

**From:** Sue Hamilton Blyth  
**Sent:** 24 August 2013 12:48  
**To:** CineworldCityScreen  
**Subject:** Abbeygate Picture House

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing to express my dismay that our much-loved and constantly used Abbeygate Picture House in Bury St Edmunds could conceivably be considered for closure - just because there is a Cineworld cinema in the same town.

The two cinemas largely cater for and attract very different audiences, and those who choose to go to one cinema would be unlikely often to want to go to the other. Cineworld is a new, impersonal, non-descript multiscreen that could be anywhere. The Picture House, under various guises, has served the town and its surroundings since 1924. It is one of the most highly valued entertainment venues in the town.

Perhaps more popular than ever before, it now caters for the older audience, drawn from Bury St Edmunds and numerous surrounding smaller towns and villages across a large part of Suffolk, and people who want a less blockbuster kind of film. Foreign and 'art' films are often so popular that the cinema is sold out. And a hugely important part of our local cultural life is the screening of all the 'Live' Arts broadcasts, which so many of us subscribe regularly to that numerous encore screenings are usually full.

Most of the regular clientele at the Abbeygate sign up to the excellent Picture House membership deal. This means that there is a social aspect to going to the cinema in that you are likely to know several other people in the audience. The staff are friendly, knowledgeable and get to know many of us by name. This is hugely important for those of us, and there are many, who go to the cinema alone - which is something one would be reluctant to do in a large impersonal multiplex such as Cineworld.

Please let us keep our wonderful Abbeygate Picturehouse just as it is. We would be bereft without it.

Yours sincerely,  
Sue Hamilton Blyth