



PRESS RELEASE - PICTUREDROME CINEMAS & BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Refurbishment Works Update: Picturedrome Cinema, Bognor Regis

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Statement from Picturedrome Cinemas: The Picturedrome Bognor Regis celebrated its Centenary in 2019, with a celebratory event held in January 2020. The success of the event, aligned to the ongoing support of the council and community inspired Adam Cunard MD to ensure the cinema had a legacy for the next 100 years. Refurbishment works were scheduled, but unfortunately timelines on the works schedule were impacted significantly as the cinema sector closed its doors due to Covid. Although the last two years for the business have been extremely challenging, we are pleased to announce that we are now able to continue with scheduled refurbishment works. Picturedrome Cinemas now leases the full footprint of the building, acquiring the lease of the original restaurant. This will be incorporated into the main building to significantly improve our disabled access to the main foyer, new retail stand and to our beautiful historic main screen. The original external doorway on the corner of Linden and Canada Grove will be restored for us to achieve this link. Picturedrome cinemas are proud to be the current custodian of such an iconic building in the heart of Bognor Regis and are pleased to be back in the position to announce that works have restarted, in the hope to reveal the first completed phase of works in quarter 4 of 2022.

“Picturedrome Bognor Regis is a cinema that both myself and our employees’ treasure.” says Adam Cunard, Managing Director at Picturedrome Cinemas, “As MD I have always wanted to release, what I see as the potential in restoring the building to its full historic splendour. There is no point in this being a halfhearted refurbishment. The aim is to leave a legacy for the next 100 years. We are refurbishing the foyer to significantly increase floor space, with a full reinstated terrazzo marble floor, bespoke stained-glass artwork and sympathetic restoration to features that I’m sure the local community will love to see. This has allowed us to reposition a new retail stand which significantly improves the flow of the building. We have also uncovered some original historic detailing in screen 3 on the first level, with a complete refurbishment and two new sets of toilets added. We have experienced significant delays in the programme but are very much back on track to completing the first phase of the works.”

About Picturedrome Cinemas: Picturedrome Cinemas take pride in giving our guests a unique environment in which to enjoy films, shows and events using state of the art sound and visual technology. We aim to consistently provide exceptional, friendly service and ensure that the experience is always great value for money. Our cinemas are part of the local community, and we strive to work with organisations and groups for the betterment of the area.

Statement from Bognor Regis Town Council: The Picturedrome is considered by so many to be an iconic building and it has a rich history of being at the heart of the community.

In 1886 the Bognor Regis new assembly rooms were constructed on the site of the Picturedrome Cinema with the rooms used in the early days for a variety of purposes including stage shows, dancing, roller skating and community functions. In 1911 the assembly rooms were renamed the Queen's Hall, commemorating the coronation of George V. The rooms were used as a barracks during the First World War but then taken over by a company called the Picturedrome (Bognor) Ltd. It was then in 1919 that the District Council approved plans to convert the Queen's Hall into a full-time cinema known as the Picturedrome.

In 2010 Bognor Regis Town Council made the decision, with the support of local electors, to purchase the Grade II listed Picturedrome building. Through the acquisition of the Bognor Pier Company, the Town Council purchased the freehold of the Picturedrome so it may be preserved as an asset for Bognor Regis townspeople and visitors to the town.

As tenant of the Picturedrome, Adam Cunard continues on his mission to honour the unique fabric of this historic building whilst offering an entertainment venue that is appealing, accessible and affordable. The dovetailing of these objectives has not been an easy ambition and Adam has faced great difficulties in recent months, as have many others working in and with the construction trade.

The Town Council continue to offer Adam it's full support and look forward to the completion of these works, which we are sure you will be incredibly impressed with. In the meantime, the Picturedrome Cinema remains open for business with all details of what's on offer available on their website: www.picturedromebognor.com.



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