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Creative Hub businesses to stay

Creative businesses that are part of the Canning Circus Creative Hub will now be able to stay in their properties on Wollaton Street after Nottingham City Council agreed to limit its redevelopment for Derby Road.

The City Council has ambitious plans to regenerate Derby Road and as part of this, had proposed to moving businesses from Wollaton Street to alternative premises so that the buildings they occupy can be redeveloped as part of a wider scheme to improve the area, support local traders and create additional footfall on Derby Road.

However, the Creative Hub businesses and their supporters made a strong case for staying and the Council has spent the last week listening carefully to their concerns about how the Hub might be affected by any move. Having now met with the businesses, the Council has confirmed that the threat of eviction has been lifted, with regeneration proposals continuing on the remainder of the block the Council owns. Furthermore, the Council is opening discussions with the businesses on whether any additional support can be provided to address issues with the existing premises and to support the long-term sustainability of the Canning Circus Creative Hub.

Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth Councillor Nick McDonald said: "The regeneration of this part of the city is really important, but so is the retention of existing businesses located here. It's important to remember that there are numerous different interests relating to this issue, and the planned regeneration was in order to support traders on Derby Road. However, having listened carefully to the views of the Hub businesses, we are happy to leave them where they are, regenerate the block around them, and work with them on addressing issues they have with their premises.

"We made clear last week that we would only move these businesses if they could be placed in suitable alternative accommodation. Having looked at all the options, it is clear the best option is simply that they stay put.

"We support creative businesses in Nottingham, and we listen to them, and that is what we have done here. We have established a Creative Quarter in Nottingham precisely because we believe the creative industries are the future of the city's economy, and we believe the Creative Quarter can now work closely with these businesses to help them be even more successful in the future. The Council can't always give everyone everything they want, but on this occasion I think the businesses are right in saying that that they have established something important that we should protect. This is the right outcome."

Mike Wynne, coordinator of the Creative Hub, said: "The Hub is pleased that the Council recognises the economic and social contribution its businesses make to Nottingham. We look forward to further constructive discussions with the Council about the future of the buildings and to continued investment in their development. In the meantime the Hub businesses will continue to focus on producing the high quality music, visual art and digital design that have built Nottingham's reputation as a vibrant Creative city.

"Our greatest thanks goes to the people of Nottingham and beyond for the support they have given to our campaign, drawing the council's attention to the possible consequences of our businesses being evicted. That the council have listened and reconsidered their position in allowing us to stay is a very positive move on their part, more than we could have hoped for in such a short period of time, and we look forward to discussing in detail the ways in which we can be supported in the future."