

24 October 2011

Application cover letter

(In support of previous application 2011/4231/INVALID)

In August 2011 when we erected the three temporary walls inside the premises, we did so with the full knowledge that when our lease would come to an end in 2014, at which time we would remove the walls without a trace. This was an essential part of our building plan, to build temporary walls, and to not affect in any way the historic fabric and integrity of the building. This was and still is very important to us.

When we first came to the premises, the building had been empty and unused for many months. During these months of not being occupied, the windows had been broken, the walls were getting moldy, and the whole fabric and feeling of the building had gone into disrepair. We subsequently moved in, and have transformed these quite depressing premises into a beautiful space, full of life and energy.

The premises are being used for a health and wellness centre, specializing in Five Element acupuncture. By starting the Source Clinic we sought to create a space based on the principles of health, community, and a love of this ancient Chinese medicine.

We are also very committed to working with the local community, offering donation-based treatment on Sundays. Donation-based treatment means that the patient decides what they can afford to pay. The amount is entirely at their discretion and no one will be turned away from treatment. We plan to develop this side of the business in the future to build a long lasting commitment to the community and are actively seeking involvement in other community projects. We are also members of the Fitzrovia Partnership.

Once again, to return to the issue at hand, the erecting of walls, we can not stress this enough that the walls were put up with the sole instruction that they would be temporary, and they would be taken down when our lease ends in 2014. The walls will be taken down in under three years time, and it is with our deepest hope that the council offers us that time to continue working before taking them down.

Our business plan involves the renting of treatment space to other practitioners and the viability of our business depends on the availability of two separate treatment rooms for this purpose. If we were to have to take down the walls before the end of our lease in 2014, we would not be able to stay in business. Unfortunately, treating in one large room is not conducive to the work we perform.

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We understand that the Government's priority under the emerging National Planning Policy Framework to be one of sustainable development with a distinct focus on economic recovery. We hope that by looking upon this application favourably the Council will allow this local business to continue successfully, safe in the knowledge that the historic fabric and integrity of the building have not been harmed.

Should the Council deem it necessary, in order to grant the temporary consent to retain the works that we are seeking, we would be willing to sign a unilateral legal document agreeing to restore the premises to their former condition on completion of our lease in July 2014.

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Yours sincerely,

Bruce McCallum and Aaron Deemer

Directors - Source Clinic Limited