

[Sign in](#) · [Register](#)Go to:  

However you feel about your body, join Eat right,  
the Guardian's healthy eating club, to feel great this summer.  
[Join now](#) ► [the-guardian.co.uk](http://the-guardian.co.uk)

[Read today's paper](#) · [Jobs](#)Search:   Guardian Unlimited  Web**Guardian**Unlimited **Special reports**

**Home**      **UK**      **Business**      **Audio**      **Podcasts**      **The Wrap**      **News blog**      **Talk**      **Search**  
**The Guardian**      **World**      **America**      **Arts**      **Special reports**      **Columnists**      **News guide**      **Help**      **Quiz**

**Special  
report**  
Religious  
affairs

## Mega-mosque falls foul of planning laws

Jamie Doward, home affairs editor

Sunday November 5, 2006

[The Observer](#)

Search this site

 

Go to...

[Special report: religious affairs](#)

[Archived articles on religious affairs](#)

Plans to build Britain's first mega-mosque in east London have been thrown into doubt amid opposition from local Muslims and news that the radical group behind the project has fallen foul of planning laws.

Tablighi Jamaat, an evangelical Islamic group which each year sends hundreds of young British Muslims to fundamentalist religious schools in Pakistan, wants to build the huge mosque in Newham to hold between 40,000 and 70,000 followers, depending on planning permission.

Article continues ▾

### In this section

[Muslims more proud of local area, says poll](#)

[Terror fight is making us victims, say Muslims](#)

[Ministers warn Muslim pilgrims over rogue travel agents](#)

[Aida Edemariam talks to singer Sami Yusuf](#)

[Mosques told to obey new code of conduct](#)

[Letters: Muslim drama](#)

[Religion no excuse for gender inequality, says Cherie Booth](#)

[Muslim Forum hits out at suicide bomber film](#)



The proposal, which would create the largest religious building in Britain, has led to a unique coalition of local Muslims and fundamentalist Christians who accuse Tablighi Jamaat of being a radical organisation. They say that two of the 7/7 bombers, Mohammed Siddique Khan and Shehzad Tanweer, attended Tablighi Jamaat mosques. Counter-terrorism sources say it is more likely that radicalised young Muslims are attracted to Tablighi Jamaat than the other way round. So far, 2,500 Muslims

[First person: family clashes over the veil](#)

[Muslim Live8 brings home Darfur crisis](#)

[Halal food and no alcohol as Wembley hosts Muslim Live8](#)

[Noorjehan Barmania is distressed that she did not keep fast at Ramadan](#)

[Hamza Yusuf, face to faith: Fasting is not just about giving up food](#)

[Conflict between religions threatens future of the world, Muslim leaders tell Pope](#)

[Amis returns fire in Islam row](#)

living near the mosque site have signed a petition against the plan. Asif Shakoor, chairman of the Sunni Friends of Newham, said: 'It is radicalising the younger generation. We have to make a stand.'

Tablighi Jamaat now faces further problems. Currently temporary buildings serve as a mosque on the site. Planning permission for the temporary mosque expired last Tuesday, the day Tablighi Jamaat had pledged to submit plans for the new mosque. A spokeswoman for Newham council confirmed the organisation had breached planning laws.

### **Special report** [Religion in the UK](#)

### **Related articles**

[Guide to British religions](#)

[Full coverage - Muslim Britain](#)

### **Useful links**

[Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

[Archbishop of Westminster](#)

[Board of Deputies of British Jews](#)

[British Humanist Association](#)

[National Secular Society](#)

[Islamic Human Rights Commission](#)

[Muslim Council of Britain](#)

[The Vatican](#)

[Hindu Forum of Britain](#)

[The RE directory](#)

### **Advertiser links**

#### **[Find & Compare Fixed-Rate Remortgages](#)**

Complete an easy form to find a range of UK fixed-rate...

[my-remortgage.co.uk](#)

#### **[2 Year Fixed Rate Remortgage Comparisons](#)**

UK homeowners, save time and money. Complete the simple...

[problem-remortgages.co.uk](#)

#### **[Compare Remortgage Deals Online](#)**

Save £££s each month by remortgaging today. Compare deals...

[Remortgages.UKNetGuide.co.uk](#)

**[Home Insurance](#) | [HDTV](#) | [Digital TV](#) | [Football](#) | [Credit Cards](#)**

[Printable version](#) | [Send it to a friend](#) | [Save story](#)



[Privacy policy](#) | [Terms & conditions](#) | [Advertising guide](#) | [A-Z index](#) | [About this site](#)  
[Join our dating site today](#)

Guardian Unlimited © Guardian News and Media Limited 2007