

Section 6

Finding local information online

96% of those who have learnt to
get online believe the internet
has made their life better in
some way

UK Online Centres – ‘The digital divide and happiness – a
presentation of the evidence’, Nov 2010

Are you connected to Camden? Finding local information online

The internet can help us connect to the rest of the world, but it can also help connect you to what is going on in your area and help you in your everyday life. For example, you could find out about free courses available in your area, report problems with noise on your street to your Council or check school term dates – all without making a phone call.

Activity 1

Which of these have you done whilst you have lived in Camden, or would you know how to do? (Tick all that apply)

- Joined and searched for books in your local library
- Applied for housing or council tax benefit
- Searched for childcare or a school for my child
- Reported a crime or anti-social behaviour
- Applied for a parking permit
- Looked for properties to rent or buy
- Searched for volunteer opportunities
- Requested medical or social care support for a family member or friend
- Contacted my local MP
- Searched and joined a sports or social class

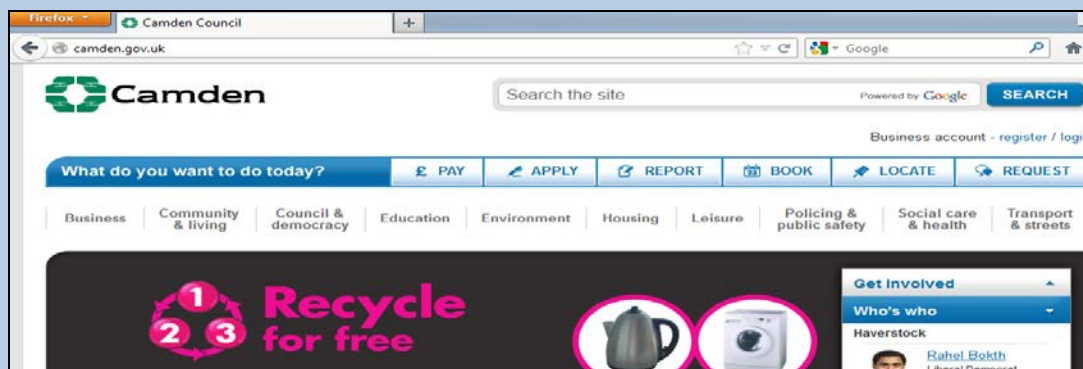
Without the internet, doing any of these things would take a lot of time and either involve you going from one place to another or making a lot of phone calls! You can actually do any of these things from one website.

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Activity 2

Open your browser and in the address bar type: **Camden.gov.uk**

Your web page should look like this:



This is Camden Council's website and it is a good starting point for local information.

Activity 3

Business | Community & living | Council & democracy | Education | Environment | Housing | Leisure | Policing & public safety | Social care & health | Transport & streets

Using this menu on Camden Council's website try to find the following information and write down the correct category. The first one has been done for you.

1. Applying for housing and council tax benefit *Council and democracy*

2. Becoming a British Citizen

3. School term dates _____

4. Events in Camden

5. Personal safety _____

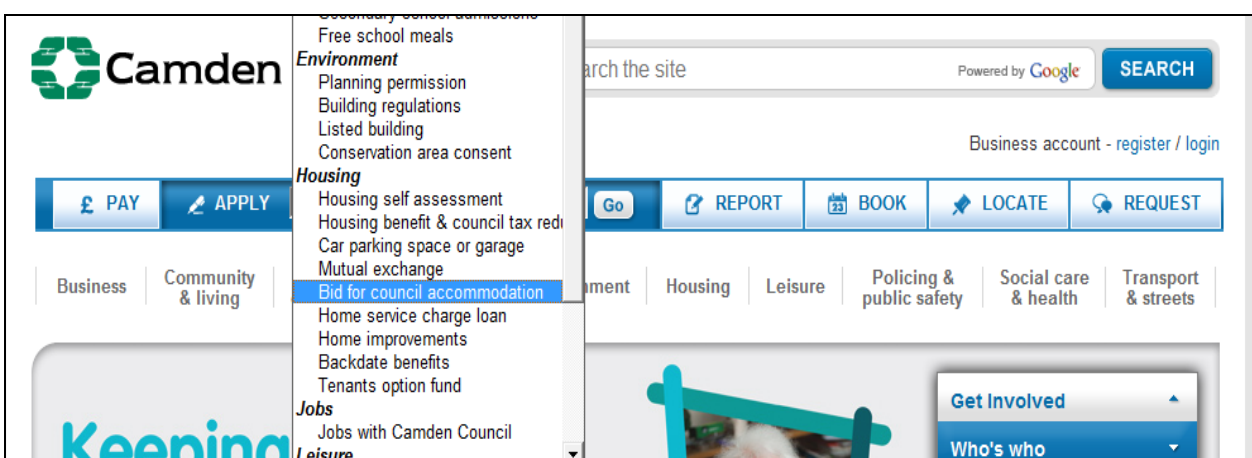


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As well as using this menu, you could also use these shortcuts at the top and towards the bottom of the home page:



In the picture below, clicking on the menu shortcut **APPLY** will take you to a link to **bid for council accommodation**.



Activity 4

In each of these scenarios, find the menu shortcut to solve your problem

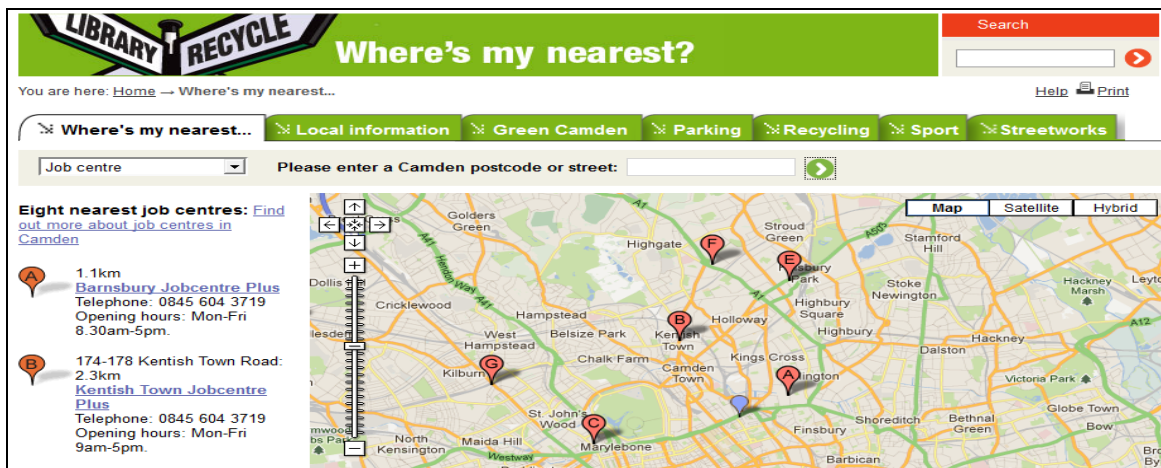
Scenario 1: You need to pay your council tax _____

Scenario 2: You have moved address and need to let the council know _____

Scenario 3: You have used your last green recycling bag at home and need some new ones. _____

The **LOCATE** shortcut takes you to this webpage where you can find places on a map:

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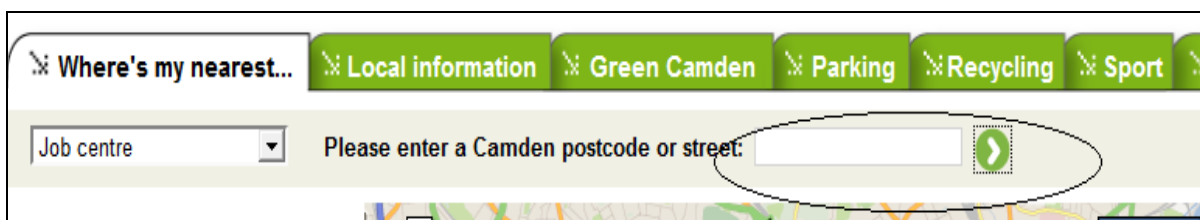


Activity 5

Using the Locate shortcut, find out the following:

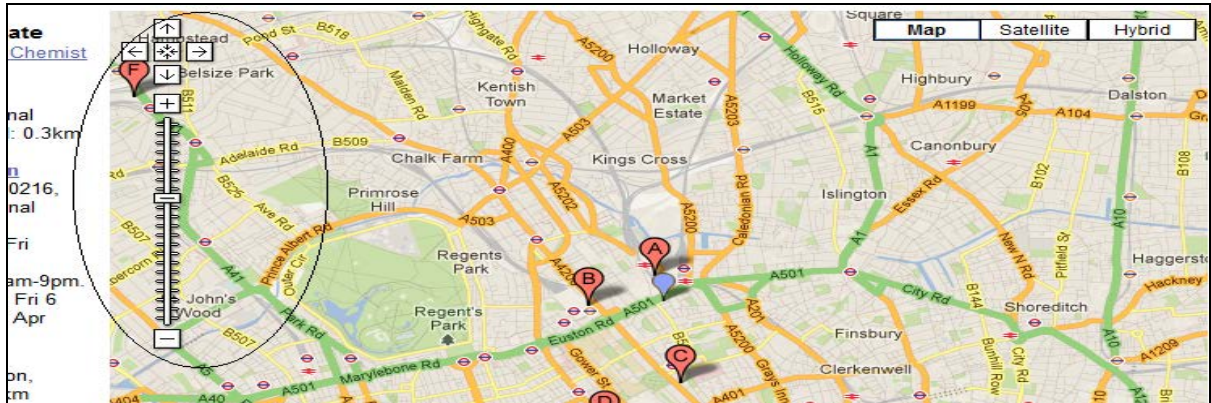
1. The locations of the three Citizens Advice Bureaux in Camden
.....
2. The address of Kentish Town Police Station
.....
3. The name of a late night chemist in Kilburn
.....

You can find the nearest place to your home or workplace by entering your postcode or street name here:



Can you work out how to zoom in and out of the map, and move up and down using these tools?

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Aside from the Camden.gov.uk website, there are many other websites where you can find local information and services.

To find **health services** in Camden, go to www.candi.nhs.uk



For a guide to **what is going on** in Camden, try www.lovecamden.org




The Camden CAB website www.camdencabservice.org.uk is also a good place to look for **advice**.

Are you connected to Camden?

Finding local information online

Select link below for advice

Benefits Unemployment, rent and council tax, sickness and disability, tax credits, pensions.	Housing Eviction, deposits, repairs, finding accommodation, neighbour problems	Debt and Disability Rent or mortgage statements, gas, electricity, water, Council Tax bills
Debt Repossession or eviction; rent, mortgage and council tax arrears; benefit and tax credit	Relationships & Family Divorce, separation, mediation, child	Affected by HIV Advice to people living with HIV. Also advice to their partners, families and carers



The **web directory** in this pack gives you other Camden websites that may be of interest to you.

Skills Check

- I know Camden Council's website address
- I can use the menus on Camden.gov.uk to find the information I want
- I can locate places in Camden using Camden.gov.uk's map tool
- I know how to zoom in and out or move up and down an online map
- I know other websites I can go to for local information and advice