

Monday, 28th July, 2003

Listing Team
Department for Culture Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Listing of The Point Building, Milton Keynes.

Please would you consider granting “The Point” entertainment complex in Central Milton Keynes listed building status. I enclose photographs of the buildings main facades, an Ordinance Survey map with The Point’s location clearly marked, supporting evidence in the form of press cuttings and other literature.

I have lived in the Milton Keynes area my entire life and remember the construction of The Point and its opening when I was a small child. Although at the time I thought of the opening as an negative event, destroying other local cinemas, I have grown to identify with this building over the years and now feel it deserves protection. The Laser displays from the peak of The Point are one of my most vivid childhood memories.

The Point in central Milton Keynes is a multi purpose entertainment complex comprising of a 10 screen, 2038 seat cinema, an amusement arcade and bar area, a restaurant and an under ground bingo facility with several retail outlets.

Opened in October 1985 for American Multi-Cinema by to the design of the Architecture group BDP Building Design Partnership. “BDP designed Britain's first multiplex, The Point at Milton Keynes. Since then we have

included cinema clusters in many of our retail/leisure complexes across Europe” [DBP Web Site Portfolio]. “The Point, Milton Keynes. The UK's first multiplex began the trend for better quality cinema facilities” [DBP Website Portfolio].

One of the striking public buildings at the centre of the new city, it is one of the most famous constructions in the city. The Point is a public landmark recognised by the community. A generation has grown up as Milton Keynes was built around them and they identify with The Point as a focal building as can be seen by visiting any local school and viewing artwork with The Point as a recurring theme.

The main point building is a three storey square building each storey smaller than the supporting storey. The landmark steel superstructure in the shape of a pyramid and attached neon lighting are reflected in the many surrounding glass fronted buildings. The connected cinema, now painted orange and under ground bingo facility together with associated outbuildings are at the heart of the city centre.

The pyramid building is connected to the large metal clad cinema complex building via an International style metal and glass structure which houses the entrance to the cinema complex and tickets office etc. Outside characteristic metal and plastic street furniture in bright red is distinctive of the period of construction and of Milton Keynes street furniture of the period.

The architects of the building reference The Point on their literature almost 20 years after the building was opened.

“BDP designed Britain's first multiplex, The Point at Milton Keynes. Since then we have included cinema clusters in many of our retail/leisure complexes across Europe. “

<http://www.bdp.co.uk/leisure/cinema.asp>

[BDP 2003]

The building is at risk following its closure as a UCI cinema (See accompanying press cutting) and the financial problems of the new easyCinema venture; [<http://www.easycinema>] as reported in the national

press: "The easy boss hits hard times" [Mail on Sunday, 22nd June 2003, Financial Page 3]. New plans for further development of Milton Keynes describe the area around The Point as "The Heart of the City" and some no longer display The Point. As the city's population grows to the now projected four hundred thousand, the land in the city centre will increase in value with resulting pressures for redevelopment of The Point Site.

Without listed buildings status, changes to the character of the building can also take place degrading its values as documented in the front page article: "The future's orange for The Point Cinema" [Milton Keynes Citizen, April 13 2003, Front Page]

Without listed buildings status, changes to the character of the building can also take place degrading its values as documented in the front page article: "The future's orange for The Point Cinema" [Milton Keynes Citizen, April 13 2003, Front Page]

The building's group value in the street scene along side the original shopping centre and the more recent Midsummer Boulevard development epitomise Milton Keynes to its own citizens and are well known outside of the city. A few examples of recent press cuttings and other literature have been included with this letter to demonstrate its central role in the psyche of the New City.

Mike O'Sullivan Chairman of MK Forums was reported as nominating The Point as a successful building. "For me to consider a building a success I think that it should work and be fit for its purpose, and it should delight and perhaps surprise." [MK News Wednesday March 19th 2003]

"American Multi-Cinema (AMC) opens the first multiplex cinema complex in the UK. The Point at Milton Keynes has 10 screens and 2,038 seats."

<http://www.terramedia.co.uk/Chronomedia/years/1985.htm>

[Terra Media 2003]

"country's first multi-screen cinema, The Point which in 1986 revitalised cinema audiences in UK.. "

<http://www.brianwhite.org.uk/Constituency.htm>

[Brian White MP]

"The turning point, Bennett maintained, was the opening of The Point, a 10-screen multiplex cinema in Milton Keynes, opened by David Puttnam in 1985. In five years, there were 21 multiplexes in the UK; it was a seismic shift for movie going: film lovers now had places to see their

favourite films that weren't flea pits; they offered parking, food, drinks, bars, good sound systems, stadium type seating."

http://www.publishingnews.co.uk/pn/pno_news17.asp

[Publishing News 2003]

"THE POINT, Midsummer Boulevard. 1985 by Building Design Partnership, an Anglo-American venture. Very self-conscious about its 'entertaining' role, this multiscreen cinema is advertised by a pyramidal stack of mirror-glass boxes under a wigwam of neon-lit steel beams (bars and nightclub). At the back a big metal-panel-clad shed for the multiscreen cinema (the first in Britain)".

[Page 495 - Buckinghamshire Buildings of England (1994), Nikolaus Pevsner]

Many private web sites describe The Point demonstrating its prominent position in the cityscape and the communities feeling of identity.

When describing Milton Keynes city centre The Point is one building which always gets a mention despite the many other interesting and unusual other buildings located near by such as the new 20 million pound theatre, one of the worlds longest shopping centres and the towering indoor ski sloped "X-Scape". An example of this can be seen at the very informative Clutch Clubs millennium educational web site.

"It's red lights and triangular shape make it a distinct feature in Central Milton Keynes"

<http://clutch.open.ac.uk/schools/shepherdswell00/entertainment/point.htm>

[Clutch Club, 2003]

The Point is an important historical building both for the development of cinema in the United Kingdom and for the development of the New City of Milton Keynes. Beyond that it is an instantly recognisable and bold landmark building prominent in the skyline and the minds of the residents of Milton Keynes.

Under threat from redevelopment The Point deserves protection as an example of distinctive design and as a historic monument to the creation of a new community. Despite its recent construction this building is

unique in the UK both historically and architecturally and it should be preserved.

The address of the complex is below and can be located on Ordnance Survey Land Ranger map series 152, grid reference SP 855 388. It is interesting to note that Ordnance Survey merit The Point Building sufficiently to have it as the cover to the map for the whole of the Northampton and Milton Keynes region.

The Point
Midsummer Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
Bucks
MK9 3NB

The building is open to the public during the daytime.

The building is open to the public during the daytime.

If any additional information is required, or you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]