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**London Borough of Camden**

**Planning Department (Development Control)**

**Camden Town Hall - Argyle Street - London WC1H 8ND**

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**Project: "23-27 HATTON WALL London EC1N 8JE"**

**Dear Sirs:**

I have been asked to supply some detailed information regarding the facilities made available to the jewellery sector and Camden council and why they were not utilized by either party during the past 4 years this I can only speculate on as the facilities were always available.

Firstly we complied with all the requirements as set out in section 106 and met all our obligations.

One champion of the space at Clerkenwell House was Mrs Jenny Fisher who worked with The Regeneration of Hatton Gardens Project. Mrs Fisher was very enthusiastic and supportive, we spent many hours in meeting both at Clerkenwell and other venues we got caught up in the potential for grow as did Mrs Fisher and were expecting great things once we were operating. Unfortunately this was not the case Jenny I believe left on Maternity leave and we were not contacted again by the council.

We employed the services of a local PR company The Communications unit Ltd at a cost to us of £20,000 during the two years, the advertising that we did to promote Clerkenwell house included the Conference facilities and free jewellery display cabinets available to local designer.

The advertising compiled of Flyers and CD Rom that were distributed locally and handed out at Farringdon and Chancery lane station at our cost, posters and banners advertising the conference facilities were produced and local newspapers and email advertising.

In addition to the above I had purchased J Blundell's and Sons. I apologise for the quick history but feel it is necessary to get a fuller picture for what was going on at the time.

J Blundell's and Sons was a family run business, formed in 1819. Based in Wardour Street it manufactured and supplied sheet and wire to the jewellery industry, It was closing due to lack of demand as the jewellery trade dwindled. We bought this failing business and moved its retail shop and its manufacturing, (plus its staff), to Hatton Gardens.

Over the following two years (heavily subsidised by myself, J Blundell's and Sons engaged with young jewellers, routinely visiting collages to promote not only themselves but the space available at the Clerkenwell House. J Blundell's and Son often sponsored individual student jewellers for their end of year work and always offered the space at Clerkenwell for them to showcase their work, (very few did), why? We don't know. End of year shows are always held at the collage, and we know that many took up shared spaces at venues like The Cockpit Arts Centre (Holborn), which would have 'open Studios' events over a entire week were all artists could display their work and sell directly from there studio.

J Blundell's and Sons staff always offered the space to their customers in an effort to promote the space. J Blundell's also sponsored competitions where the winners would display their winning pieces at the clerkenwell. Unfortunately with the lack of demand for sheet and wire by an ever decreasing jeweller population and the crisis in the economy J Blundell's and Sons was forced to cease trading at the end of 2008. This also may have played a part in the decline of use of the first floor Clerkenwell House.

We have been able to contact one person Aldith who had previously used Clerkenwell House conference room.

Aldith at the time was working closely with Jason Holts from Holts Academy, and Camden Council, we asked her if she could remember why they had stopped using the space. She told us that she was not all together sure and it was hard to pin point any one thing in particular.

Aldith had said that unfortunately the timing was not great as many of the schemes being run to help jewellers by various organisations, were being cancelled due to the lack of funding brought about by the start of the recession.

I would like to mention that hundreds of thousands of pounds was spent and a great deal of time, thought and work was put into the first floor refurbishment of the Clerkenwell house to accommodate the Jewellery sector but ultimately it was not a good business model lack of support from local s in the industry and the Council contributed to its lack of use.

**Yours sincerely**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R M Barrett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**R M Barrett**