

From: Alison Fairgrieve
Sent: 27 August 2013 17:13
To: CineworldCityScreen
Subject: Sale of former City Screen cinema in Bury St Edmunds

Dear Sirs,

I hope that you have already received emails like this regarding the announcement of August 20th.

The Abbeygate Cinema in Bury St Edmunds is a gem of an art house cinema for which older cinema goers have longed over the years. To close it would cause a good deal of gnashing of teeth and sheer incomprehension.

Why reduce us to one cinema (a monopoly) in the name of keeping seat prices down? What sense does that make?

In addition the cinema is almost a historic part of Bury St Edmunds, since it first opened around 1926.

You must have been told that the Abbeygate caters to a completely different audience from that of the Cineworld multiplex. Cineworld promised to keep the Picturehouse chain exactly as it was before it was sold. Prices - very reasonable ones, have crept up recently, but the annual membership scheme makes the cinema very accessible to both old and young serious filmgoers. The nearest art house cinema to Bury St Edmunds is in Norwich - 43 miles away. If you close the one in Cambridge there will be fury there, I think.

I assume that there would be no planning permission for a change of use for both cinemas, and they would just remain closed and deteriorating as I do not know of any other cinema chain which would buy them in the present climate. In the long run, I fear that the buildings will end up as yet more fancy flats.

I would be obliged by a response to this email to pass round my apprehensive friends.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Fairgrieve

PS The most important factor in this inquiry is the public, surely? A very large number of supporters of the Abbeygate Picture house have made it plain that they deplore any suggestion that it be sold. It would not flourish as an independent cinema and this is obvious to all.

Also evident is that Cineworld would not raise prices in order to close down the Picturehouse. There would be no sense in that. There is no comparison, and surely the CC can see that. The whole exercise is pointless.

The inquiry, including the necessary expense and red tape is incomprehensible to the film loving public in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding villages. Why was this not examined at the time of the merger?

If the CC can enforce the selling of one of the cinemas, can we have any confidence at all that it would be the Cineworld multiplex for which there would no doubt be buyers?