

7 February 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud member of our vibrant local community and a mother deeply invested in the well-being of my daughters, I am reaching out to you with a heartfelt plea regarding our cherished community dance space, Sutton Community Dance (SCD).

This space holds a special place in the hearts of many, including my own family. It's not just a dance studio; it's a sanctuary where my daughters have found and developed not only a love for dance but also a sense of belonging and purpose. From the first plié to the latest performance, they have blossomed under the guidance of dedicated teachers and the caring team as well as alongside their fellow dancers, forming bonds that transcend mere steps and movements.

What sets this dance space apart is not just what happens within its walls but also the ripple effects it creates throughout our community. Their doors are always open for collaborations, supporting and boosting what is on offer in our local area. It's where neighbours come together and where friendships are forged. It is always supporting other local businesses and initiatives, encouraging its members to join in and enjoy all that Sutton has to offer.

I've seen first-hand how it fosters connections among diverse groups of all ages and abilities, bridging gaps and nurturing understanding in ways that few other places can. It's a hub of activity, a gathering place where local groups find common ground and where charities find support for their noble causes. This space is always there, ready to lend its stage, influence and its heart to those in need.

However, I write to you today with a heavy heart, as news of a proposed rent increase threatens to cast a shadow over our beloved dance space. The thought of losing this invaluable resource is not just disheartening; it's downright devastating. For my daughters, myself and countless others, it's more than a loss of space—it's a loss of dreams, of opportunities, of the very essence of what makes our community vibrant and alive.

I understand the complexities of managing such a space, and I empathise with the financial challenges that must be addressed. Yet, I implore you to consider the human cost of these decisions—the dreams deferred, the bonds broken, the community fractured. **Our young people need these spaces in our community.** This beacon of hope, safety and creativity. When so much is constantly being taken away from our young people especially, do not take away a space that is a force for good.

As a mother, as a dancer, and as a proud member of our Sutton local community, I urge you to stand with us in safeguarding this space.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your commitment to the well-being of our community. Together, we can ensure that our dance space remains a source of joy, inspiration, and connection for all who call Sutton home.

With hope and gratitude for your consideration,



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