

Permission granted for spruce-up of old post office

25162

THE OWNERS of the former post office building in Aberystwyth have been handed planning permission for refurbishment work at the site, some of which had already taken place, as attempts to rent it out continue.

The Post Office at the Grade II listed building on Great Darkgate Street closed in 2016 despite a long campaign to save it.

The Post Office moved to share a space with W H Smith on Terrace Road.

The building, built in 1901, has since remained empty despite attempts to rent it out.

Owners were given permission at the end of the year to make repairs to the front façade including lowering the level of the window sill, modifying the shop-front windows and making alterations to the post box, despite complaints that some of the work was completed before permission was sought.

Aberystwyth Town Council said it was "extremely disturbed" that the "applicant has taken the liberty of carrying out the works and indeed completed the refurbishment to this Grade II listed building prior to obtaining planning permission".

In its planning report, owners said: "The property's use as a post office has now ceased and the building now needs to find a new use on the high street of Aberystwyth.

"As the building is in the centre of town on the primary shopping street, its natural re-use needs to be retail so that investment can be made in the building.

"The proposed changes are so subtle in design as to be barely perceivable to the general public, but will have a significant impact on improving the aesthetic of the frontage to make it more attractive to a national retail company.

"The changes will



The building on Great Darkgate Street has been empty since the post office was relocated to Terrace Road in 2016

give the building a new lease of life as a retail unit, ensuring it takes its place on the primary shopping frontage in the town centre.

"The changes do not spoil the character of the building but rather enhance its original features. These features can be exploited by the right retailer that will fit its image on the high street as well as its online presence."

The plans were approved by planning officers under delegated powers in November.

The former post office building, one of the town's most recognisable sites, remains advertised to rent.

Calls have been made for it to be made into a community venue if it remains empty on the town's main shopping thoroughfare.

CN
16/04/20