularly hosting worshippers at our seasonal programmes. Our congregation is predominantly made up of adherents to the Shia twelver (Shia Ithna Asheri) school of the Islamic tradition. As you would expect from an Islamic Centre, Hujjat Stanmore holds Friday Congregational Prayers (Jummuah) and events to commemorate important religious events. Details of all these programmes can be found in the Events section of this website.

However, Hujjat Stanmore is far more than simply a place for worshippers to come and pray. It is a buzzing, thriving community hub, catering to the social, welfare, educational and sporting needs of its members, with tailored offerings for young and old alike. On this website you will find information about all of these services, including our on-site 'Outstanding' rated Montessori, our cancer support group, our Green initiative, our housing scheme for first time buyers, and our award winning sports teams.

Interfaith work is also high on our list of priorities, and we regularly seek to engage with our neighbours from other faith traditions. We host an annual 'Iftar' programme during the month of Ramadhan (when Muslims fast during the hours

different areas.

Color	Area
Orange	ENTRANCE /SHOES
Light Blue	CIRCULATION
Blue	WC
Light Blue	WUDHOO AREA
Dark Blue	GENTS HALL
Pink	LADIES HALL
Purple	OFFICE
Brown	KITCHEN
Grey	STORAGE
Dark Grey	PLANT/SERVICES
Green	ALIM

### **Questionnaire Response**

I received the following email response from the temple on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October:

*“Further to your visit to our Centre last week, and requested some information, regarding the activities at our Centre.*

*We accommodate the following activities:*

- We are authorised to conduct the Civil weddings.*
- We provide wedding services to our membership and the events are segregated with inhouse catering.*
- We provide Meeting services, prayers etc.*
- Please find attached photos as requested at visit.”*

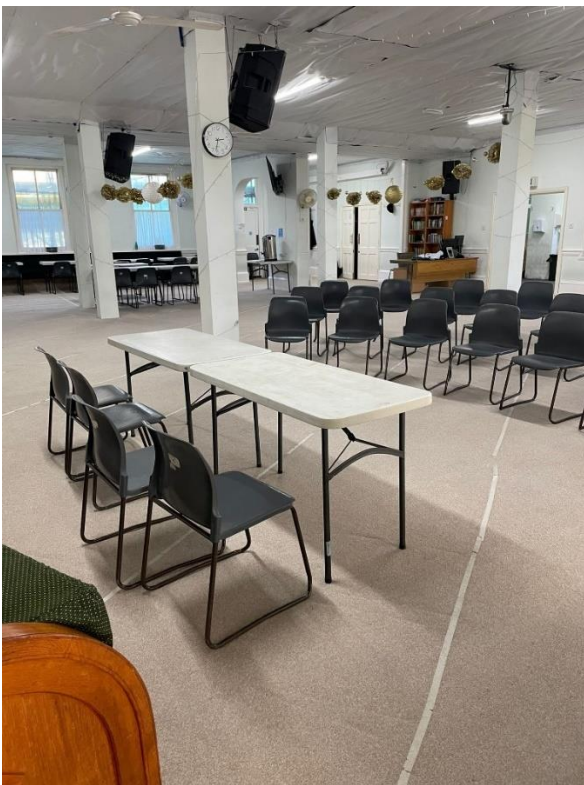
### **Further Information:**

I visited the Huseinni Islamic Centre on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. I was shown around the ladies and gents room shown in purple and pink on the above floorplan taken from the venue website. The lady’s room is able to cater for events for 500 people, but overall function capacity was upto 1200 people. It was outlined that the venue has lots of availability for weddings, despite their being two months of the year when weddings were restricted due to religion (the specific restrictive dates would change each year). I was advised that because the venue is a holy site, there is a requirement for gender segregation but in other non-religious venues, there was no specific requirement for gender segregation. The venue is able to accommodate Mandaps and can also host two separate weddings at the same time and had done so very recently. The site has parking capacity for 200 cars but also has use of the adjacent Wood Lane temple parking and rugby ground which has space for around 300 cars. The venue provides its own catering but also allow external catering provided it is halal. Below are some images of the ladies and gent’s hall at the venue.

The venue was asked whether it intended to relocate to Harefield in Hillingdon. I further email was received from the venue on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October in relation to this query. The email advised that they were to continue with its activities in Stanmore but did not elaborate any further on whether the venue would move in the future.



Part of Ladies Hall



Part of Gents Hall





## 5. Harrow Central Mosque

### Website Extracts

harrowmosque.org.uk/about-us/

Mosque

Harrow Central Mosque & Masood Islamic Centre is a registered UK charity and a non profit institution, primarily functioning as a Mosque where Muslims worship and a community centre where all are welcome.

harrowmosque.org.uk/about-us/

mortuary is located on the basement and has the facility to store 3 bodies at any time. There is also a quiet room in the basement for the use of the loved ones of the deceased.

[Read more about HCM's FREE Funeral Services.](#)

Ground Floor:

The ground floor features the main and side entrances to the Masjid. The security office is also located on the ground floor and the security guards can assist you with any enquires at the Masjid.

Harrow Central Mosque has a small kitchen where food is prepared and served during events at the Mosque.

Harrow Central Mosque has a majestic function hall on the ground floor which can be booked for functions such as wedding's and other events. [Read more about Hall Hire at HCM.](#) The function hall is also used during large congregations such as Jummah, Eid and Taraweeh prayers to accommodate more Male Worshippers. During Ramadan, the function hall is where more than 600 people from across the community, regardless of religion, are served Iftar (the fast breaking meal) every day of the month by the grace of Allah and the donations of our generous community.

First Floor:

The first floor features the main Masjid and mens prayer area, where the five compulsory prayers occur in congregation. The main prayer hall also hosts many talks, lectures and events such as the monthly gathering of remembrance (Ghyarween Shareef & Mehfil-e-Zikr) which happens on the last Saturday of every month at HCM. The main prayer hall can



### Harrow Central Mosque & Masood Islamic Centre Booking Form

Please read HCM & MIC Agreement for Hirer before completing this form.  
Please double click on the boxes to check or uncheck the box (or complete by hand)

<p>Event date(s)</p> <p>Set up from</p> <p>Start of event</p> <p>Event finish time</p> <p>Leave by</p> <p><b>Times must be adhered to</b></p> <p>Male <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mixed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Attendees Please be advised that it is recommended that events with primarily Muslim attendees are segregated</p> <p>No. of attendees</p> <p>Food to be served?</p> <p>Brief description of event:</p> <p><b>For conferences/meetings please attach full details of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agenda and topics being discussed</li> <li>- ticket prices</li> <li>- all speakers for the event, including those via live links or pre-recordings</li> <li>- publicity materials (e-mailshot/flyer)</li> <li>- any stalls that will be set up</li> </ul>	<p><b>Facilities required</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Capacity</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Function Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">400</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Men's Prayer Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1000</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladies' Prayer Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">200</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meeting Room</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Up to 100</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dome Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">250</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>IT Room</td> <td style="text-align: right;">TBC</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Chairs <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Tables <input type="checkbox"/> Microphones <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Flipchart <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Use <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Whiteboard <input type="checkbox"/> Lectern <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Projector <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>WIFI <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please be advised that all of the above facilities may not be available. You will be advised of availability when this form is submitted.</p> <p>Hall/Room Arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Boardroom</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Circle</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theatre</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wedding</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Classroom</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Floor seating</li> </ul>		Capacity		Function Hall	400	<input type="checkbox"/>	Men's Prayer Hall	1000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ladies' Prayer Hall	200	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meeting Room	Up to 100	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dome Hall	250	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Room	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Dome Hall	250	<input type="checkbox"/>																				
IT Room	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>																				
<p>Details of Booking Making Bookings</p>	<p>Invoice details if different from booking or as</p>																					

#### Questionnaire Response

No Response received

#### Further Information

I visited the Harrow Central Mosque on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. I saw that there was a large function hall on the ground floor available for wedding functions. The venue has capacity to accommodate 300 plus guests, permits external catering, has sufficient space for Mandaps and can accommodate gender segregation. There is a large number of parking spaces (550) opposite the site in the Harrow Civic Centre which the mosque has access to. It is evident from the

reviews on google that the venue is well known for hosting weddings. Please refer to some of the google reviews below:

*“Great mosque and venue for weddings. Had my wedding here and the service is great. Brother Ahmed and Ashfaq are fantastic and had everything sorted for the big day.*

*Would definitely recommend anyone looking to get married to get their banquet halls booked ASAP!”*

*Google Review 2020*

*“This religious place is very beautiful and very spacious, lot of space as have hall at ground floor and first floor, you can hire hall that have space of accommodate around 400 people, have separate kitchen, managed very well and very clean, lot if parking spaces available opposite to the mosque in civic centre where parking is free at weekends evenings, recomand this place to view and booking hall for functions.”*

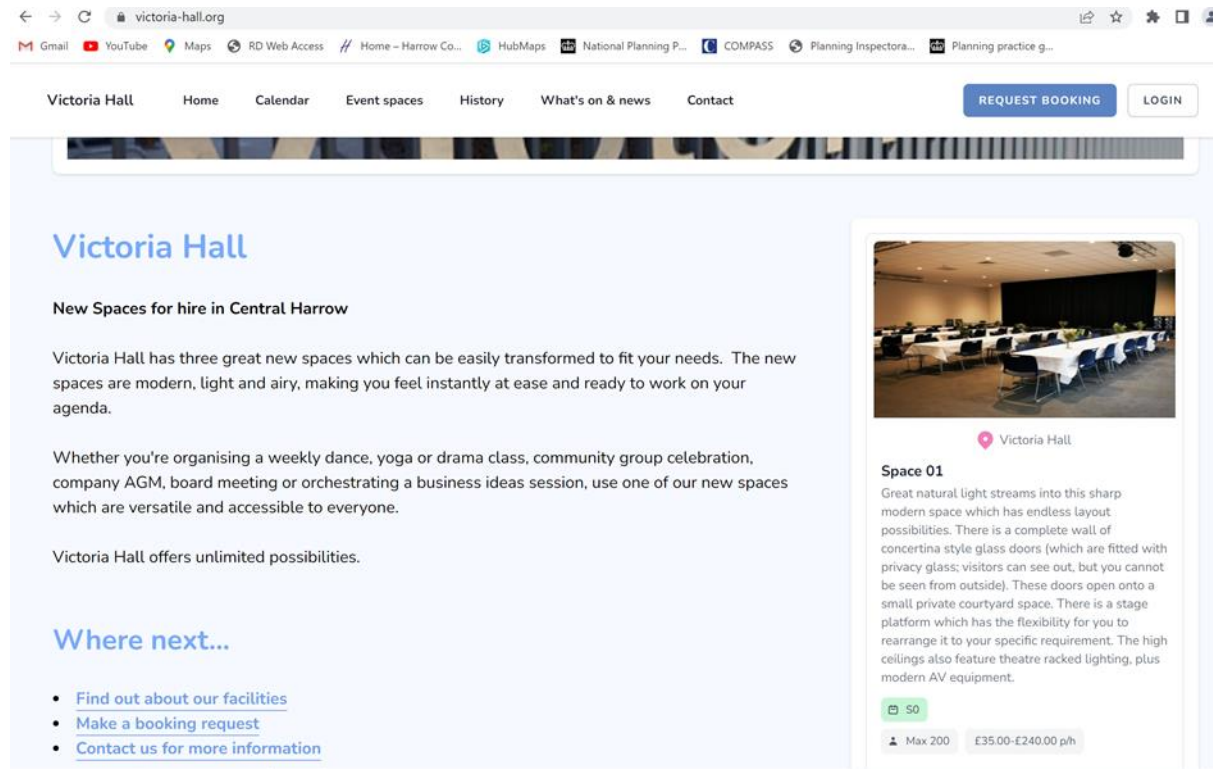
*Google Review 2019*

*“Beautiful mosque and very spacious they also have a hall which you can hire for weddings or any occasion”*

*Google Review 2019*

## 6. Victoria Hall

### Extracts from website



Victoria Hall

Home Calendar Event spaces History What's on & news Contact

[REQUEST BOOKING](#) [LOGIN](#)

## Victoria Hall

**New Spaces for hire in Central Harrow**


Victoria Hall has three great new spaces which can be easily transformed to fit your needs. The new spaces are modern, light and airy, making you feel instantly at ease and ready to work on your agenda.

Whether you're organising a weekly dance, yoga or drama class, community group celebration, company AGM, board meeting or orchestrating a business ideas session, use one of our new spaces which are versatile and accessible to everyone.

Victoria Hall offers unlimited possibilities.

**Where next...**

- [Find out about our facilities](#)
- [Make a booking request](#)
- [Contact us for more information](#)



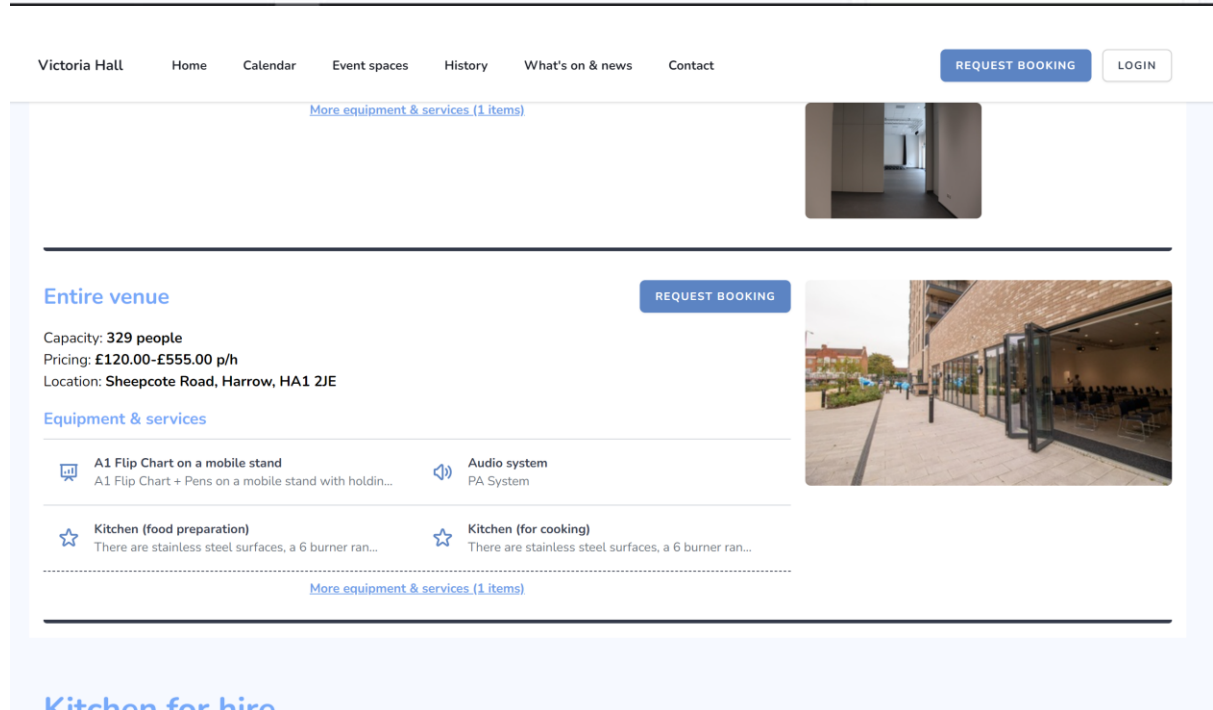
Victoria Hall

**Space 01**

Great natural light streams into this sharp modern space which has endless layout possibilities. There is a complete wall of concertina style glass doors (which are fitted with privacy glass; visitors can see out, but you cannot be seen from outside). These doors open onto a small private courtyard space. There is a stage platform which has the flexibility for you to rearrange it to your specific requirement. The high ceilings also feature theatre racked lighting, plus modern AV equipment.

50

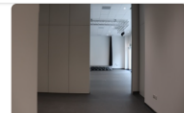
Max 200 £35.00-£240.00 p/h



Victoria Hall Home Calendar Event spaces History What's on & news Contact

[REQUEST BOOKING](#) [LOGIN](#)

[More equipment & services \(1 items\)](#)







---


**Entire venue** [REQUEST BOOKING](#)

Capacity: **329 people**  
Pricing: **£120.00-£555.00 p/h**  
Location: **Sheepcote Road, Harrow, HA1 2JE**

**Equipment & services**

 <p><b>A1 Flip Chart on a mobile stand</b> A1 Flip Chart + Pens on a mobile stand with holdin...</p>	 <p><b>Audio system</b> PA System</p>
 <p><b>Kitchen (food preparation)</b> There are stainless steel surfaces, a 6 burner ran...</p>	 <p><b>Kitchen (for cooking)</b> There are stainless steel surfaces, a 6 burner ran...</p>

[More equipment & services \(1 items\)](#)



**Kitchen for hire**

## Questionnaire Response

- Does your venue host south-Asian and other ethnic weddings? **Yes, we can**
- What number of people can you accommodate for a seated wedding reception at your venue?
  - **Yes, In space 01 (seated 180 people) max 200**
  - **Yes in space 03 (seated 72 people ) max 79**
  - **Yes in space 02 (seated 42 people ) max 50**
- Are there any barriers to hosting south-Asian and other ethnic weddings at your venue? **The only issue maybe naked flames in any of the spaces, as some cultural aspects of ceremonies require candles to be lit by guests. However, I have given the option to light these just outside the bi-fold door of the intended space.**
- Do you have sufficient ceiling height in order to accommodate stage and Mandaps? Please provide photographic evidence if possible. **3 metres takes you to the top of the ridge above the bi-fold doors. Ceiling height approximately 4 metres. As you can see we have spotlights on a ceiling rig.**
- Are you able to accommodate gender segregated events? **Yes, there are 3 separate spaces with individual access doors in this venue**
- Do you offer in house catering option (including vegetarian/halal) **No**
- Can customers use external caterers ? **Yes, as long as hirers use electrical food heaters, the use of Gel chafing fuels is not permitted as highly flammable**
- Are you able to meet a requirement for the handling of specific food and beverages which may include the consumption of specific food types or include the exclusion of others? **This is an area which would be dealt with by their chosen external catering company on request**
- Are you able to host a celebration which may involve a number of events spanning a number of days? **Yes, if adequate planning lead times are given**
- How in demand are your services currently? **Reasonably in demand.**
- Do you have many vacancies in your bookings over the next 12 months? **The numbers available depend on the months you are looking at**
- What number of vacancies do you have for both weekdays and weekends over the next 12 months? **Visit: [victoria-hall.org](http://victoria-hall.org) to check availability, images and fees per hour for the varying booking categories.**

- What on-site parking arrangements do you have and how many parking spaces? **23 total onsite underground**
- Do you have an over-flow car parking contingency? **I direct requests to the old Debenhams car park, as it is reasonable**
- Do you offer wedding packages including catering decorating and photography and other services? **No, we can rec. those we know of.**
- What are your opening hours and what days are you open? **We are open to accommodate booked events from 9-5pm, we accommodate evening events Monday to Friday until 11pm on request. Saturday opening depends on events pre- booked in our calendar (10am-11pm). To view our spaces, this needs to be booked prior to arrival, as we do not allow events to be disturbed for viewings. Sunday has been pre-booked until Sept 2023.**

### **Further Information**

Victoria Hall has three separate function rooms where the spaces can be combined. Spaces one and 2 can be combined to accommodate 250 guests and if space 3 is also combined 329 guests can be accommodated. It is possible to accommodate gender segregated events as each of the rooms has individual access doors. The appellant notes that this would be restricted to 79 men or women but the individual rooms can accommodate capacities of 200, 50 and 79 which would therefore allow for greater segregation.

## 7. The Salaam Centre

### Extracts from website

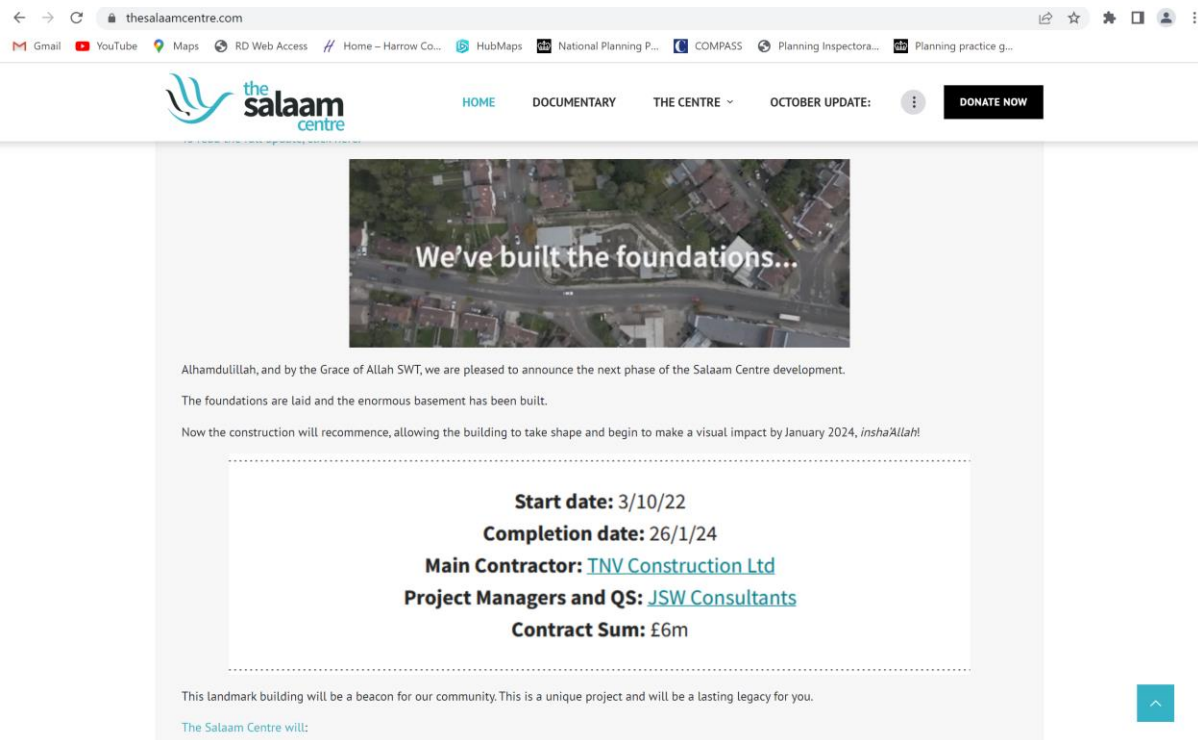
The Salaam centre will become a place to enjoy with friends and family, a resource for work on projects and shared dreams, and ultimately space to develop oneself in the community.

Our facilities are designed to push people to excel. A state of the art Gym and sports hall will encourage healthy living and physical fitness; while a theatre multimedia room and studio will foster local artistic talents from all faiths.

The Library and seminar rooms are an ideal space for learning and development; while dedicated prayer facilities offer a space for spiritual upliftment and contemplation.

A 5000 square meters building, 2 minutes-walk from North Harrow tube station, and built 2 floor below ground and 2 and 3 floors above with the following facilities:

- Dedicated prayer hall
- Additional multi functional hall
- Library
- Restaurant
- Sports halls
- Gender specific gyms and Sports studio
- Lecture theatre
- Madrasah classrooms
- Ghust facilities
- Children's play area
- Beauty salon
- Youth games room
- Language lab and multimedia studio
- Board room



The screenshot shows the website for the Salaam Centre. The header includes the Harrow Council London logo and navigation links: HOME, DOCUMENTARY, THE CENTRE, OCTOBER UPDATE, and a DONATE NOW button. The main content area features an aerial photograph of the construction site with the text "We've built the foundations...". Below the image, the text reads: "Alhamdulillah, and by the Grace of Allah SWT, we are pleased to announce the next phase of the Salaam Centre development. The foundations are laid and the enormous basement has been built. Now the construction will recommence, allowing the building to take shape and begin to make a visual impact by January 2024, *insha'Allah!*". A central box contains the following details: **Start date: 3/10/22**, **Completion date: 26/1/24**, **Main Contractor: [TNY Construction Ltd](#)**, **Project Managers and QS: [JSW Consultants](#)**, and **Contract Sum: £6m**. At the bottom, it states: "This landmark building will be a beacon for our community. This is a unique project and will be a lasting legacy for you. The Salaam Centre will:" followed by a blue upward arrow button.

### **Questionnaire Response**

No response received

### **Further Information**

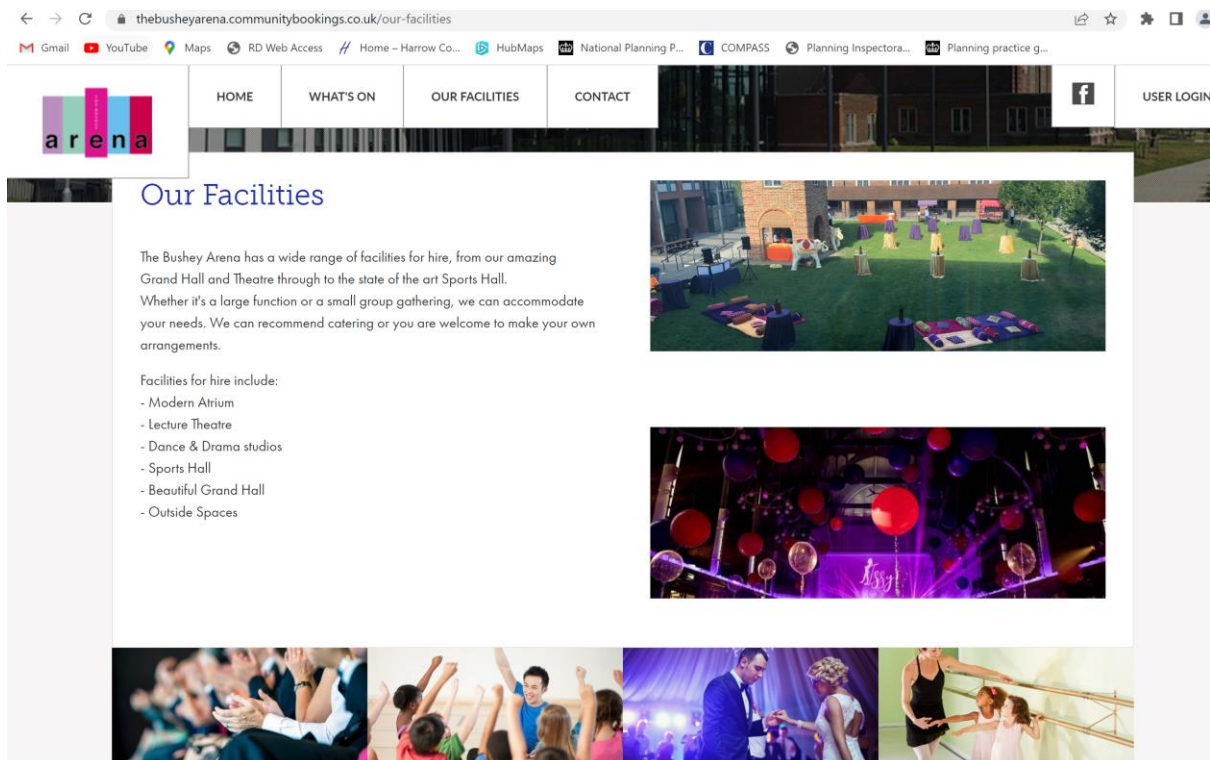
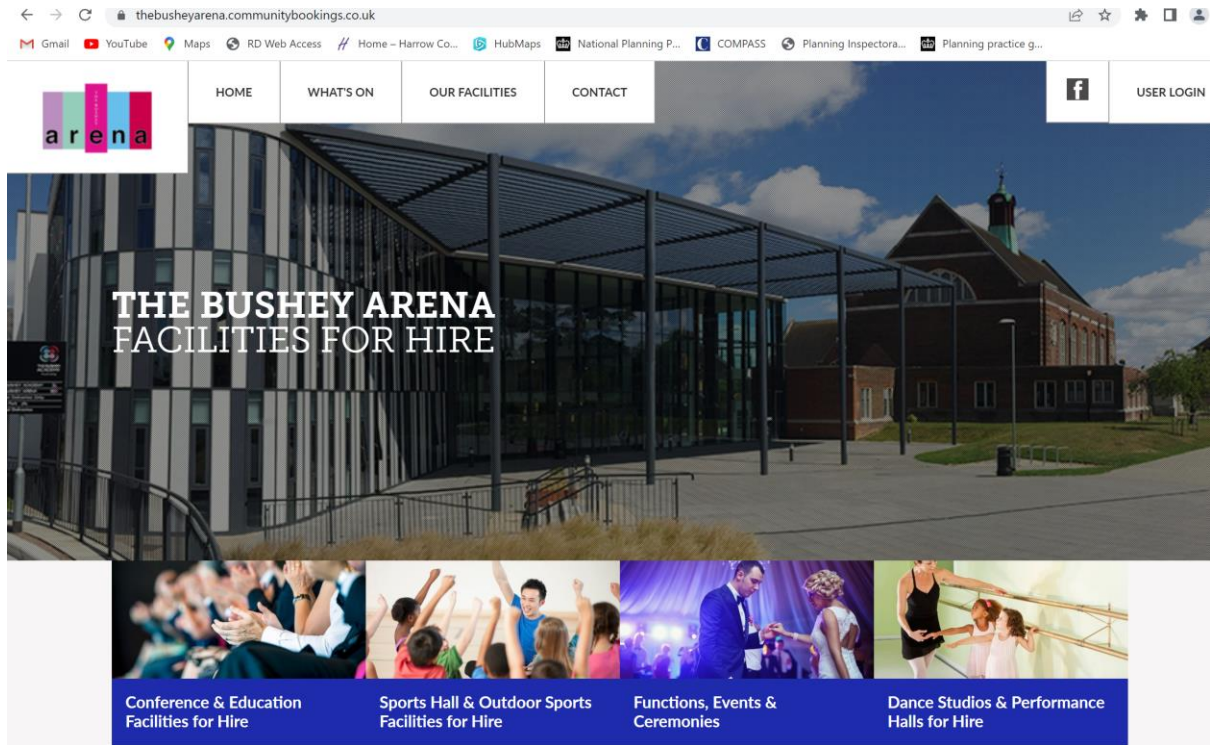
The Salaam Centre web site states that “*The Salaam Centre seeks to create a place where people of all faiths or none feel that they can enter and participate...with a wide range of facilities and a welcoming attitude, we feel we can cater for the physical, intellectual and spiritual needs of people for all works of life age and gender*”. The Salaam Centre will be large building (5000 sqm) and will include a range of facilities including a multi-functional hall. Given the scale of the building, it is highly likely it will accommodate more than 300 plus guests but the final offering and guest capacity is not confirmed.

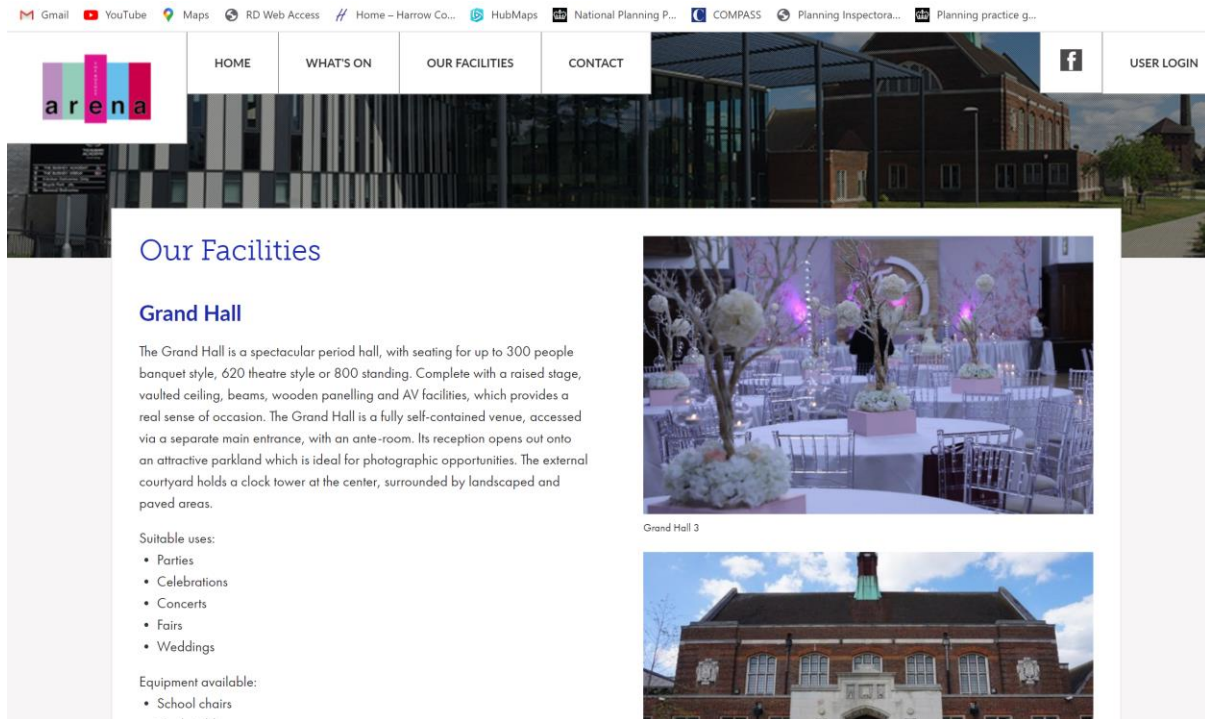


**Group 3 – Venues in the appellants sub area**

**1. The Bushey Arena, Hertsmere**

Extracts from Website





The screenshot shows the website for Bushey Arena. The navigation menu includes HOME, WHAT'S ON, OUR FACILITIES, and CONTACT. The 'Our Facilities' section is active, featuring a large image of the Grand Hall. The text describes the Grand Hall as a spectacular period hall with seating for up to 300 people in banquet style, 620 in theatre style, or 800 standing. It lists suitable uses such as Parties, Celebrations, Concerts, Fairs, and Weddings, and mentions available equipment like school chairs. Two images are included: one of the interior of the Grand Hall decorated for an event, and another of the exterior of the building.

### Questionnaire Response

No response received

### Further Information

Five telephone calls were made to the venue between 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October but I was unable to get through to anyone. The venue has available capacity for 300 guests banqueting style in the main hall but also has a large centralised outdoor space ('the Quad') which can be used in addition to the hall and is ideal for wedding photos. The web site states *"Whatever type of function you are planning, whether you are looking to host a Wedding, Barmitzvah/Batmitzvah, Sari, Celebration, Christmas Party, School Prom, Exhibition, Sporting Event or a Concert, The Bushey Arena has an extensive range of facilities available to cater for all your event needs."* There is parking on site for 100 cars.

"Amazing place - great place to book for large scale events." "Very good hall and amenities for functions" Google Reviews

## 2. The Mecure London Watford Hotel, Hertsmere

### Extracts from Website

mercurewatford.co.uk/watford-wedding-venue/#wedding-packages

Mercure London Watford Hotel \*\*\*\*\* 0208 702 0012 info@mercurewatford.co.uk

MERCURE ROOMS DINING **WEDDINGS** MEETINGS EVENTS HEALTH CLUB SPECIAL OFFERS GALLERY ACCOR ALL REWARDS STAYCATIONS CONTACT US

### WEDDING PACKAGES

INTIMATE WEDDINGS SUNDOWN SILVER GOLD PLATINUM INTIMATE LAST-MINUTE WEDDINGS

WEDDING FAQs

#### PLAN YOUR PERFECT INTIMATE WEDDING IN WATFORD

If you've been searching for a cosy, romantic place to say 'I do' with your partner, Mercure London Watford Hotel is the perfect location for a small, intimate wedding for up to 30 guests.

**Your all-inclusive, small wedding package**

Everything you could wish for as part of our affordable intimate

mercurewatford.co.uk/watford-wedding-venue/#wedding-packages

Mercure London Watford Hotel \*\*\*\*\* 0208 702 0012 info@mercurewatford.co.uk

MERCURE ROOMS DINING **WEDDINGS** MEETINGS EVENTS HEALTH CLUB SPECIAL OFFERS GALLERY ACCOR ALL REWARDS STAYCATIONS CONTACT US

Call our wedding expert

#### ASIAN WEDDINGS

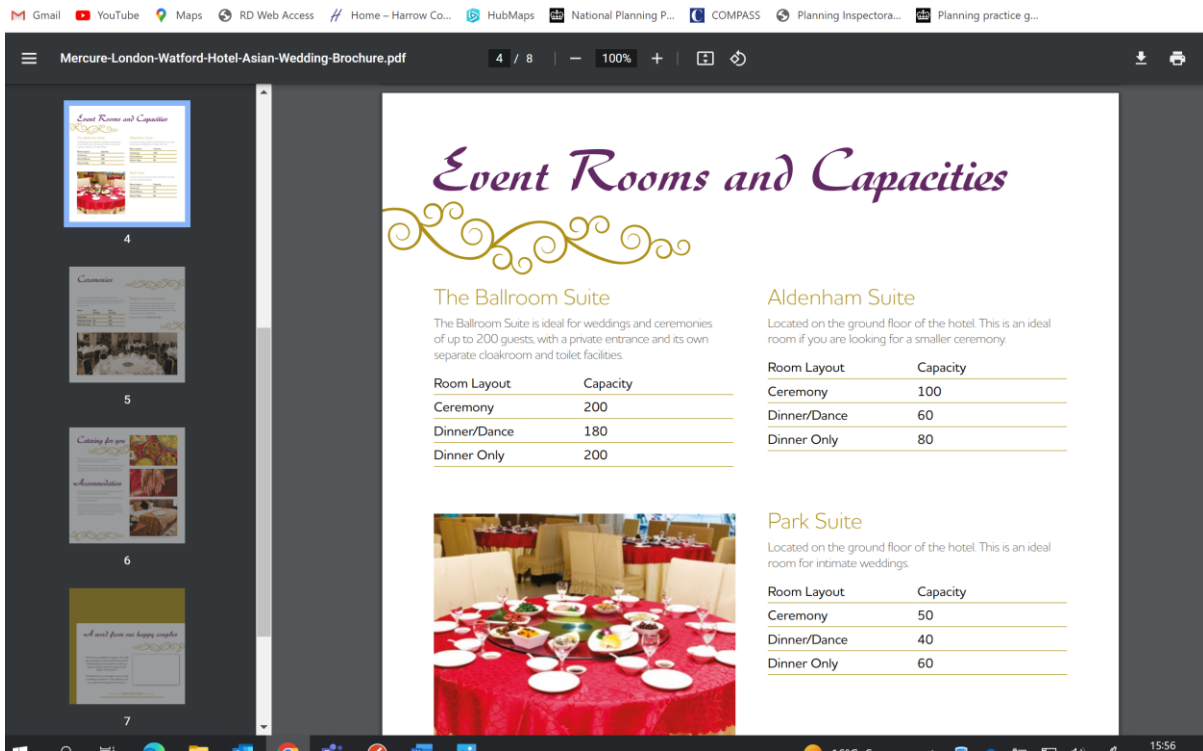
Let us host your perfect celebration. Browse our menus or use your own caterers. Click here for details.

### PLAN YOUR WEDDING WITH US

Click here for a free callback

**YOUR VERY OWN WEDDING PLANNER**

**WEDDING BROCHURE & ENQUIRIES**



### Questionnaire Response

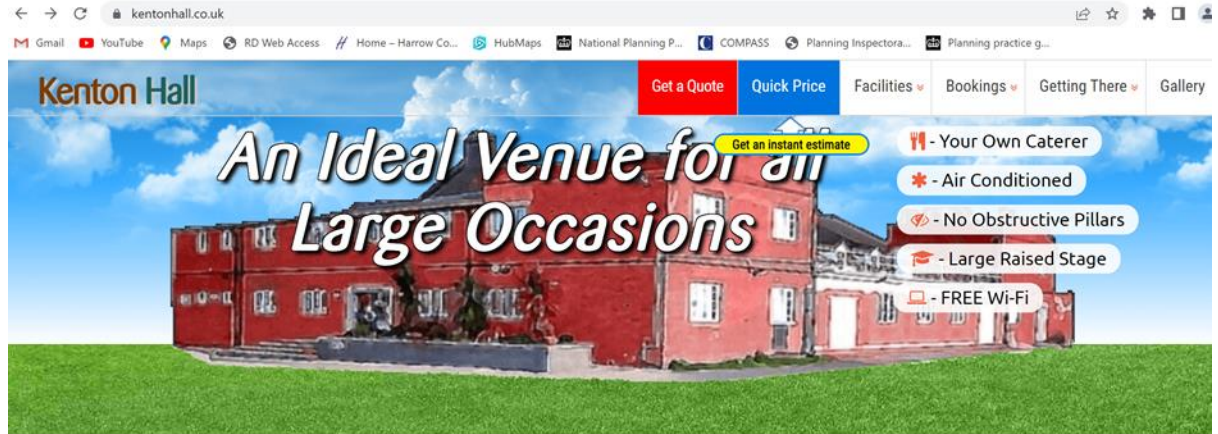
No response received

### Further Information

Telephone calls were made to the venue on 21<sup>st</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> October, but I was unable to get a response. The venue offers wedding packages and advertises a wedding brochure on its website particularly focused towards Asian weddings. The venue welcomes outside caterer's as long as they are approved before the event.

The venue also offers in house catering option including Asian, halal and Vegan ([www.guidesforbrides.co.uk](http://www.guidesforbrides.co.uk))

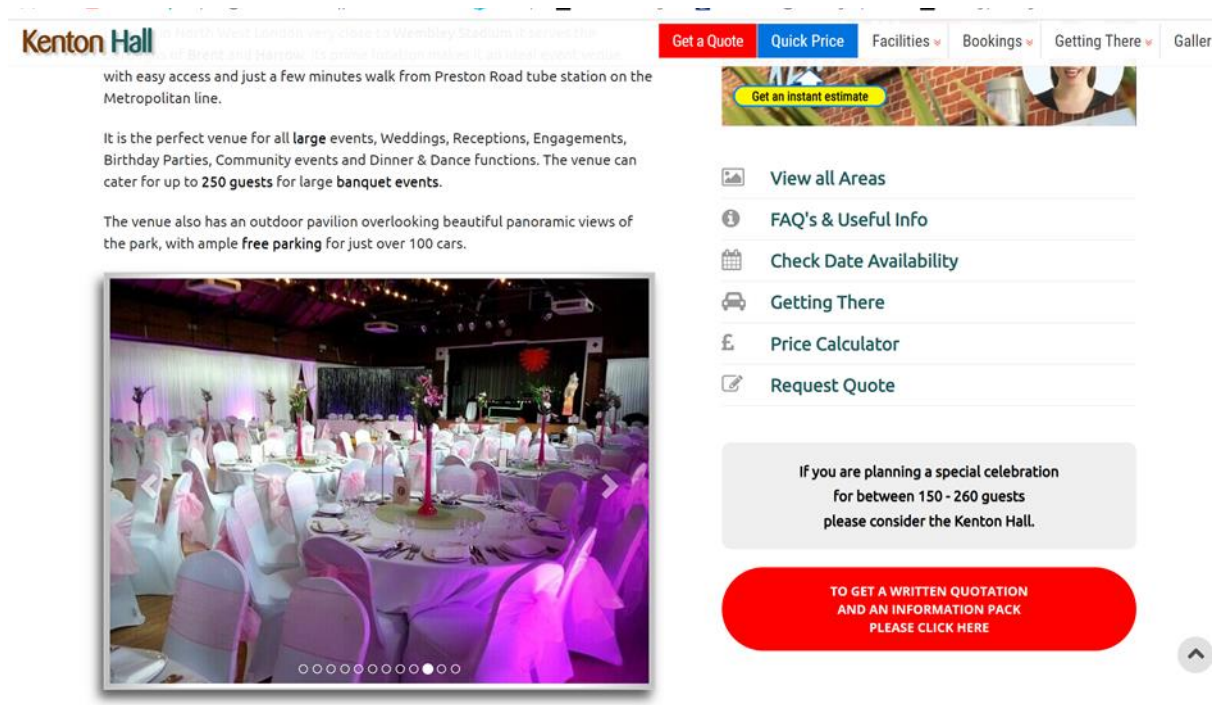
3. **Kenton Hall, Brent**  
Extracts from website



The **Kenton Hall** is a magnificent venue, originally built in the early 1900's as a sports pavilion. It resides in a truly **splendid location**, sited away from the main road and surrounded by lush green **playing fields**. Its unique **rich décor** has not only been preserved but has recently been renovated with facilities and access for Wheelchair users.

Located in North West London very close to **Wembley Stadium** it serves the boroughs of **Brent** and **Harrow**, its prime location makes it an ideal event venue, with easy access and just a few minutes walk from Preston Road tube station on the Metropolitan line.

It is the perfect venue for all **large** events, Weddings, Receptions, Engagements, Birthday Parties, Community events and Dinner & Dance functions. The venue can



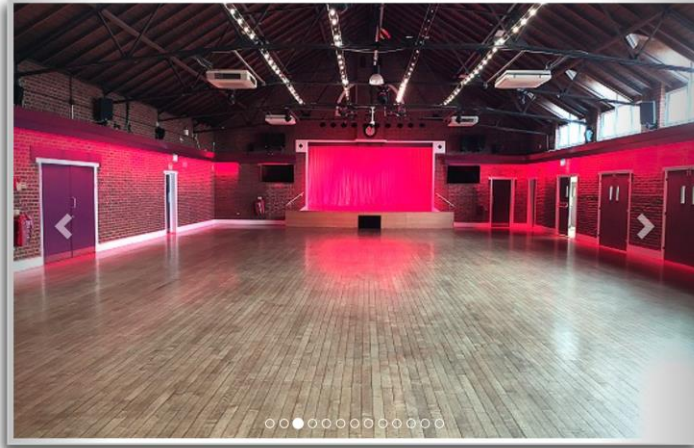
**The Main Hall**

The Main Hall can accommodate various large functions from 150 to 300 guests and has a raised stage area as the focal point.

Entered through the large welcoming foyer, with an open and airy feel. It is fully air conditioned with various lighting arrangements to provide the exact ambience you require for your event. It has a natural wood floor and a high vaulted ceiling, giving the Main Hall a feeling of grandeur. The hall can accommodate up to 300 standing guests, reducing to 250 people for Dinner/Dance type functions, as extra space is required for up to 25 Large round tables. Each table can seat up to 10 guests comfortably, using our luxuriously high backed cushioned chairs, which will compliment any configuration of sitting arrangement.

The stage can be accessed by steps on either side from the main hall for public presentations etc. as well as two concealed entrances that can be used during performances.

The Small Events area can be accessed directly from the main hall through 5 double doors on



MAXIMUM CAPACITIES



LOCATION



**The Kitchen**

We have a fully equipped large kitchen, with gas cooking hobs, microwave oven, double sinks, fridge/freezer and preparation tops.

The kitchen is very conveniently situated beside a service road running alongside the property so as to accept deliveries from your caterers.

It is has direct access to service both the Main Hall and the Small Event Hall. It is a newly built large kitchen with ample room for your caterers to manoeuvre in.

This kitchen is mainly intended to be used by your caterers as a distribution and warming outlet before serving the guests. The large preparation worktops can quite adequately be used to organise your servings. The large double sinks can be used to wash any lightly soiled utensils during your function.



MAXIMUM CAPACITIES



LOCATION





Main Hall

### **Questionnaire Response**

Does your venue host south-Asian and other ethnic weddings?

>> Yes

• What number of people can you accommodate for a seated wedding reception at your venue?

>> 80 - 250

• Are there any barriers to hosting south-Asian and other ethnic weddings at your venue?

>> No

• Do you have sufficient ceiling height in order to accommodate stage and Mandaps? Please provide photographic evidence if possible

>> Yes <https://kentonhall.co.uk/main-hall.html>

• Are you able to accommodate gender segregated events?

>> No, But hirer can engage 3rd parties to make provisions

• Do you offer in house catering option (including vegetarian/halal) ?

>> We do not provide in house catering

• Can customers use external caterers ?

> Yes

• Are you able to meet a requirement for the handling of specific food and beverages which may include the consumption of specific food types or include the exclusion of others?

>> Hirer can bring own external caterers - no restrictions on cuisine/type

• Are you able to host a celebration which may involve a number of events spanning a number of

days?

>> Yes

• How in demand are your services currently?

>> Low to Moderate

• Do you have many vacancies in your bookings over the next 12 months?

>> Yes

• What number of vacancies do you have for both weekdays and weekends over the next 12 months?

>> At this time we have approx 20 future dates booked so 345 dates available.

• What on-site parking arrangements do you have and how many parking spaces?

>> On site - free - 108 cars

• Do you have an over-flow car parking contingency?

>> Yes, Preston Road Car Park 166 spaces (pay and display) - 100m distance from our car park

• Do you offer wedding packages including catering decorating and photography and other services?

>> No, But hirer can engage 3rd parties - no restrictions

• What are your opening hours and what days are you open?

>> Open when required - 7 days a week 8am - 12am

### **Further Information**

The appellant indicates that the venue would not be able to accommodate gender segregation if there were more than 70 men or women as the smaller events hall can only accommodate 70 people. However, my understanding from conversation with other venues is that there are means of providing gender segregation through the provision of room dividers. This is also indicated in the survey response above that the hirer can engage third parties to accommodate this. The venue is dry hire but there are no restrictions on religious grounds or catering and hirer has flexibility to engage external suppliers.

*“Beautiful wedding location, gorgeous setting perfect for both small and large wedding parties”.*

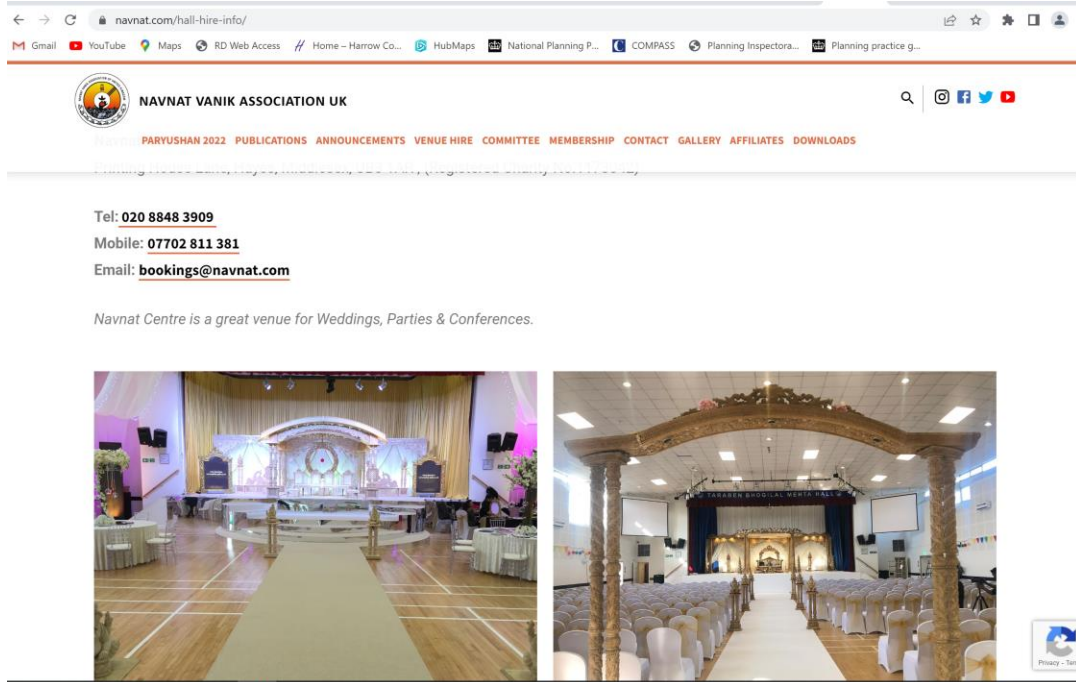
*“Nice hall with private car park . Reasonable prices to hire.” “Went to a wedding last week there very nice recommend it to anyone” Google Reviews*



## Group 4 – Venues in the wider area

### 1. Navnat Centre, Hillingdon

Extracts from website




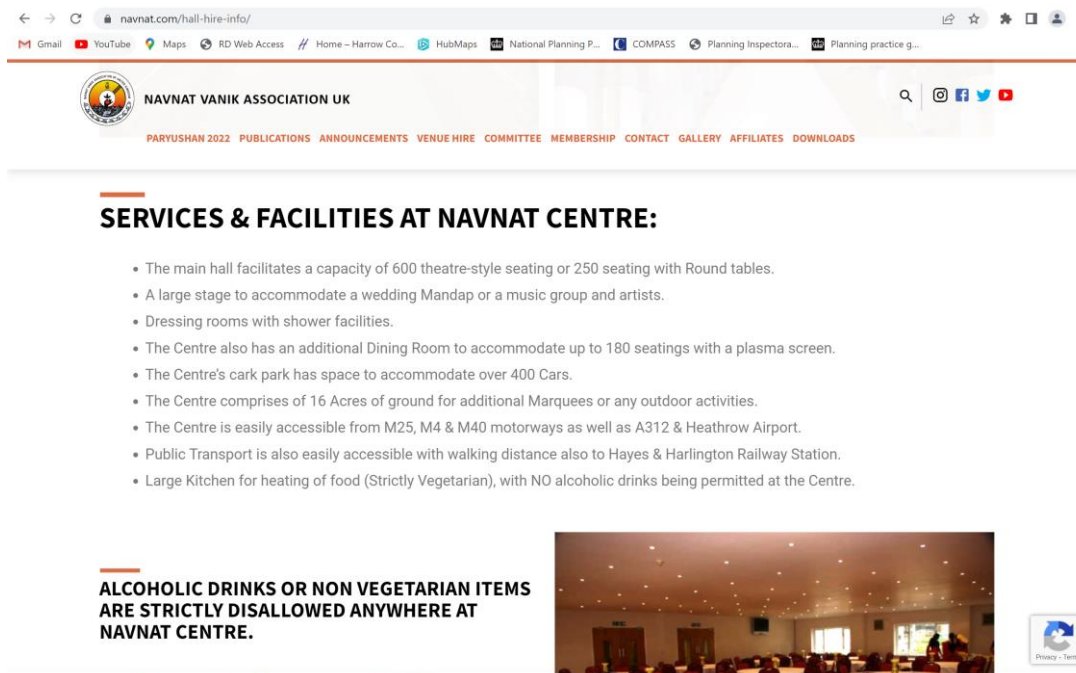
navnat.com/hall-hire-info/

NAV NAT VANIK ASSOCIATION UK

PARYUSHAN 2022 PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS VENUE HIRE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CONTACT GALLERY AFFILIATES DOWNLOADS

Tel: **020 8848 3909**  
 Mobile: **07702 811 381**  
 Email: **bookings@navnat.com**

Navnat Centre is a great venue for Weddings, Parties & Conferences.

navnat.com/hall-hire-info/


NAV NAT VANIK ASSOCIATION UK

PARYUSHAN 2022 PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS VENUE HIRE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CONTACT GALLERY AFFILIATES DOWNLOADS

### SERVICES & FACILITIES AT NAVNAT CENTRE:

- The main hall facilitates a capacity of 600 theatre-style seating or 250 seating with Round tables.
- A large stage to accommodate a wedding Mandap or a music group and artists.
- Dressing rooms with shower facilities.
- The Centre also has an additional Dining Room to accommodate up to 180 seatings with a plasma screen.
- The Centre's car park has space to accommodate over 400 Cars.
- The Centre comprises of 16 Acres of ground for additional Marquees or any outdoor activities.
- The Centre is easily accessible from M25, M4 & M40 motorways as well as A312 & Heathrow Airport.
- Public Transport is also easily accessible with walking distance also to Hayes & Harlington Railway Station.
- Large Kitchen for heating of food (Strictly Vegetarian), with NO alcoholic drinks being permitted at the Centre.

**ALCOHOLIC DRINKS OR NON VEGETARIAN ITEMS ARE STRICTLY DISALLOWED ANYWHERE AT NAVNAT CENTRE.**



## Questionnaire Response

- Does your venue host south-Asian and other ethnic weddings? **YES**
- What number of people can you accommodate for a seated wedding reception at your venue ? **600**
- Are there any barriers to hosting south-Asian and other ethnic weddings at your venue? **WE DO NOT ALLOW ALCOHOL OR MEAT ON OUR PREMISES**
- Do you have sufficient ceiling height in order to accommodate stage and Mandaps? Please provide photographic evidence if possible.- **YES & pls see our website**
- Are you able to accommodate gender segregated events? n/halal) ? **YES & N/A**
- Can customers use external caterers ? **YES**
- Are you able to meet a requirement for the handling of specific food and beverages which may include the consumption of specific food types or include the exclusion of others? **YES**
- Are you able to host a celebration which may involve a number of events spanning a number of days? **YES**
- How in demand are your services currently? **A SLOW START AFTER PANDEMIC**
- Do you have many vacancies in your bookings over the next 12 months? **YES**
- What number of vacancies do you have for both weekdays and weekends over the next 12 months? **APPROXIMATELY 70%**
- What on-site parking arrangements do you have and how many parking spaces? **MARKED TARMACKED BAYS FOR OVER 400 CARS**
- Do you have an over-flow car parking contingency? **YES**
- Do you offer wedding packages including catering decorating and photography and other services? **NO -AS WE DO NOT CHARGE VAT ON OUR HALL HIRE**
- What are your opening hours and what days are you open? **7DAYS A WEEK FROM 8.30 AM TO MIDNIGHT - CAN BE OPENED EARLY IF REQUESTED**

**ADD:- WE ALSO HAVE FACILITIES AND LICENSE FOR CIVIL WEDDINGS.**

## Further Information

Bridebook.com describes the venue as an “Asian wedding specialist” and outlines “The place is blank canvas and is decorated to suitability by decorators”

Google Reviews:

*“Great community hall with good facilities”*

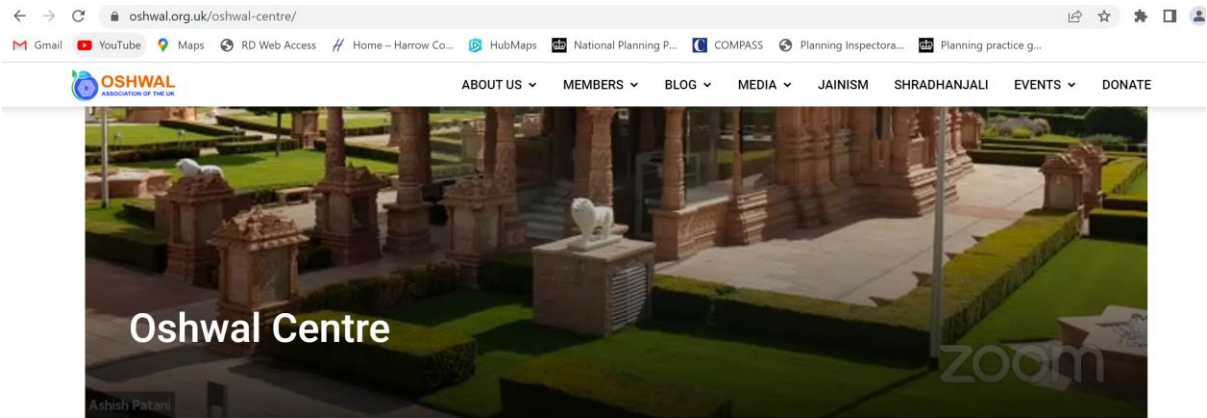
*“Very nice space. Fantastic for weddings, anniversaries, parties”*

*“Excellent venue to hold a wedding or a conference. Plenty of free car parking spaces”*

*“Very good for wedding and social functions”*

## 2. Oshwal Centre, Welwyn, Hatfield

Extracts from website



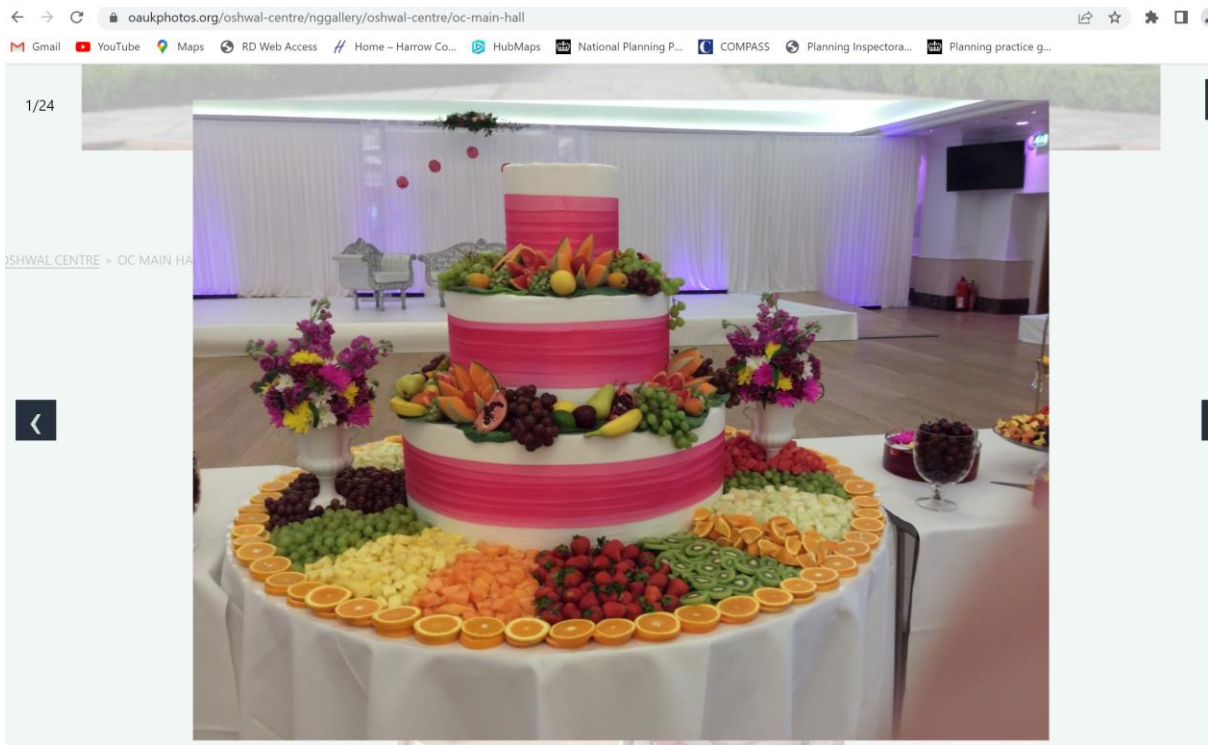
### Welcome

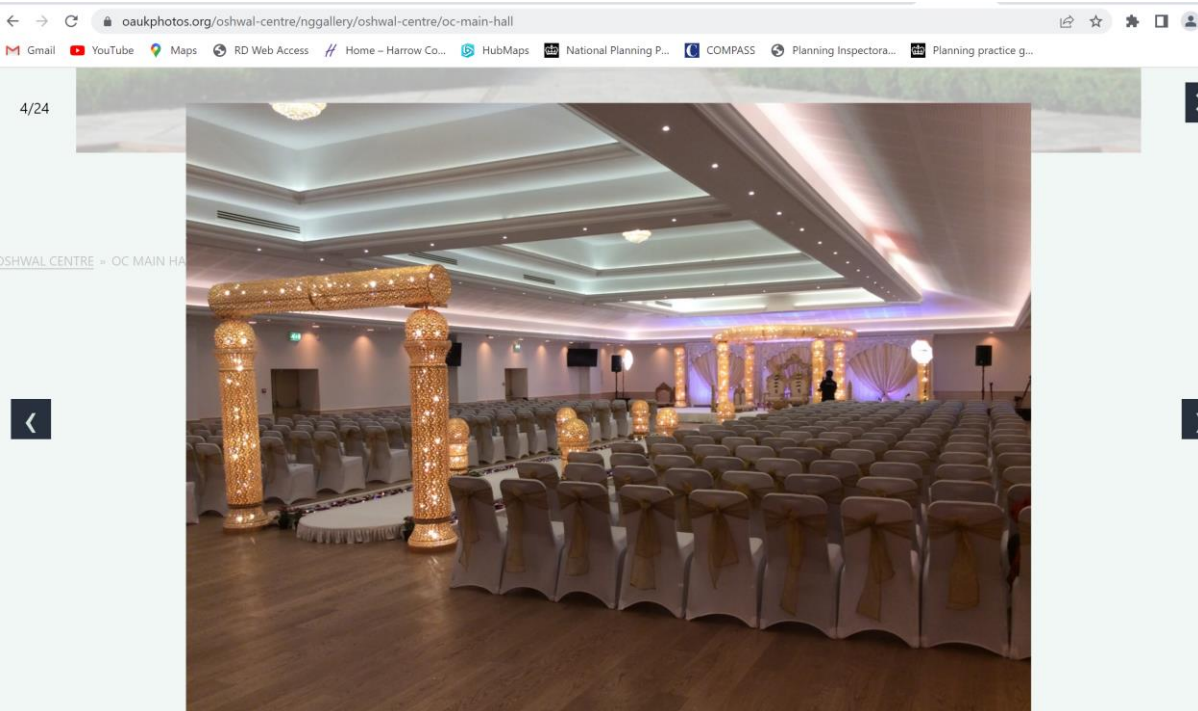
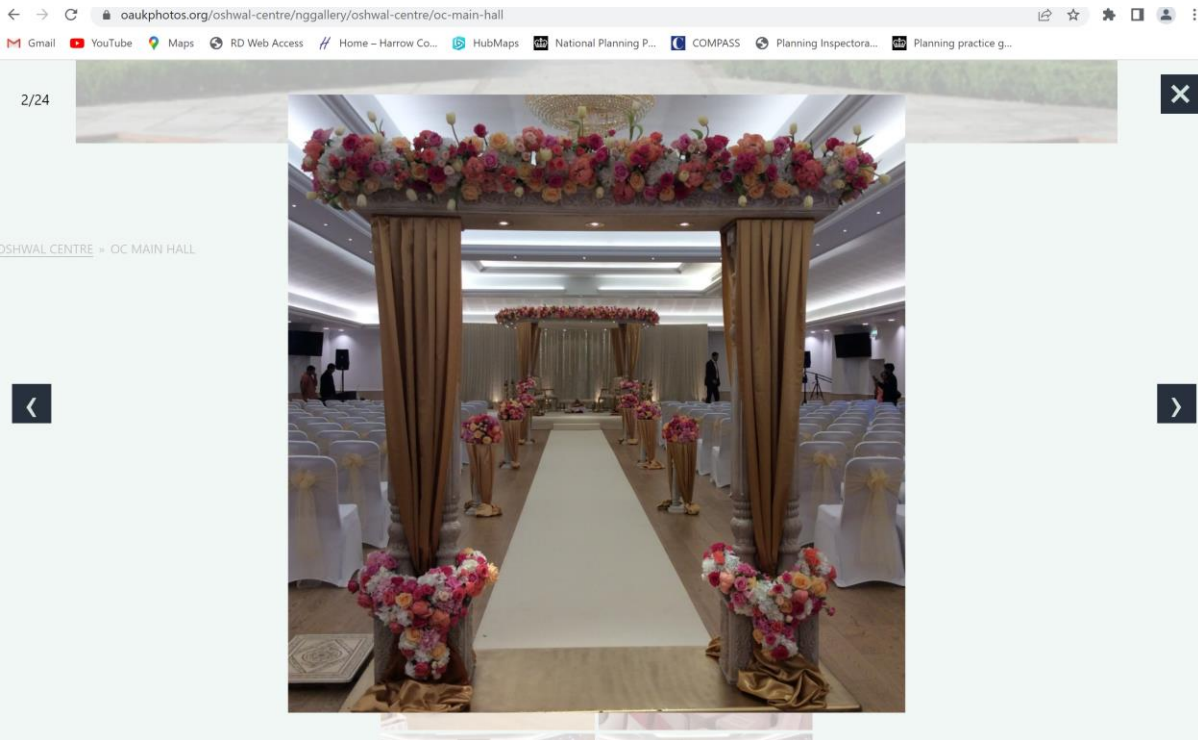
Set within excess of 70 acres of countryside, Oshwal Centre grounds has a beautiful Temple (or "Derasar") with manicured landscape gardens. We have two large 500 people capacity wedding halls. There is a purpose built children's playground within the grounds.

Newly extended and refurbished Oshwal House, offers the perfect venue for smaller family celebrations, with standing capacity of 150, seated (theatre style) 100 and seated (with tables) 75.

### Address

Coopers Lane Road, Northaw, Hertfordshire, EN6 4DG





**Questionnaire response**

No response received

**Further Information**

I telephoned the venue on 25<sup>th</sup> October and spoke to one of the event managers at the site. He advised that the venue was busy but still had good availability for weddings and was usually able to accommodate most people's dates preferences. He gave an example that in February 2023, there were two weekends booked but so far only 4 or 5 weddings booked for 2024. The manager advised that there were only 30 dates available in the year when people were unable to get married due to religious events but the rest of the year the large halls were available for wedding hire. He noted that the only restriction on the venue was that they were strictly vegetarian and no alcohol. He outlined that the Oshwal Centre welcomed any faith or religion for weddings, including Hindu, Muslim and Jewish and that they regularly host different weddings of different faiths at the same time. The venue is dry hire only but offers complete flexibility for customers to use external caterers, photography companies, décor companies including for Mandaps. It was confirmed the venue can host gender segregated events and has one site parking space for 500 cars.

*The venue website outlines that the "Oshwal Centre, Potters Bar, is the perfect venue for your wedding and for celebrating all your special occasions. Set in idyllic surroundings with the magnificent Jain Temple located within its own landscaped gardens and recently fully refurbished modern halls, the venue offers a perfect interlace of tranquil traditional authenticity and modern design."*

The venue offers a range of facilities including

2 large halls each with maximum capacity of 500 people; State of the art lighting and sound system; Registered venue for performing civil marriages; 3 Spacious changing rooms; 6 Plasma Screens in the upstairs hall; 3 Plasma Screens in the downstairs hall; Wi-fi Access; On-site parking for 500 cars; On-site Children's play area; 2 Spacious kitchens; Projector Screen; Tables & Chairs; Disabled step-free access & lift.

The halls are able to accommodate Mandaps and can accommodate gender segregated events. Customers can also choose to bring in external suppliers for décor and catering.

In addition to the 2 large halls, the venue also offers the newly extended and refurbished Oshwal House, with standing capacity of 150, seated (theatre style) 100 and seated (with tables) 75.

One of the premier photography suppliers ([www.ankitgovind.co.uk/oshwal-centre-potters-bar](http://www.ankitgovind.co.uk/oshwal-centre-potters-bar)) of the venue describes the venue on their website as follows:

*"The Oshwal Centre is a very popular venue for Hindu and Tamil weddings. It's one of our favourite venues and this is because of the stunning temple and really beautiful landscaped gardens. We are their number one premier supplier and we typically shoot around 4-8 weddings here each year.*

*It's an ideal Asian wedding venue offering a generous amount of space for all manner of events and the building has benefitted from an excellent recent refurbishment program. This venue offers a combination of traditional hand carved exterior decor on its temple with modern touches inside the function hall too."*

## Google Reviews

*“Been to this stunning venue for many years and never can you get tired of it’s beauty! Pictures cannot do it justice the true impact of its grandeur can only be seen in person. Perfect wedding venue with over 300 parking spaces*

*Beautiful venue for a wedding... The hall is very nice and perfect for an Indian wedding. And a playground for kids to play”*

## **Analysis List B**

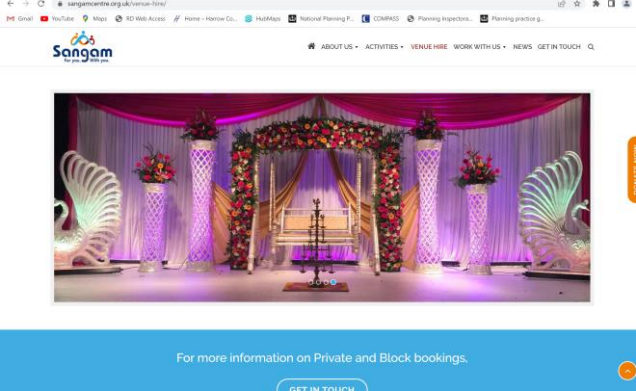
- Of the three venues in Harrow not previously considered, it is clear that the Sangam Association of Asian Women and the Shrinathdam National Haveli Centre should be considered as relevant venues for making a contribution towards meeting the needs for South/Asian ethnic wedding venues. Both of these venues have capacity for 300 guests. Although the Masefield Suite is discounted from the appellants evidence as a result of guest capacity, the event manager confirmed to me that the Venue can accommodate 250 guests and would still make a contribution to the overall South Asian/Ethnic wedding market.
- Of the three venues in the appellants sub regional market area, it is evident that The Grove and the Penridge suite can accommodate a seated guest capacity of 300 guests and therefore should be considered as relevant in the overall contribution to the South Asian/ethnic wedding market. It is noted that Ms Gilham appears to discount the Grove on the basis of price, in my view it should not be excluded from other venues which should be considered relevant, unlike Ms Gilham at paragraph 17 I did not interpret the evidence given by members of the public given at the inquiry that only inexpensive venues should be considered relevant. I understood their point to be those inexpensive venues, such as schools, should not be regarded as irrelevant on account of offering less expensive options.
- In respect of the four venues identified in the wider area, these were all identified in my proof of evidence as being suitable and available to host South Asian/ethnic wedding for guest capacities in excess of 300. It should be noted that 3 out of 4 of these venues is specifically dedicated to banqueting/functions (Saffron D'OR, Stockley Marquee and VUK) and offers a wide range of options for catering, décor, packages. North Mymms Park, although also a hotel, has a particular focus on multi cultural weddings and advertises itself as the one of the premier multicultural wedding venues in the UK so it is also clearly a venue which is highly relevant and should be considered as part of the overall market offer for the South Asian community.
- 60% of the venues I was able to get in touch with, all indicated they had good availability of dates for the next 12 month period and this was also taking into account dates of the year when events can't take place in some venues such as the Oshwal Centre. This clearly shows there is not an unmet need for this type of venue.
- The venues offer degrees of variation compared to the former Premier Banqueting site but all provide a relevant contribution to the overall market for South Asian /ethnic wedding venues.

**Site Information – List B**

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>
The Grove	Hempstead Road, Watford, WD17 3NL
Double Tree by Hilton London Elstree	Barnet By-Pass, Borehamwood, WD6 5PU
The Pendridge Suite	470 Bowes Road, New Southgate, N11 1NL
Sangam Association of Asian Women	210 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8 0AP
Shrinathdham National Haveli and Community Centre	2a Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, HA1 2SU
Masefield Suite	Christchurch Avenue, Harrow, HA3 5BD
Sopwell House	Cottonmill Lane St. Albans AL1 2HQ
North Mymms Park	Hertfordshire, AL9 7TR
The Decorium	22 Western Rd, London N22 6UH
The Stockley Marquee	Stockley Park, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB11 1AQ
VUK Banqueting Suite	Venue Hall, Park Place, Ealing W3 8JY
Saffron D'or	447 Lady Margaret Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2QB
Regency Banqueting Suite	113 Bruce Grove, London N17 6UR
La Royale Banqueting Suites	819-821 High Rd, London N17 8ER



**Group 1 – Venues in Harrow**

1.	<u>Sangam Association of Asian Women</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	<p>The Meenal Mehta Auditorium is Sangam’s premier function/event room, providing capacity for 300 sitting guests. The venue website states <i>“it’s an ideal venue for all occasions including engagement, marriages...” We know that space is often just one component of an event and that other services will be required – in addition to Wi-Fi and full disabled access, we provide kitchen facilities, and the ability to use external caterers, flip charts, projectors and whiteboards. For weddings, events and other formal gatherings, we can provide a range of decorations and features that can transform our spaces into the perfect venue for every occasion.”</i></p> <p>The venue website imagery clearly shows Asian wedding decoration and Mandaps</p>  <p>The venue has capacity for 18 to 20 cars but is only a short walk from Burnt Oak Station.</p>
2.	<u>Shrinathdham National Haveli and Community Centre</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	<p>The Shrinathdham National Haveli &amp; Community Centre is available for private hire for a wide range of functions, activities and group sizes. I telephoned the venue and discussed the venue hire with one of the vent managers. I was advised that the venue was open to all faiths and religions. The only restriction on the venue was it was strictly vegetarian, and no alcohol is permitted. The manager advised that they mostly catered for wedding and engagement parties. It was also</p>

	<p>outlined that the venue is able to accommodate Mandaps. The manager stated that the venue was approximately 50% booked for weekday and weekend events over the next 12-month period and there was still plenty of available dates for both weekends and weekdays.</p> <p>The venue website states that <i>“Whether you’re organising a meeting, seminar, health class, Katha, Satsang, Loti utsav, Bhajan, birthday party or any wedding function, our beautiful building can accommodate your requirements. Our halls are of various sizes and kitchen/dining facilities are also available for hire. Our helpful team are here to assist with your booking and to provide a bespoke package best suited to your needs.”</i></p> <p><i>“This venue comes with various benefits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Range of room sizes</i></li> <li>• <i>On site Catering facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>On site car parking for 40 cars and public car parks nearby</i></li> <li>• <i>Disabled facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Licensed for Civil Ceremonies</i></li> <li>• <i>PA system available for hire</i></li> <li>• <i>Short walk to Harrow and Wealdstone Station”</i></li> </ul> <p>The venue includes Vaishnav Hall which accommodate 300 seated guests, has an adaptable stage, professional lighting and a modern sound system. The venue can accommodate gender segregated events, Mandaps and a range of internal/external catering options are available.</p>
3.	<u>Masefield Suite</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received.
<u>Further Information</u>	<p>The space is fully equipped with a licensed bar, commercial kitchen, uprighters, staging, tables and chairs. There’s also an adjoining room available for those requiring more space. For flexibility, all-inclusive and dry hire options are available and outside catering is permitted.</p> <p>I telephoned the venue on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October and spoke to the general manager (Mr Ian Milton). He advised that when the Masefield</p>

	<p>suite was in use with the smaller breakout room, the maximum capacity was 250 in banqueting style. He advised they regularly host Asian weddings of all backgrounds and there were no restrictions on religious grounds. The venue was able to accommodate Mandaps and gender segregation. He advised that although they were generally busy they were usually able to accommodate most people date preferences. The venue can also offer complete flexibility in terms of external suppliers for catering and décor but could also offer packages.</p>
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**Group 2 – Venues in appellants sub area**

<u>1.</u>	<u>The Grove, Watford</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	<p>The Grove has a range of different rooms/guest capacities for hire. The largest suite, the Amber Suite, can accommodate 430 guests in banquet style. The website states that: <i>“this bright, airy suite opens directly on to our spectacular gardens through its floor-to-ceiling french windows. While guests sip Champagne and enjoy canapés, the bridal party can take advantage of the stunning photography opportunities in our 300-acre grounds. Whether you’re after the perfect white wedding or something with a twist, our dedicated team can transform this blank canvas space into anything you’ve been dreaming of.”</i></p> <p>The venue offers a range of catering options and also partners with specialist Asian catering company Madhu’s. The venue also offers a range of wedding planning and wedding packages. The Madhu company website confirms that the venue can accommodate Mandaps (<a href="https://www.madhus.co.uk/our-venues/the-grove/">https://www.madhus.co.uk/our-venues/the-grove/</a>). The venue has sufficient space for mandaps</p>
<u>2.</u>	<u>Double Tree by Hilton, Hertsmere</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	The venue offers a banqueting capacity for 260 guests in the Dupont and Gate Suite and 210 guests in the Dupont suite. The venue offers a range of wedding packages to suit individual needs and has a dedicated team of wedding advisers.
<u>3.</u>	<u>The Penridge Suite, Barnet</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	I note the appellant outlines the venue cannot accommodate 300 guests. However, I telephoned the venue on the 25 <sup>th</sup> October and spoke to one of the event managers (Marina) who advised me that they could accommodate 300 guests in banquet style. This is also outlined on the venue website. I was advised that that they had approximately 50% vacancy rate for booking over the next 12 months period for weekend dates. The manager advised that they do in

	<p>house catering but offer flexibility for the customers to bring in their own suppliers for catering and decoration. It was also confirmed by the manager that the venue could accommodate Mandaps and gender segregated events.</p>
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**Group 3 – Venues in the wider area**

<u>1.</u>	<u>North Mymms Park, Welwyn, Hatfield</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	<p>The venue can host 400 guests in banquet layout in its pavilion suite and has sufficient height to accommodate Mandaps. There are a range of other rooms available for hire include The Long Gallery which can host 230 for mandap ceremony or 180 at a seated reception. The venue can accommodate a range of dietary requirements and can recommend caterers but also offer flexibility for self-catering events. There is no restriction to have a wedding at the venue on faith or religion. Gender segregated events are possible. The venue has parking for 200 cars.</p> <p>The venue website wedding brochure states that “<i>North Mymms Park is a stunning location for multicultural weddings. We pride ourselves on being one of the best Historic multicultural wedding venues in the UK. Our experienced team fully understands the importance of certain cultures and their religious requirements. As a dry hire venue we can offer the flexibility to choose approved suppliers such as caterers and decorators. Here at North Mymms Park, we understand that no wedding is the same and offer a wealth of experience in all religious and cultural requirements. If you are planning a day to celebrate a specific culture and tradition in your multi cultural wedding, engagement party or event, North Mymms Park is the perfect place to do so.</i></p>
<u>2.</u>	<u>Saffron D’Or, Ealing</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	<p>I telephoned the venue on 24<sup>th</sup> October and spoke to one of the event managers. The Saffron D’Or offers a banqueting hall for upto 450 guests. I was advised that they have good availability for the next 12 months and for weekends dates had approximately 25 weekends days booked over that period. The manager advised that they could offer two slots, being 11am to 5pm or 7pm to 1am and would be able to accommodate two events in a day. The venue offers in house catering</p>

	<p>for a range of dietary requirements and a range of services including Mehndi artist, photography, and wedding cakes. The venue allows complete flexibility with regard to external suppliers including catering and décor. It was confirmed that the venue can accommodate gender segregated events and can host Mandaps. The manager confirmed there is no restriction on holding a wedding at the venue on religion or faith.</p> <p>Google Reviews</p> <p><i>“Just had my sisters wedding here, had mine here 3 years ago. It is a lovely hall and they have such a wide variety of decorations that you can choose from. The food was absolutely delicious, the staff were supppper helpful. We kept getting compliments on the decoration and food from all our family members, everyone had such a good time.</i></p> <p><i>Big big thank you to Naz, Mohammed and their team!</i></p> <p><i>Highly highly recommend, great experience from start to finish.”</i></p> <p><i>“We had a wedding event with 350 guest! It’s not all about the bride and groom. I intentionally delayed writing this review! On the day of the event there is only so much one can perceive! Since the event, I have had a lot of feed back from my guest and each and every single one were well impressed with the hygiene, decor, service, organisation and the food was fantastic. Mohammed the events managers he went out of his way to help us to make sure everything ran smoothly and that all the guest were well looked after. The experience was “amazing ” fantastic” “ brilliant” ! We will defiantly be using saffron de ore again for our next event . Thank you 🌸”</i></p>
3.	VUK Banqueting Suite, Ealing
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	No response received
<u>Further Information</u>	I telephoned the venue on 25 <sup>th</sup> October and spoke to the venue manager. It was confirmed that the venue regularly hosts Asian weddings and Mandaps. The manager indicated they currently have around 50% availability over the next 12 month period for weekday/weekend events. VUK Banqueting Suite can accommodate

	<p>350 guests and is surrounded by five acres of greenery. Its outdoor area can also be used for photographs. In addition, the venue is equipped with a kitchen which can be used by external caterers. However, the venue offers a wide range of in-house catering options (including Asian) for variety of dietary requirements. The venue can accommodate gender segregated events upto a maximum of 100. It can recommend a range of external suppliers for a wedding across a range of cultures including Indian and Nigerian. The venue has parking on site for 170 cars. There is no restriction on use of the venue by any religion or faith.</p> <p>Google Reviews:</p> <p><i>“I had my wedding at Vuk Banqueting in 2019 and was absolutely fantastic.</i></p> <p><i>From traffic management in car par park, sound system ,Av system ,food ,bar ,decoration and lighting all was perfect. Service is 5 star and i am highly recommending this venue”</i></p> <p><i>“Booked this venue 11 months before our proposed wedding date and we have experienced the best customer service form Goran and his team.</i></p> <p><i>The hall itself is a beautiful setting with multiple additional facilities, loads of parking and amazing food.</i></p> <p><i>Goran, the manager, remained in contact with us over the the year of planning and he is genuinely a great person. Very truthful and down to earth. A hard working individual who is happy to make sure that your day goes well.</i></p> <p><i>Delano our chef was amazing, catered to our needs and to affordable pricing. He made us feel welcome and always gave us a chance to have our say.</i></p> <p><i>I definitely recommend this venue for any event.”</i></p>
4.	<u>The Stockley Marquee</u>
<u>Questionnaire Response</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your venue host south-Asian and other ethnic weddings?</li> <li>• <b>Yes</b></li> <li>• What number of people can you accommodate for a seated wedding reception at your venue ?</li> <li>• <b>580 with dancefloor / 600 without</b></li> </ul>



- Are there any barriers to hosting south-Asian and other ethnic weddings at your venue?
- **Barriers in what sense, please be kind enough to expand?**
- Do you have sufficient ceiling height in order to accommodate stage and Mandaps? Please provide photographic evidence if possible
- **Yes circa 6/8m heights, please see image attached.**



Are you able to accommodate gender segregated events?

- **Yes**
- Do you offer in house catering option (including vegetarian/halal) ?
- **No**
- Can customers use external caterers ?
- **Yes**
- Are you able to meet a requirement for the handling of specific food and beverages which may include the consumption of specific food types or include the exclusion of others?
- **The Stockley Marquee is a Dry Venue Hire establishment hiring out merely the space/venue/furniture to individuals who wish to organise their weddings at the venue. As a dry venue hire business there are no food or beverages services provided/offered.**
- Are you able to host a celebration which may involve a number of events spanning a number of days?
- **Yes**
- How in demand are your services currently?
- **This year has been a recovery year post covid, we are expecting uptake in bookings moving forwards**
- Do you have many vacancies in your bookings over the next 12 months?
- **Yes**
- What number of vacancies do you have for both weekdays and weekends over the next 12 months?
- **To use 2023 as an example, we would expect circa 33% of the calendar year to have events taking place. These event are spread of different days of the week not just weekends.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What on-site parking arrangements do you have and how many parking spaces?</li> <li>• <b>Part of the dry venue hire provides access to parking grounds, the grounds accommodate circa 150 vehicles</b></li> <li>• Do you have an over-flow car parking contingency?</li> <li>• <b>Yes</b></li> <li>• Do you offer wedding packages including catering decorating and photography and other services?</li> <li>• <b>No</b></li> <li>• What are your opening hours and what days are you open?</li> <li>• <b>Events are permitted 7 days a week, with access times starting from 7am to 1am</b></li> </ul> <p>(Questionnaire response provided by Venue manager)</p>
<p><u>Further Information</u></p>	<p><u>Google reviews</u></p> <p><i>“What a fantastic venue. It was perfect for our wedding reception we had here on 19th June. We saw a couple of venues at the beginning but as soon as we saw this and the potential, we knew straight away it was the one for us. Big thank you to Dubs for handling our queries and constant questions. We couldn't have asked for better honestly. The golf buggy transport was a nice little perk too. Big thank you and all the best to the guys at Stockley Marquee. (Harmeet)”</i></p> <p><i>“Exceptional venue with beautiful scenery of greenland! Venue has a modern interior and facilities are clean.</i></p> <p><i>At maximum capacity (600 guests) the inside has little space to manoeuvre and can feel congested, however this is compensated by the huge green space where groups can congregate.</i></p> <p><i>Overall I would happily recommend this venue for a wedding! (Rafi)”</i></p>

### **Religion of Each Venue**

- I note Ms Gilhams Appendix 3. However, it should be noted that the proposed offering at Premier House which include a range dietary requirements and provision for alcohol will exclude a significant part of the Hindu community from being able to use their venue which strictly adhere to a vegetarian diet and no alcohol. This was confirmed by one of the Trustees during my visit to the Wood Lane temple in Stanmore. It was also confirmed to me through a contact on one of my visits that some in the Muslim community would also not enter a venue where alcohol or non halal meet is served.
- I disagree with Ms Gilhams categorisation of Harrow School as a venue for the Christian Community. It is clear the school is not restrictive from my own evidence and that it hosts Asian weddings, an offering which is implicit on their web site
- Ms Gilham has not categorised Canons Park School. However, based on email correspondence received from the school as discussed in my evidence, my understanding is that it is not restrictive.
- I disagree with Ms Gilhams classification of the KP Centre, SP Centre, the Dhamecha Lohana Centre and Shrinathdham National Haveli and Community Centre as Hindu only. The venues are open to all faiths and religions as confirmed by a telephone calls to the venues on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.