

From: Rodney Pybus

Date: 28 August 2013 23:35:24 GMT+01:00

To: CineworldCityScreen@cc.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: **Abbeygate Picture House, Bury St Edmunds**

Dear Mr Smith

My wife and I live in Sudbury, Suffolk, about 15 miles south of Bury St Edmunds. In recent times the Picture House has afforded us a richer cultural lifeline than we can find elsewhere without more difficult travelling. We became members because we wanted to show our support for the excellent service it provides: we are both in our 70s and this cinema's varied programming shows the kind of films that interest us, not least the marvellous National Theatre Live. We have no interest in mass appeal movies for young people, though this shouldn't be taken as implying that all we watch are sub-titled Albanian documentaries, however fascinating!

We regularly take with us an eighty-year-old friend because she enjoys good cinema and this is one of the few venues that offers her anything of interest; she can no longer travel under her own steam. And we have another friend whom we take regularly, too -- so that's four elderly but still mentally vigorous people willing to make a 30-mile round-trip to see films they're unlikely to see anywhere else, because, frankly, we wouldn't feel like making the effort to go further afield.

If The Picture House closes down or finds itself for whatever reason merely replicating the mainstream film-programming provided by the other, larger cinema for the mass younger-audience (nothing against them, but, as you must know, most entertainment on television and elsewhere is directed towards them), we shall have to give up the cinema almost entirely since their film interests are, by and large, not our interests. I don't see why we should have to, since there is no substantial overlap between the current selection policies of the Picture House and the other cinema in Bury. Please take this argument very seriously, think of the social consequences, and let the Picture House continue to thrive! It does not only serve Bury, that's one of the important points, and it adds immeasurably to the cultural vitality of the area. Of course, there must be concerns about competition issues, and indeed lack of competition, but the results of these concerns should surely not be allowed to be a diminishing of choice for the potential audience.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Pybus