

The application is to change the property use of 56-58 leather Lane, EC1 7TP from the A1 class to D1. This change is for a 9-month period only, once this period has lapsed the use can revert to the original class.

The change of use is as a result of a bid that was submitted on behalf of the Adult Learning Partnership to the £20m Transformation Fund set up as part of the Government's White Paper 'The Learning Revolution'. The aim is to identify new ways of working locally to improve the offer of learning activities (in their widest sense, not just traditional courses) and to engage those in the local area who are not currently taking part in what's available. We propose to use the aforementioned retail unit to hold activities and events to encourage the local community to participate, and to use these activities as an opportunity to encourage and offer alternative educational and cultural opportunities. The Adult and Community Learning service leads an Adult Learning Partnership for Camden bringing together providers of informal adult learning, including the ACL service itself; the 4 colleges; the British Library and Museum; 8 local museums from the Foundling to the Freud museums; the library service; English Heritage (Kenwood House); the Roundhouse and the Wellcome Trust. Also involved are a number of Council services such as the labour market and economy team in C&E; the integrated early years' service (for employability involvement with parents); extended services in schools; Camden Working; the Camden Training network; the Active Health team in C&E; Age Concern Camden and the Learning and Skills Council. The bid we submitted in August has been successful and we have been allocated £194,520 to be spent between now and the end of March 2010. The intention is to use the disused shop on Leather Lane for community activities; the project will bring many benefits for both the community, the partnership and for the local high street.

In accordance with R7-B- Neighbourhood Centres, the premises we are acquiring will be redecorated and generally refurbished and it will be more attractive and welcoming than it currently stands. The development will not cause harm to the character, function, vitality and viability of the centre. The refurbishment of the shop will make a positive contribution to the ground floor level by offering leisure activities for the community to engage in and attract more people to the local market. It will not prevent the centre from being capable of providing a range of convenience shopping.

The proposal correlates with Camden's RPG4CL policy of maintaining 50% of the local high street being used as A1 retail use. Currently there are 67 units in total. 42 units (62.7%) are Retail (A1). With the proposed change there would be 41 units (61.2%) in retail use. This percentage supports the 50% policy for the local high street. This change of use as previously stated is for temporary use for a 9 month period only.

In accordance with C1-New community uses, the retail unit we propose to use is in a suitable location to attract a large cohort of learners from the nearby social housing estates. The change of use does not harm residential amenity. The location is parallel to a street market which is easily accessible by the public via foot, and accessible by public transport. The shop will be in operation Monday-Saturday on a part time opening basis, aiming to open for 25-30 hours a week for the nine month temporary

period. The aim is to get 500 local residents to participate in a wide range of activities: art and creative workshops, Bengali Community Arts Project, book clubs, writers in residence, creative writing sessions and activities based on museums' collections. Due to the layout of the shop there is disabled access to the ground floor but no disabled toilet facilities.

The proposal also aims to support Camden's Cultural Strategy by offering activities which aim to improve people's well-being, offer advice on future educational opportunities and to create a stronger cohesive community. Primarily the use of the shop is for nine months but we hope to continue to work with local businesses and community centres to continue to provide a tailored service for the local adult community in the future.