

Fitzrovia News

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Late night licence for Goodge Street diner

A Camden Council licensing panel has approved a late night licence for a fast food restaurant and takeaway in Goodge Street in the face of opposition from local residents who argued that the premises would cause a noise nuisance, writes *Julia Gregory, Local Democracy Reporter and Linus Rees.*

Cheatmeals opened at 33 Goodge Street in October and asked to extend its hours from 11pm to serve late night refreshments until 2am the following morning on Mondays to Saturday and until midnight on Sundays.

At the licensing panel held on 7 December, councillors Gio Spinella (Chair), Lorna Greenwood, and Jonathan Simpson were asked to consider the application.

The licensing officer reported that 16 representations had been received opposing the application but the Police Responsible Authority and the Licensing Responsible Authority had withdrawn their objections after the applicant had

agreed to extra conditions on the management of the business, including installing CCTV, and a number of crime and noise prevention measures.

However, objections were maintained by Bloomsbury ward councillor Adam Harrison, the Charlotte Street Association, and 12 local residents.

Three residents from Goodge Street and Colville Place addressed the licensing panel and spoke of their fears of noise nuisance if the venue was allowed to stay open late.

In support of the residents the Charlotte Street Association told the licensing panel that “a late night takeaway is not appropriate for this relatively small and intimate street” with its large number of people living here.

Speaking in support of the application, Cheatmeals’ lawyer Sarah Clover pointed out that Cheatmeals had offered extra conditions, and because of this both the Police and Camden’s Licensing Authority had withdrawn their objections.

During the panel’s brief deliberation on the application Cllr Greenwood and Cllr Simpson said it was “significant” that both the Police and the Licensing Authority had withdrawn their objections.

Cllr Simpson also commented that many of the concerns related to matters of planning enforcement and encouraged the residents to instead seek a solution from Camden’s planning department.

Cllr Spinella agreed and said that it was the consensus of the panel to grant the application.

The licensing panel approved the application for Late Night Refreshment until 2am Monday to Saturday and until midnight on Sunday, but insisted that silencers and acoustic ceiling insulation is installed to cut noise from the extractor fan. The eatery must also do a risk assessment after two months to see if it needs door security staff.

Editorial comment

It is a terribly bad decision by a Camden Council licensing panel to allow a fast food restaurant and takeaway on Goodge Street to open until 2am.

There are around 50 homes above the ground floor shop units along Goodge Street between the junction of Whitfield Street and Charlotte Street.

Goodge Street is typical of many of the streets in Fitzrovia where a large residential population co-exists cheek-by-jowl with local businesses which are busy in the daytime and early evening but start to wind down after 10.30pm.

The presence of a business open until 2am will inevitably cause a noise nuisance just when people are going to bed.

Camden’s own licensing policy recognises that late night food premises “can attract large groups of customers who have come from pubs, bars and clubs in the area and who have consumed considerable quantities of alcohol. These customers can be noisy and cause disturbance in the area long after other nearby licensed premises have closed.”

The policy also states: “We must seek to ensure that our residents can peacefully enjoy their homes and environment whilst also encouraging responsible and positive business investment and economic growth.”

Goodge Street residents have been badly let down by these councillors who have neglected to consider policy and have exercised very poor judgement in making this decision.

50 years of news

It was in March 1973 that the first community newspaper for Fitzrovia was published. *Tower* was produced every month for the first year, then every two or three months after the initial run.

After a year without publishing it started again under the banner of *Fitzrovia Neighbourhood News* before being re-named as *Fitzrovia News*.

We are slowly completing the 50 year archive of every single issue from March 1973. Browse our back issues at archive.fitzrovia.com

More news over page. ►

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Exhibition returns to Fitzrovia Chapel

A new exhibition of photographs capturing the patients, staff and visitors of the Middlesex Hospital's Aids wards is revealed this month at the Fitzrovia Chapel. *The Ward Revisited* is a free exhibition, no booking required. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm, and Sunday from 12noon to 5pm, from 5 January to 5 February 2023.

News in brief

Camden Council says it is "extremely disappointed" by the ruling which allows a "substantially reduced affordable housing offer and less family homes" on the former Middlesex Hospital Annex site at **44 Cleveland Street**. The High Court will next year decide if a 2004 s106 agreement to provide 30 social rented homes on the site is still valid.

A Fitzrovia resident has highlighted a catalogue of concerns about unanswered calls, poor repairs, and fears of asking a housing association to do any more work at their home. The unnamed resident, who is a long-standing tenant of **Clarion** housing association, told Camden politicians that it filled them with anxiety if anything goes wrong with their home.

A couple of inches of **snow** fell and covered the streets of Fitzrovia late on the evening of Sunday 11 December.

The granddaughter of **Harry Wald** is seeking information about her grandfather's factory and showroom which was at **17 Tottenham Court Road** and **7-11 Hanway Place** from the mid-1930s to the mid-1980s. If you have any information, please get in touch with *Fitzrovia News*.

Camden Council housing managers have been told to improve the way they deal with complaints after a watchdog found maladministration in more than half the cases it looked at from April 2021 to March 2022.

Licensing applications

Westminster: Basement, Portland House, **4 Great Portland Street**. Seeks permission to vary the conditions and to make permanent the temporary extended hours for licensable activities until 30 minutes past midnight on Thursday, and 1.30am the following morning on Friday and Saturday. Deadline: 16 January 2023.
Camden: Gallo, **16 Bloomsbury Street**. Seeks permission for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises from 7am to 6pm on Monday to Thursday, 7am to 10.30pm on Friday and Saturday, and 7am to 5pm on Sunday. Deadline: 12 January 2023.

Planning applications

Camden Council registered planning applications during December 2022 in Bloomsbury ward, which includes Fitzrovia East.

Among the list is an application increase the number of underground hotel rooms and changes at **112a Great Russell Street**; tables and chairs at **72 Cleveland Street, 93 and 134 Tottenham Court Road, 37 Store Street, 4 Conway Street**.

There are alterations at **18-30 Tottenham Court Road** and **1-2 Stephen Street**; air con units at **67 Charlotte Street**; alterations at **4 Charlotte Mews**.

See: planningrecords.camden.gov.uk for details and the latest applications.

Westminster Council validated planning applications, December 2022 in Fitzrovia West.

The largest development in the monthly list is an application for the partial demolition, redevelopment, and part change of use to drinking establishment at **16-18 Berners Street**.

Also in the monthly list are: internal and external alterations to listed building at **50 Berners Street**; installation of ventilation pipes at **1 Berners Mews**; kitchen extract at **31 Rathbone Place**; alterations to the rear of **5 Hanson Street**; and a retrospective application for alterations to a listed building at **11-13 Charlotte Street**.

See: idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk for details.

Advice for responding

Residents should check Camden and Westminster's sites for the latest applications.

In Westminster residents can contact licensingadvice.org for free advice, and should also email the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association fna@fitzrovia.org.uk

In Camden email the Charlotte Street Association at csafitzrovia@yahoo.co.uk where you can also seek advice.

It is also a good idea to contact your ward councillors well before the closing dates with your concerns about any planning or licensing applications.

Fitzrovia News publishes the latest planning and licensing applications on our website: fitzrovia.org.uk

Free housing and welfare advice for residents

The Fitzrovia Advice Service, run by Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, is able to help residents with private and social housing problems, housing and council tax benefits, disability benefits, Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance, pensions and Pension Credit, Working and Child Tax Credits, fuel poverty; and help with benefit, passport and other forms.

Advice is available to Camden and Westminster residents by telephone and email only, three days a week, and for speakers of English, Bengali, Sylheti, Urdu and Hindi.

Contact 020 3984 6364; or email: advice@fitzrovia.org.uk

Cost of living support

Camden has help at camden.gov.uk/find-support-in-camden
Westminster has help at westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

Neighbourhood listings

Covid-19 advice and vaccine information is available from Camden and Westminster councils. See

Camden.gov.uk/coronavirus and Westminster.gov.uk/coronavirus

Local councillors serving Fitzrovia on the **Camden** side are: Adam Harrison, Sabrina Francis, and Rishi Madlani; telephone: 020 7974 2792. On the **Westminster** side they are: Paul Fisher, Patrick Lilley, and Jessica Toale; telephone: 020 7641 5377.

Fitzrovia Community Centre has a number of activities available for children and adults, and a community garden. See fitzroviacommunitycentre.org or visit 2 Foley Street or call 020 7580 8680.

All Souls C of E Primary School, Foley Street takes children from ages 3 to 11. See allsoulsprimary.co.uk for more.

Fitzrovia Youth in Action is a local charity for young people. They provide a number of activities. See fya.org.uk or call at Basement 66-68 Warren Street or call 020 7388 7399.

Rainbow Angels Nursery Fitzrovia 54A Whitfield Street. More information at rainbowangels.co.uk

Age UK provides services for people over 50 years old. In Camden call 020 7239 0400 or visit ageuk.org.uk/camden; in Westminster call 020 3004 5610 or visit ageuk.org.uk/westminster

American International Church offers services including worship, a soup kitchen for the homeless and those in need as well as rooms for hire. See amchurch.co.uk, call 020 7580 2791, or visit 79A Tottenham Court Road.

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