

**QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC
UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

Council Meeting: **Wednesday, 23 July 2025**

Question from: **Janet Mace**

Question to: **Councillor Danielle Durrans, Lead Member for
Public Services and Communities**

QUESTION

I spent many happy times at Square Chapel when I first arrived in Halifax 6 years ago.

I attended many talks, concerts, and several film showings along with coffee and lunch meetings with friends.

I was sad to see it closed and have many concerns for both the future of the centre and the beautiful and historic architecture of the Square Chapel building.

What are the proposals for the centre in future and what opportunities will the general public have to examine these proposals and voice their opinions?

RESPONSE

I share your disappointment and concerns regarding the building closure and in ensuring that Square Chapel continues to be used as an Arts Centre for the borough.

However, in accordance with my previous response to a similar question Square Chapel is not owned by Calderdale Council, although two small parcels of Council land are leased to Square Chapel Community Interest Company for use in conjunction with the building. Arts Council England holds a charge on the building and would have primary responsibility for taking decisions on future use or disposals with the owner and with any administrator, receiver or other insolvency practitioner that may be appointed.

Officers are aware of the current position in respect of the operator and have been in discussion with Arts Council England representatives on the future of the building. Whilst the Council would like to be involved and support decisions on the future of the Arts Centre, it does not have any direct responsibility for the process and how this will be managed.