

PRESS RELEASE

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Campaigners celebrate as Council 'does the right thing'

The Golden Lion 88 Royal College Street Camden NW1 0TH

Thanks to Camden Council, the Golden Lion has received a further protection from closure after they issued a notice preventing conversion to other business uses today. The move follows a two year planning battle with developer Antony Stark who wants to turn the building into flats and offices.

The protection, called an Article 4 Direction, prevents changes of use under the 'permitted development' planning rules which mean that a pub can be changed into a betting shop, retail unit or offices without pub users having a say. The Old White Bear in Hampstead was similarly protected earlier in the year.

The move by Camden Council was roundly supported by Greg Mulholland, Chair of the Parliamentary Save the Pub Group, Phil Jones, Camden's Cabinet Member for Planning, Tom Copley, London Assembly Member and local Cllrs Chris Naylor and Roger Robinson. The Golden Lion Supporters are grateful to all of them.

The Golden Lion has seen off one bid for an all-flats scheme last year when the Planning Inspectorate agreed that it should be retained as a pub, and Camden listed it as an Asset of Community Value. Another planning application for flats should be decided by Camden's planners within the next few weeks.

Dave Murphy, whose parents Mary and John have been at the Golden Lion since 1976, welcomed the news, as did Sean Pollard, Chair of the Golden Lion Supporters who nominated the pub for its ACV status.

Planning firsts:

This event is notable for several reasons. Firstly, it is thought to be the first Article 4 Direction restricting the new temporary B1 office use brought in as 'permitted development' last year. Secondly, it also seems to be the first issued under the new arrangements for Directions which were published in the NPPF Regulations on 8th March, which require all of them to be consulted on.

Note to editors:

Planning For Pubs is a specialist historic buildings and planning consultancy specialising in the conservation of public houses and breweries. We were instructed to make the applications for Asset of Community Value and Article 4 Directions on behalf of the community and continue to advise on planning matters.

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