

Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre Campaign

Golden Lane Estate, London EC1Y

rajesh@rajeshthind.com | 07796 933 961

13 April 2026

Helen Fentimen OBE JP

Chair, Community and Children's Services Committee

City of London Corporation, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ

By email: helen.fentimen@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Steve Goodman OBE, Deputy Chair, C&CS Committee
cc: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community & Children's Services
cc: Rachel Blake MP, Cities of London and Westminster
cc: Liz King, Alderman, Cripplegate Ward
cc: Kate Doidge, Clerk, C&CS Committee

RE: Formal Request for Attendance at Public Town Hall Meeting – Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Dear Councillor Fentimen,

We write to you in your capacity as Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee to formally request your attendance at the public meeting being convened by residents of the Golden Lane Estate regarding the closure of Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre.

The meeting is confirmed for Friday 17 April 2026, 7:45pm, at Golden Lane Community Centre. We are writing to request your attendance as a matter of democratic accountability.

Why Your Presence Is Required

You hold a key position of direct formal responsibility for the issues at the centre of this campaign:

As Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, you share formal oversight responsibility for a committee whose published terms of reference include the running of Golden Lane Leisure Centre. The decision to close the centre on 30 April 2026 - whether taken by officers or by members - occurred within the governance framework of a committee you help lead.

What We Are Asking

We are asking you to attend the public meeting and to be prepared to answer the following questions in public:

1. Were you as Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, consulted before the decision to close the centre was made? If so, when and by whom?

2. Do you consider the decision to close Golden Lane Leisure Centre - the only publicly-funded leisure facility in the Square Mile - without an equality impact assessment, and without prior consultation with residents, to have been consistent with the City Corporation's obligations under the Equality Act 2010?
3. What steps do you intend to take, in your committee chair role, to ensure this situation does not recur?

Democratic Accountability

The residents of Golden Lane Estate are your constituents as a City of London Corporation councillor. They deserve to hear from the elected members who hold formal responsibility for the decisions that have affected them. A public meeting without the presence of those members is not meaningful accountability.

We look forward to your confirmation of attendance. Please respond by Wednesday 15 April.

Yours sincerely,

Rajesh Thind, Dominique Tipper and Paul Drinkwater

Campaign Co-coordinators - Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre Campaign

Golden Lane Estate, EC1

This letter is a matter of public record and will be shared with ward councillors, our MP, and published on campaign channels.