

Gideon Whittingham
East Area Planning Team
Senior Planning Officer
London Borough of Camden
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG

Date: 22nd November 2016

Dear Mr. Whittingham,

Planning Application 2015/7013/P –
King's Cross Methodist Church, 6 Crestfield Street, London WC1H 8AT

We, the Christian Centre for Gambling Rehabilitation, currently operate a gambling rehabilitation service from King's Cross Methodist Church and have been doing so since November 2006. We utilise two rooms in the basement on a Monday to Friday to provide Counselling, Peer Group Meetings, Support Group Meetings, Debt Advice etc. to the community. On average we tend to about twenty people per week.

The facilities within King's Cross Methodist Church are dated. The rooms are dark with little natural light and the spaces therefore feel enclosed. Some of our clients complains that the place makes them feel sad and depressed which fails to help them in lifting their spirit in their fight against their gambling addiction. The gloomy environment does little in encouraging our clients to return to our centre for the help they need. We feel that the space is greatly in need of modernisation and redevelopment to make it more suitable to our clients of this twentieth-first century. In addition, the space is not flexible and as an operation we are confined to small meeting rooms which hinders the services we can offer.

The present state of the building is restricting our operation for the following reasons:

- Lack of disabled access / accesses areas limits the people they can serve
- Poor quality kitchen facilities
- Lack of private meeting rooms
- Lack of breakout space
- Lack of alternative community space in the area to satisfy our requirements
- Viability / cost of other spaces makes them unattractive
- The existing building and facilities at Kings Cross Methodist Church are outdated and in need of significant refurbishment

The improvements to the King’s Cross Methodist Church will definitely enable us to continue, enhance and expand our community operation, in that

- More meeting rooms will enable us to hold more Support Groups meetings at the same time
- Breakout spaces will allow informal interaction between users
- New kitchen will enable us to cater for more people with dishes of a variety of ethnicity

The redevelopment of this site is wholly supported and will enable The Christian Centre for Gambling Rehabilitation to continue to serve the King’s Cross and London community from our current location.

Yours sincerely

Signed:
Peter Chan
Centre Manager
The Christian Centre for Gambling Rehabilitation