# Former Poundland stores across England transformed into flats as redevelopment plans accelerate



The transformation of the former Poundland store in Diss has gained traction following the approval of redevelopment plans by South Norfolk Council. Since the discount retailer vacated the premises in the summer of 2023, the empty shop has become a noticeable blight on the local landscape, described as "sad and run down" by some residents. With these new plans, the building will not only be reconfigured but will also give way to the addition of six new flats and a smaller retail unit, aiming to inject vitality back into the town centre.

This redevelopment is part of a broader trend observed across the country, where former retail spaces, particularly those climaxed by the pandemic's impact on high streets, are being repurposed into residential spaces. In Diss, the proposed designs envision an additional floor atop the existing structure, creating a more attractive urban setting while maintaining the original building's industrial aesthetic. According to local sources, the ambition is to make the area more viable for businesses while also providing much-needed housing.

The reconfiguration raises questions, particularly concerning the adjacent King’s Head Yard car park. This space was initially earmarked for a new JD Wetherspoon pub, with an estimated investment of nearly £3 million for a project that promised a mezzanine level, balcony views of the Mere, and a beer garden. Despite being granted planning permission, the pub development stalled, reflecting a wider uncertainty about the retail and hospitality sectors in the current economic climate.

Beyond Diss, similar strategies are being implemented in various towns. In Market Hill, plans have been submitted to convert a former Barclays bank into five two-bedroom flats while retaining a portion of the ground floor for retail use. The building’s Grade II listing ensures that any development will be mindful of its historical significance, adding yet another layer of complexity to the planning process. Additionally, in Worthing, developers are moving forward with plans to convert floors above Poundland into residential flats, reflecting a remarkable shift in utilising once-exclusive retail spaces for residential purposes.

In further developments, the former Poundland locations in Crewe and Maidenhead are also undergoing transformations. Plans in Crewe aim to split the shop into three separate units and convert storage into residential apartments, while in Maidenhead, construction is underway to create flats alongside remaining commercial space in the former retail outlet. These efforts demonstrate an ongoing pursuit to adapt to changing consumer behaviours and economic realities, empowering local councils to facilitate a landscape that blends retail and residential spaces.

The growing trend of repurposing retail units into flats not only addresses the pressing need for housing but also seeks to revive town centres, making them more attractive to residents and businesses alike. Whether these developments will succeed in reinvigorating local economies remains to be seen, but the proactive steps taken by councils and developers signify a shift towards a more integrated approach to town planning in the face of evolving consumer landscapes.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25172868.empty-diss-poundland-store-turned-flats/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/new-plans-lodged-for-town-s-former-poundland-premises-9400533/)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25172868.empty-diss-poundland-store-turned-flats/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/new-plans-lodged-for-town-s-former-poundland-premises-9400533/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25172868.empty-diss-poundland-store-turned-flats/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/plan-submitted-to-convert-former-town-bank-into-five-flats-a-9405232/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[4]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/worthing-town-centre-flats-plans-for-homes-above-poundland-approved-4725015), [[7]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/permission-granted-for-transformation-of-former-poundland-site-in-worthing-town-centre-957115)
5. Paragraph 5: [[5]](https://crewe.nub.news/news/local-news/proposals-to-split-crewe-town-centre-unit-into-three-given-green-light-232925), [[6]](https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/gallery/planning/199521/construction-now-underway-to-re-develop-former-poundland-site-in-maidenhead.html)
6. Paragraph 6: [[2]](https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/plan-submitted-to-convert-former-town-bank-into-five-flats-a-9405232/), [[3]](https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/new-plans-lodged-for-town-s-former-poundland-premises-9400533/), [[7]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/permission-granted-for-transformation-of-former-poundland-site-in-worthing-town-centre-957115)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25172868.empty-diss-poundland-store-turned-flats/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/plan-submitted-to-convert-former-town-bank-into-five-flats-a-9405232/> - Plans have been submitted to convert the former Barclays Bank in Market Hill, Diss, into five two-bedroom flats while retaining a portion of the ground floor for retail use. The developer aims to enhance the retail space and provide high-quality housing in the town centre. The building, which is Grade II listed, is part of a consecutive row of listed properties within the heritage triangle, a conservation area. South Norfolk Council's environmental quality team has requested a noise impact assessment before the application is considered.
3. <https://www.dissexpress.co.uk/news/new-plans-lodged-for-town-s-former-poundland-premises-9400533/> - New plans have been lodged to reconfigure the former Poundland unit in Mere Street, Diss, into six flats and a smaller retail unit. The building has been vacant since Poundland vacated in summer 2024 and has become 'sad and run down'. The proposals aim to retain an 'industrial look' to the site while making the area more attractive and viable for businesses and customers. The plans have also raised questions about the future of the adjacent King's Head Yard car park, which was previously destined for a new JD Wetherspoon pub.
4. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/worthing-town-centre-flats-plans-for-homes-above-poundland-approved-4725015> - Plans to convert the floors above the Poundland store in Montague Street, Worthing, into flats have been approved. Developers applied for a change-of-use to allow for flats at 56 Montague Street, with permission granted for 26 under permitted development rights. The plans include 18 first-floor flats, 11 on the second floor, and three on the third, with the ground-floor commercial space occupied by Poundland remaining. One three-bedroom flat is included in the plans alongside 31 one-bedroom/studio flats. No objections to the plans were submitted, though council officers require a noise assessment before the homes are first occupied.
5. <https://crewe.nub.news/news/local-news/proposals-to-split-crewe-town-centre-unit-into-three-given-green-light-232925> - Cheshire East Council has given permission for commercial property agent Rory Mack to develop 61-67 Market Street in Crewe. The plans involve splitting the former Poundland unit, which closed in October 2021, into three separate units on the ground floor and converting first-floor storage space into four residential apartments. The development aims to make the unit more viable for retailers or small businesses by subdividing the space and providing residential accommodation above.
6. <https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/gallery/planning/199521/construction-now-underway-to-re-develop-former-poundland-site-in-maidenhead.html> - Construction work is underway to redevelop the former Poundland site at 88-90 High Street in Maidenhead into flats and retail units. The project includes converting and extending the upper floors to create six one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, with the ground floor and part of the back of the first floor retained for commercial use. The commercial space will be split into three units, subject to market demand. The apartments are expected to be finished by November 2025.
7. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/permission-granted-for-transformation-of-former-poundland-site-in-worthing-town-centre-957115> - Plans for a new residential and commercial development in the heart of Worthing town centre have been approved. The vacant former Poundland store in Montague Street is set to be transformed into 26 residential apartments and a large space on the ground floor for commercial uses. The development includes six studio flats, 12 one-bedroom flats, six two-bedroom flats, and two three-bedroom flats, catering to first-time buyers, buy-to-let investors, or those looking to downsize and move closer to the beach.