

From: RICHARD STAINER
Sent: 29 August 2013 18:04
To: CineworldCityScreen
Subject: The Abbeygate Picture House

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing regarding your comments about the lack of competition between the Cineworld multiplex and the Abbeygate Picture House in Bury St Edmunds. On the face of it, as both are owned by the same company there would seem to be no competition between them and the real danger that this could lead to high ticket prices. However they serve very different audiences. Many of us who go the Picture House would not be seen dead in the multiplex! Our little Abbeygate cinema has a very special place in the hearts of those of us who have lived in Bury for twenty years or more. It is a civilised place to watch a film and those who go tend to be those who appreciate the intimate and comfortable surroundings and the very special films that are shown there. Where else could we go to see the many foreign films that are screened? How would we get to relish again the classic films shown on a large screen? Where would we have to go to see productions of plays, operas and ballets or enjoy the delights of an exhibition? Certainly not the multi-plex!

Many of us have fought, along with the dedicated staff, to keep the Picture House open and we will do so again. Many of the staff have been there for years and we know them well and they know us. It is like a club, and indeed the membership scheme means that we pay lower ticket prices than in the multi-plex, as well as getting other perks.

The whole place has been enormously improved recently with decent toilets and a restaurant. It is very much a part of the Bury arts scene and of the region's night-life.

The Picture House also stands in a central position in the town. It is part of the weave and weft of Bury. If it went there would be a large hole left at the very centre of the town.

Please don't take away this wonderful facility, just because there is no competition offered by another company. I don't think many of us frankly care that much, but we do care for our little cinema, the wonderful facilities it offers, the variety of films it offers, and the hard working staff.

Richard Stainer,