



PRESS RELEASE

29 July 2005

Local People to shape Cinema Future

Local people throughout Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and surrounding areas are being offered the chance to shape the future of their very own local cinema.

At its Annual General Meeting last Saturday The Curzon Community Cinema formally launched a full public consultation of its draft Strategic Plan

The draft Strategic Plan explains the achievements in the 9 years since the Curzon became a Community Cinema, describes a vision for the next 10 years and sets out specific milestones for the 3 years to the end of 2008.

Chris Brain, Chair of the Curzon Trustees said:

‘The draft Strategic Plan sets out the Curzon’s goals and objectives for the next three years, through to 2008. We have tried to set out a common purpose that is shared by Directors, staff, volunteers, supporters and our customers. We want everyone who has an interest in the future of the Curzon to read it and send us his or her views. This is their chance to directly influence the future of their local Community Cinema.’

Since The Curzon became a Community Cinema it has:

- Declared its reputation – so far uncontested – to be the world’s oldest purpose-built, continuously operating cinema
- Installed a new screen, a Dolby Digital Surround Sound System, new seating and also refurbished the foyer
- Become a focus for film in the local community, with a thriving art house film club, a *CineMA & Baby* club for parents with babes in arms, and state of the art facilities for blind and deaf patrons
- Secured a Project Planning Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to research The Curzon’s history and to plan the restoration of the Art Deco building
- Developed a phased programme of restoration
- Become part of the UK Film Council’s Digital Screen Network one of only 200 cinemas across the country.

The vision for the Curzon’s future covers a whole range of issues from the maintenance of the heritage to community arts and education to customer service and programming. Jon Webber, Curzon General Manager explained what the Strategy says about our vision:

'People who care about the Curzon are motivated by the importance of its place in the history of cinema as well as the intrinsic value of the building and its decorative features. We are proud of its past and present value to the local community as a centre for arts and entertainment. We are excited by its future prospects as a thriving centre for cinema and the arts, fully restored as a national treasure.'

Some supporters of the Curzon at the AGM said what they liked about it

'This must be the best cinema in the area for comfort, friendliness, super screen...and of course the sound system'

'...it's local, easy to park, good films, good company...'

'It's local and its ours. The building is beautiful. Cinema as it should be'

'It helps to bring some of the people of Clevedon together...'



If you have any questions relating to this Press Release or the detail of the Curzon Strategic Plan please contact Chris Brain on 07949 389503 or 01275 878378

Notes for editors

1. *The Curzon is believed to be the oldest, purpose built, continuously operated cinema in the world, having opened its doors to the public for the first time on 20 April 1912.*
2. *The Registered Charity that owns and runs the Curzon Community Cinema took over in November 1996, and has operated it successfully ever since, with more than 5,000 film performances under its belt. During 2004 the Curzon had its most successful year yet in terms of audience numbers and occupancy rates, demonstrating that the unique blend of a historic cinema fused with modern-day comfort and the very latest technological facilities is the first choice for local people.*
3. *The draft Curzon Strategy can be downloaded from www.curzon.org.uk. Comments on the Curzon Strategic Plan are invited by **30 September 2005** to:*

**Strategic Plan Consultation
Curzon Community Cinema
46 Old Church Road
Clevedon
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Or by email to: strategy@curzon.org.uk