

**From:** K.H.Matheson  
**Sent:** 24 August 2013 17:55  
**To:** 'CineworldCityScreen@cc.gsi.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** Abbeygate Picturehouse

Mr [Alasdair Smith](#),  
CC Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Cineworld/City Screen merger Inquiry Group

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing to explain to you why competition is irrelevant between Cineworld and the Abbeygate Picture House in Bury St Edmunds.

The Picture House, under various guises has served the town since 1924. It is one of the MOST valued entertainment venues.

It has NO relation with Cineworld which shows films mainly for young people such as vampire and science fiction films.

The Picture House caters for the older audience, of which there is a high percentage of in Bury St Edmunds. It shows art, music as well as live transmissions from the Royal Opera House, NY Metropolitan Opera and the National Theatre which are highly popular. It also shows foreign and more cultured films. In fact when you go to the Abbeygate Picture House cinema you would probably know at least 10 people in the audience, it is more of a social occasion for the non-teenage/twenties audience. The café and bar are well patronised.

The Picture House has a great membership deal which gives members reduced prices on the tickets and therefore cheaper than Cineworld. Bury patrons are not concerned about competition and we just want to keep our wonderful cinema. We want to keep our entertainment in the middle of town, we want to keep the wonderful loyal staff who have been there for years and above all who are polite and helpful. It is highly unlikely that Stowmarket would be acceptable to audiences that go to Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury has no cinema.

We want to keep our cinema because it is part of the social interaction and cultural life of the town; it gets the older population out of their homes and meeting their friends. The café is good and we have been waiting for this café to open in the cinema for years and now we have it, you are threatening to take it away.

Please Mr Smith think about what The Abbeygate Picture House does for the town and the people. Competition is irrelevant to us.

Thank you  
Yours sincerely  
K H Matheson