

Case study: Purchasing the former Post Office building

The Victorian building on 17-18 Cornhill in Bury St Edmunds is in the heart of the town and had previously been home to the Crown Post Office for more than 100 years.

After officially closing in November 2016, the council bought the building and, following extensive interest, appointed Donald Insall Associates as architects for a project to refurbish and extend the building. The architects have been asked to keep the historic Victorian front, respecting the town's heritage while also bringing it back into economic use.

Two of the aspirations of the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan, which was shaped through public engagement, are "Market Thoroughfare – improvements to provide continuity from the historic centre to the arc" and "Develop area between the arc and Cornhill i.e. St Andrews Street South to provide for a mix of uses and to establish closer integration." Purchasing the building allows us to work with our partners to improve links between these areas of the town.

Although not a masterplan aspiration in itself, the building offers the opportunity to deliver on some of these improvements and in so doing to encourage other land owners and investors to also make improvements in line with both of these masterplan aspirations.

Investing in the building not only gains financial return, but also helps deliver social and economic improvements to the area by building on its unique qualities. Further, it helps deliver income to support the future proofing of local services.

Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury councils

The logo for West Suffolk features a stylized, horizontal brushstroke in shades of purple and blue above the text "West Suffolk".

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