

Cabinet – 10 September 2024

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Question from Mrs C

My question relates to the closure of HMV Chelmsford who were recently given notice by High Chelmer management, to leave the premises they have occupied for decades without any discussion or advance warning. They close their doors in a couple of weeks and since no suitable alternative location can be found, Chelmsford will lose this important music and media store just ahead of the busy Christmas period. I understand the staff are facing redundancy.

I believe that the decision was made to facilitate a larger Super Drug, right opposite Boots and serving exactly the same need. My question is what local politicians are going to do about this on our behalf? Clearly it is not in the best interests of the community.

HMV is more than a retail outlet, it is culturally and socially important. It is a place to discover music, film and books. It is a place where people of all ages meet. The store has live music performances and it is part of one of the few thriving industries in the UK - music and record sales. It is an institution in our city, public opinion is strong and the council must intervene.

I look forward to your earliest response and will also be raising this question directly with the head of the council.