

Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Golden Lane Estate, London EC1Y 0SH

savegoldenlane@gmail.com

7 April 2026

Nadeem Sweiss

Adam Stephens

Joint Administrators, Fusion Lifestyle

S&W Partners LLP, 45 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BG

By email: fusion@swgroup.com

cc: Helen Fentimen OBE JP, Chair, C&CS Committee – helen.fentimen@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community & Children's Services - judith.finlay@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Liz King, Alderwoman, Cripplegate Ward – elizabeth.king@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Rachel Blake MP – rachel.blake.mp@parliament.uk

RE: Proposed Closure of Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre on 30 April 2026 – Request for Information, Community Operator Pathway, and Staff Welfare

Dear Mr Sweiss and Mr Stephens,

We write on behalf of residents of the Golden Lane Estate following confirmation that Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre is proposed to close permanently on 30 April 2026. We approach you not as adversaries but as the people with legal oversight of this process – and as the authors of the statement that the closure followed “careful consideration and consultation with the City of London.”

We recognise that your legal duties run primarily to creditors, not to service users, and that the closure decision appears to result from the City of London Corporation's choice not to agree a transition arrangement, not from a decision of your own making. We approach you in a constructive spirit, seeking information and exploring whether a solution still exists. The centre is still open. The closure has not yet happened. We are asking you to assist us in preventing it.

1. The Context You Should Be Aware Of

- Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre is the only site in Fusion's entire national portfolio confirmed to permanently close on 30 April 2026. Every other affected local authority found a transition arrangement. The City of London Corporation is the sole exception.
- Fusion Lifestyle is a charity that is 451 days late filing accounts with the Charity Commission, suggesting systematic governance failure at Fusion that the City should have been monitoring.
- The City was conducting Pre-Market Engagement with potential operators as recently as March 2026. We understand that the City subsequently approached other operators

about taking over the running of the centre and that none accepted, citing prohibitive contract terms and economics. We are asking the City directly whether those operators were offered revised contract terms that properly addressed the maintenance liability issue.

— The facility is the only publicly-funded leisure centre in the Square Mile, serving GP-referred patients on Exercise on Referral programmes, elderly residents on subsidised fitness schemes, and children with special educational needs. Its closure without alternative may engage the City Corporation's statutory duties under the Care Act 2014.

— The £10.35 million refurbishment is not scheduled until December 2026 — eight months away. The gap in provision is a choice, not an inevitability.

2. Request: The Basis of the Closure Decision

Your statement confirmed the closure followed “careful consideration and consultation with the City of London.” We ask you to provide, to the extent you are able to place on the public record:

1. On what date did S&W Partners first approach the City of London Corporation regarding the future of Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre, and what was proposed?
2. What was the City's response, and on what date was it received?
3. Was a transition arrangement of any kind proposed to the City? If so, what was the City's response?
4. Were the operators engaged in the City's Pre-Market Engagement process approached about interim management? If not, why not?

We intend to publish whatever you are able to place on the public record, and are sharing this letter with our MP and with journalists currently covering this story. We are not asking you to breach any obligation of confidentiality; we are asking for whatever can properly be disclosed.

3. Request: Community Operator Pathway

We wish to explore whether a community-led or alternative operator solution remains available before 30 April 2026.

5. Would the Joint Administrators be willing to facilitate discussions between residents, the City, and any interested community or charitable operator about an emergency interim arrangement?
6. If a community trust or social enterprise came forward as an interim operator with the City's agreement, what process would be required and what timeline would be feasible?
7. Is there any mechanism by which limited operations — for example, the pool and Exercise on Referral programme specifically — could continue beyond 30 April if a community arrangement were agreed?

4. Request: Staff Welfare

Staff were informed at thirty minutes' notice, in a meeting attended by City of London Corporation officials, that they would lose their jobs on 30 April. We ask:

8. What steps are being taken to ensure all staff receive their full legal entitlements, including statutory redundancy pay, notice pay, and any TUPE obligations if a successor operator were found?
9. Have staff been provided with written documentation of their rights?
10. Are recognised trade unions properly notified and consulted?
11. Is the City of London Corporation, as landlord and contracting authority, contributing to staff welfare arrangements?

5. Request: Membership Refunds

12. What is the process for members to claim refunds for unused membership?
13. What consumer protection or chargeback rights apply?
14. What is the specific contact mechanism for Golden Lane members seeking advice?

We note the Fusion FAQ directs members to contact their local leisure centre. Given the proposed closure, a specific and functional contact mechanism for Golden Lane members is needed urgently.

6. Our Position

We do not hold S&W Partners LLP responsible for this closure. From the public record, it results from the City of London Corporation's decision not to agree a transition arrangement — a decision that stands in contrast to every other affected local authority in England. We are pursuing this matter vigorously with the City Corporation through formal correspondence, political channels, and the media, and we are copying this letter to elected members and our MP so that the full picture can be established.

We hope you will be able to assist us. We would welcome a brief call at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Dominique Tipper, Paul Drinkwater & Rajesh Thind

Campaign Coordinators, Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre

On behalf of residents of the Golden Lane Estate, EC1

Enclosures: Regulator for Social Housing judgment February 2026