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Board of Trustees
Phoenix Cinema

LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR



Andrew Dismore AM

Date: 30 October 2018

Dear Board of Trustee members,

Re: Curzon deal

I am writing to express my objections to your current scheme for Curzon Cinemas to run the Phoenix.

The Phoenix Cinema is an icon of East Finchley, and the whole community rose as one to save it over 30 years ago. The same effort is needed today, thanks to the challenges of local competition, internet streaming services and increasing costs. There is a real pride in the Phoenix being the oldest independent cinema in London, and local residents are deeply opposed to the plans.

I was deeply concerned to read the account of your public consultation meeting on Sunday in the Ham and High, especially the views of your staff. It is clear they are passionate about the future of the Cinema, and that consultation with them has been inadequate.

I therefore urge you to delay your decision, consult further with the public and staff, and see if there is a viable alternative business model that can be explored. A rushed decision to go ahead with this scheme is not in the best interest of the cinema or local community and will do lasting damage to the reputation of the cinema.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dismore AM

Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden