

Save Golden Lane Leisure Centre Campaign

Golden Lane Estate, London EC1Y

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13 April 2026

Steve Goodman OBE

Deputy Chair, Community and Children's Services Committee

Chairman, Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee

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

By email: steve.goodman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cc: Helen Fentimen OBE JP, 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 Goodman,

We write to you in your capacity as Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee and Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-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 two positions of direct formal responsibility for the issues at the centre of this campaign:

First, as Deputy 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.

Second, as Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, you have direct oversight responsibility for the Golden Lane Estate itself - including its maintenance, repairs, and condition. The City of London Corporation has cited the building's condition as a central reason for its inability to secure interim operation. That building condition is, at least in part, a consequence of decisions made within the governance framework of your sub-committee.

We note that the Regulator for Social Housing found serious failings in the City Corporation's management of its housing estates in February 2026 - failings that fall squarely within the remit of the sub-committee you chair. The leisure centre closure and the housing maintenance failures are connected. Both reflect the same institutional pattern. Both happened on your watch.

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. In your capacity as Chairman of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, what is your assessment of the role that deferred maintenance and building condition played in making the leisure centre unviable for interim operation?
2. Were you, as Deputy 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?
3. 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?
4. What steps do you intend to take, in your committee roles, 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 also note that your professional background - built on improving services for vulnerable communities and protecting children - gives you a particular responsibility to engage seriously with the impact of this closure on SEN children, elderly residents, and GP-referred patients who have lost provision with no confirmed alternative.

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.