

8th February 2024

To whom it may concern

Re: Sutton Community Dance

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Sutton Community Dance (SCD) and my concern over its future. SCD plays a vital role in enriching the cultural life of Sutton. As a resident of Sutton and a trustee of a uniformed youth organization and other community groups, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the positive impact of SCD on numerous occasions.

Having been involved in organizing events such as the Jubilee Fete, the Coronation Fete, and various activities in Sutton High Street, I can attest to the invaluable contribution that SCD has made to the vibrancy of our Sutton. The enthusiasm and talent displayed by the young people and their families associated with SCD have been inspiring.

SCD is particularly commendable for its dedication to providing a platform for individuals with disabilities to showcase their talents and abilities. This not only challenges stereotypes but also promotes acceptance and understanding within our community. The inclusivity fostered by SCD is a testament to its commitment to excellence, inspiring participants to push their boundaries and achieve their full potential. The values of dedication, discipline, and teamwork instilled through participation in SCD are qualities that contribute to the personal and social development of those involved.

The London Borough of Sutton's website explains that the council's vision "is to build a community in which all can take part and all can take pride". I believe SCD's ethos aligns perfectly with those values.

SCD's dedication to inclusivity and excellence projects a positive image of our borough and especially the heart of Sutton. Their commitment to high-quality performances not only attracts larger audiences but also generates positive publicity, further enhancing Sutton's cultural image. This positive image, in turn, can attract visitors and residents who value diversity and artistic expression, contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of our community.

In light of the above, I urge all Councillors and Officers of the London Borough of Sutton, to support Sutton Community Dance by fixing an affordable rent and to give it sufficient security to allow it to plan and grow.

By endorsing SCD this way and by facilitating SCD's growth, you will contribute to the cultural richness of Sutton and create an environment that nurtures creativity, inclusivity, and community spirit.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will recognize the invaluable role that Sutton Community Dance plays in shaping the cultural landscape of Sutton.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Richards'.

Jeff Richards

Sutton New Town Community Festival (suttonnewtown.com) - Treasurer

1st/16th Sutton Scout Group (1st16thsuttoncounts.com) - Chair

Friends of St Nicholas Churchyard (churchyardfriends.com) - Secretary

PCC for the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Sutton (stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk) - Trustee

SUTTONfx (suttonfx.com) - Project Leader - Trustee