

PHASE 2 PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO LEACH POTTERY

The second phase of the transformation of the historic Leach Pottery in St Ives has been submitted to Cornwall Council for planning permission.

The Leach Pottery has stood on the same site for more than a century and includes a pottery studio, learning centre, museum, shop and gallery space. The original pottery dates back to the 1920s.

The capital project is funded by St Ives Town Deal and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It will see the

site developed and expanded to provide the pottery with the world-class facilities needed to grow our learning programme, increase studio production and bring the story of the 100-year-old pottery to life in a new extended museum.

The plan will improve the experience for local, national and international visitors with better on-site services including an archive and library, an expanded shop and new cafe.

The first phase, to replace the Beagle Cross building was approved in May 2023 with work expected to begin in April 2024.

What will the transformation mean?

- A new learning and production centre building to provide more classes and workshops and increase pottery production
- A new reception and cafe building
- Refurbish and extend the existing museum to include an introductory gallery, hands-on exhibits and a trail
- Revamp the existing shop in the listed Pottery Cottage
- Create a temporary gallery for shows of contemporary pottery for sale
- Convert the 2008 Cube gallery into an archive study centre and library
- Improved facilities for visiting artists

THE TRANSFORMATION OF LEACH POTTERY WILL IMPROVE ACCESS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE



Image: Dow Jones Architects

A key element of the capital project is to improve services for local people. This will include increased access to learning and classes, as well as providing a cafe in the reception area.

Gary Topp, Chair of the Bernard Leach (St Ives) Trust Ltd, explains: “The majority of the capital project is funded by the Town Deal, a government-funded programme to improve local facilities. Our learning programme teaches around 3,000 people a year; many of the students are local, with special sessions organised for community groups, schoolchildren and through social prescribing.

“The project will allow us to increase what we offer the local community and safeguard the historic Leach Pottery for generations to come.”



Image: Imaginakers

Above: An artist sketch of the new reception and cafe
Below: An artist sketch of the temporary gallery



Image: Imaginakers

Want to know more?

The full planning application is available to view on our website at leachpottery.com/planning-application or you can view on Cornwall Council's planning portal, reference PA23/00676.

If you have any questions email us at carol.burns@leachpottery.com
You can also sign up for our project newsletter at leachpotteryblog.com