

Fears as Powerhouse quits Crouch End

ONE of Crouch End's most prominent shopfronts could soon be up for grabs, after its current tenants decided to shut up shop.

Electrical store Powerhouse is moving out of the prime site in Crouch End Broadway because its owners say the store was not

making enough cash. The firm's departure has renewed serious concerns about the future of Crouch End's shopping hub, sparking fears the area could be turning into an Upper Street-style drag of eateries.

Crouch End Traders' Association chairman Christopher Freeman, who runs nearby Dunn's bakery, said: "The worrying aspect is what comes next. It's a lovely building and I'm sure it won't be empty for long.

"The worry is that it will turn into a restaurant or coffee shop. That's a loss of amenity to Crouch End. There's nowhere

you can go to buy white goods." His comments were echoed by Crouch End councillor David Winskill, who said: "For generations Powerhouse and its predecessors have served the people of Crouch End and Hornsey, and it has been an anchor store attracting people to the area."

With several years left on the lease, the decision on who moves takes over the site is up to Powerhouse.

But a spokeswoman for Haringey Council - which owns the land - said changing the use from retail to a restaurant would have to go through a new licence application.

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