

Existing Use

The Smithy (73 High Street, Burbage, SN8 3AA) is the attached blacksmiths' workshop to The Old Forge (75 High Street) cottage. During the past 20 years, having restored the room to its original layout, I've struggled with the space as it is too cold for residential use. Blacksmiths' smithys are designed to let the heat out. The Smithy is labelled 'The Smithy' which is exactly what it is currently. I have restored it to its original use due to my love of conservation and history. It has two brick forges, one which works with the original bellows, two ancient work benches and all the original brick walls, oak beams and lathe and plaster ceilings

Social occasions with plenty of people and a roaring forge fire gave me the idea of opening the space up for pop up events to a wider audience. I subsequently set up the Spirit of Wiltshire Ltd and "Smithy Art Forgery as a community hub for art, culture and wellbeing". Along with private jewellery (my trade), art exhibition and wellbeing pop ups in the house, I started applying for Temporary Event Notices from Wiltshire Council to host ticketed music concerts in the garden, then later, discussion, poetry and acoustic music groups in the house.

This proved to be a great success with the local community so I had already contacted the VOA to get business rates for The Smithy (73) to start a permanent jewellery shop, art gallery and event space at the end of the summer (2025). It was at this time that WC Planning alerted me to the need to change the use first through planning permission.

Proposed Use

The Smithy (73) will be used commercially as a jewellery shop and art gallery for 5 days a week providing both local artists and patrons an opportunity to celebrate our great county's art. In addition, the space will continue to be used as a community hub for art, culture and wellbeing.

The idea is simple. Bring people together in a friendly environment to enjoy their hobby with likeminded people. I have already hosted artists, lecturers, poets, discussions, musicians and wellbeing practitioners, including walkers, cyclists (the Smithy is on the National Cycle route) and yogis, with

their own specific groups of followers. The bonus for me personally is that all these people get to know and understand about my own art too.

I will continue to apply for Temporary Event Notices for occasional events that involve licensed activities.

There are no physical alterations required to the Smithy for this change of use.

I look forward to launching this important local business at the earliest opportunity. Having experimented with the idea, I'm quite sure that it will thrive, bringing local job opportunities, a space for artists to exhibit and patrons to enjoy the unique culture of Wiltshire.