

Planning and Regeneration
London Borough of Camden
2nd Floor
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG

6th November 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application
Camden Garden Centre, 2 Barker Drive, NW1 0JW
PP-07339568

On behalf of my client, Camden Garden Centre Limited, today I have submitted a planning application via the Planning Portal. The application seeks planning permission for the erection of a canopy and is supported by the following:

- Application Form
- Site Location Plan
- Existing and Proposed Plans and Elevations
- CIL Form

Camden Garden Centre is a success story, a community project that has blossomed and flourished. Since opening in 1982, it has become a major Garden Centre in London - well-known to keen gardeners in Camden and beyond as an inspiring source of plants and every type of gardening product. It is a traditional garden centre majoring on plants, seeds and core gardening products and is dedicated to the promotion of environmental and well-being improvement via gardening.

The Garden Centre is unusual because it is a self-financing training and employment social enterprise for disadvantaged people in the local area, mainly young people who have been long term unemployed and are desperate to get back into work. The aim is to help people back into the world of work by providing a real job experience in a professionally run company, and at the same time provide quality on the job training and an educational opportunity and donate funds to our parent charity, The Camden Garden Centre Charitable Trust.

The Training Scheme has been tremendously successful with more than 300 people passing through since 1982. Many of the trainees have gone on to set up their own successful businesses, ranging from floristry to landscape gardening and design and garden centres. Others have entered all manner of careers with landscapers and garden centres, in retail and other occupations and many have used their time as a Trainee as a stepping-stone to further qualifications mainly in horticulture, customer service or retail.

Camden Garden Centre was awarded the prestigious accolade of UK Garden Centre of the Year 2002; the award For Most Outstanding Commitment to Education and Training in UK Horticulture in 2006; Certificate of Excellence London in Bloom 2010; Camden and Islington Charity Business of the Year 2011, UK Urban Garden Centre of the Year 2012 and Best UK Plant Area 2017.

Camden Garden Centre majors on true gardening products and the sale of plants is central to its environmental role in the community. Unlike other garden centres which have diversified into selling a very wide spectrum of products not related to gardening, Camden Garden Centre has kept to its core offering. This does present some challenges as the Centre is therefore very weather dependent. This year has been a good case in point – during the key gardening periods of March and April, the very cold and wet weather prevented the Centre from holding plant stock which was not hardy and at the same time customers did not want to shop in the rain and snow. Conversely during parts of May and June the weather was so hot that stock wastage was very high and customers felt discouraged to venture outside where there was a lack of shade. Most garden centres have tackled this problem by installing canopied areas to enable non-hardy plant stock to be sold when the weather is poor and protecting stock and customers from inclement weather.

The proposal is for a canopy covering part of the garden centre plant area. This is a specialist canopy with light corrective covering which will enable plants to thrive without bolting or wilting. This will help enable the Garden Centre to protect itself from the serious adverse effects of the weather on its business.

I trust you have sufficient information to validate the application and look forward to receiving confirmation accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Mark Pender
PPM Planning Limited