

7th February 2023

Dear Adam,

Sutton Community Dance

Thank you for contacting the BID about your current situation. I am sorry to hear that such a wonderful creative community organisation is, like many others in the borough and indeed Nationally, facing such a difficult time.

I have known SCD to be a welcoming, accessible, friendly, and very much community orientated place. This has been through our work together on events in the Town Centre but moreover offering your space assist other local grassroots groups, creatives, and charities to deliver sustainable, supportive and engagement lead activities. All for the benefit of our residents and visitors.

The placement of SCD in the St Nicholas Centre also delivers a different and experiential offer which drives footfall and interest to your neighbouring businesses at a much-needed time for the retail sector.

I would hesitate to count the number of children and adults who have attended workshops, fitness classes, performances, activities, and events at SCD. Not to mention those who have walked away with national qualifications simply from coming to do locally what they love. You should all be very proud of what you have achieved.

Sadly, all creative industries are taking an exceptionally heavy blow lately. SCD and spaces like it must be protected as the heart and soul of our Town Centres and High Street. They are unique innovators, creatives and deliver much needed resources which would otherwise be missing without the drive and determination of the people who run them. If lost, we are in danger of leaving behind not only the spaces they fill, but the vital connection to community they bring.

I do hope that the situation you currently find yourselves in can be resolved quickly and we get to continue partnership working in Sutton in 2024 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Park', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Park
Chief Executive Officer
Successful Sutton Business Improvement District