

Dear Neil Coyle M.P,

Wednesday 1st March 2023

We, the Southwark and wider Community members are writing to express our deep concern about the unjust impact on PlushSE16 due to planning application dealings from Regent Land and Developments, thus putting PlushSE16 in a position with their Landlord to now be evicted on Friday, 17th March 2023 at 4 pm.

PlushSE16 has been serving the community of Rotherhithe for over 20 years. This business is a cornerstone of our community and provides multiple services, harnessing the power of culture to bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

As members of this community, we strongly urge you to take action to prevent the eviction and displacement of PlushSE16.

This eviction would have a devastating impact on the local community, as well as the broader cultural landscape of our area. This business has played a critical role in fostering community spirit and providing opportunities for local people to come together and celebrate their shared heritage.

Furthermore, the eviction of PlushSE16 would have a negative impact on the local economy. This business is an essential source of employment for many people in the community, and its closure would result in job losses and reduced economic activity in the area.

We ask that you take action to prevent this eviction and work with local authorities and other stakeholders, in this case, to find a solution that preserves this vital community asset and encourages the developers to conclude on PlushSE16's Business Relocation right by being inclusive in how they consult with PlushSE16.

When property developers and landlords with financial powers choose to irradicate community culture like that of PlushSE16, it can have several detrimental impacts, including:

1. **Loss of community identity:** Community culture often reflects a particular community's unique identity. When property developers take over and reshape that culture, it can lead to losing that identity. This can damage historically marginalized communities that have fought to preserve their cultural heritage.
2. **Gentrification:** It is clear here that Regent Land and Developments have been motivated by profit and seek to gentrify this neighbourhood, which can further exacerbate inequality towards the PlushSE16 community.
3. **Loss of cultural space:** When property developers take over community culture, they prioritize commercial development over the preservation of cultural spaces. This can lead to the loss of community safe spaces and hubs like PlushSE16, essential to this community's cultural life, should they not be supported to transition and continue.
4. **Disruption to local businesses:** Disregarding and or replacing local businesses with more commercial, chain businesses or residential accommodation can lead to a loss of locally-owned businesses, which are often an essential part of the cultural fabric of our Southwark community identity.
5. **Negative impact on mental health:** The loss of PlushSE16 to the community will impact identity, cause displacement and disruption, and negatively impact the mental health and well-being of its 20- year strong business community. Community culture can provide a sense of belonging and connection that is important for mental health. When that culture is disrupted or lost, it can lead to feelings of isolation, depression, and anxiety.

Overall, property developers disregarding community culture can be detrimental to a community's social, economic, and cultural well-being. Communities must have a say in developing their neighbourhoods and ensure their cultural heritage is preserved and valued.

We are not an anti-regeneration movement but standing to harness and protect cultural businesses and communities in an ever-changing landscape.

PlushSE16 should be allowed to continue operating in its current location until the Southwark Plan Policy P33 delivers on a Business Relocation. The Landlord should be encouraged to support the developers to deliver on this.

As a supporter of PlushSE16 as a small business community harnessing culture, Southwark Council should work with PlushSE16 as a business to find a mutually agreeable solution that benefits the community and delivers on its [Fairer Future Council Commitments](#).

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Yours Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens For Culture & Community
[#NOPRICEONCULTURE](#)

TO: neil.coyle.mp@parliament.uk
IN SUPPORT OF: [PlushSE16](#)