**Cultural and Leisure facilities**

**The residents of Odhams Walk strongly opposes this appeal as we feel it will be detrimental to the cultural and leisure facilities in our area.**

**Odhams Walk is a residential estate that houses over 300 social and leaseholders residents. We are a tenant managed organisation (TMO) of which I am the Chairperson of the Management Association.**

For the residents of Odhams Walk and other local housing communities this cinema provides a strong social function as a centre in which we our families can socialise.

It provides an affordable leisure option for families, with fewer concerns over travel and food costs than other activities. The cost of a ticket at a multiplex cinemas is priced from £15 for an adult whereas our residents have paid up to £10 a huge difference. The lower ticket price of this community cinema enables our families have to real access the arts.

This cinema is a safe and secure venue that fosters independence among our young people too. It is also accessible to our disabled residents as they prefer this local venue as opposed to the larger multiplex cinemas in the West End.

Even if the proposed development has a cinema the majority of our residents will not feel comfortable going into a high end hotel to use the cinema facilities. There are a lot of low income families in this area and I am sure the ticket prices of the proposed hotel/cinema will not be affordable to us.

We have had a history of promises made to local communities by developers and we do not believe that we would be welcomed by the new owners. Promises made by the Hospital Club – a high end hotel and arts venue promised the residents associations in this area a community space but still today over 8 years later this has not materialised.

Quite recently the 90 Long Acre developments too promised in their consultation a space for community use but we have found out that it was given to the Royal Opera House Orchestra for their rehearsals. Once again community needs are being ignored so this is why we don’t really take promises made to us seriously. The only other viable option for us is to restore it as a theatre as the local theatres respond positively to our community needs whereas a hotel will not.

Thank you for listening to me, Im open to sensible questions.

Margaret Crowe

Chairperson of the Odhams Walk Resident Management Ltd