

TRADERS GEAR UP FOR THE BIG MOVE AS CASTLE SQUARE PREPARES TO LAUNCH

17 SEPTEMBER 2020

- **Independent traders are set to move to Castle Square, the new 5,000 sq ft retail and leisure space on Elephant Road**

Castle Square, the new, temporary retail space on Elephant Road, will celebrate its opening on 25 / 26 September. Castle Square has been built so independent traders from the shopping centre can remain in the area whilst the new town centre is being built. The retail neighbourhood includes 5,000 sq ft of shops and eateries and also consists of new permanent shops and services on Ash Avenue. It gives 26 traders who have a long history of being based in the Elephant and Castle shopping centre the opportunity to continue to serve their regular customers. It also offers the wider community the opportunity to discover and enjoy the goods and services these businesses provide whilst the redevelopment of the town centre takes place.

Traders will be moving alongside existing restaurants Pizzeria Pappagone and TUPi to create a new vibrant neighbourhood community. All the retailers occupying the brand-new units will open on the 25 September, the day after the shopping centre closes on the 24 September. These include:

Castle Square:

- AA Grocery Store
- Coma Y Beba
- Natural Herbal Products
- Anna Castro Boutique
- AR Accessories
- Ayca Sweets and Nuts
- Games and Gadgets
- Magic Carpet
- Maya Clothing
- Andrea's Hair and Beauty
- Kaitour Kitchen



For further information, please contact:

Harriet Adamson
Redwood Consulting
elephant@redwoodconsulting.co.uk

Sophie Ingham Clark
Communications Manager
Delancey
Tel: +44 (0)20 7448 1961
sophie.ingham-clark@delancey.com



- Forever Hair Salon
- Raw Fashion
- JZ Mobile
- Daddy O's
- Laughland Communications
- D & Eddy's
- Original Caribbean Spice
- El Guambra Restaurant

Ash Avenue at Castle Square:

- Lonnie's Unisex Hair & Beauty Salon
- Nicole's Alterations
- Medellin Moda
- Stella Fashion
- Z Repairs Watch & Phones
- Inara Transfer

Popular Columbian eatery La Bodeguita Restaurant will be moving to a new home and is due to open in early 2021. Castle Square will also become the new home of the much-loved Elephant statue. Ahead of the move, the statue will be refurbished and repainted before it takes up residence in its new elevated position in Castle Square for all to see in October.

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please contact:

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Speaking on the Castle Square opening, Diana Barranco, Community Director for Elephant and Castle Town Centre, commented: *"This is a really exciting time for these businesses and we're delighted that so many well-known, local traders are looking forward to their next chapter at Castle Square. We have been working very closely with all shopping centre traders to support with relocation, and to ensure they can find new premises that suit their business needs. We are also pleased to have found space for the statue to remain in the heart of the community. It is an iconic landmark which has been the emblem for the area for more than five decades. We look forward to welcoming members of the community when we open Castle Square and Ash Avenue on 25 September. We have lots of entertainment and activities every weekend for six weeks starting on Saturday 26 September to celebrate the traders in their new home."*

Anna Castro, a tenant at the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre commented on the relocation of her ladies' clothing store to Castle Square, saying: *"I am excited to continue selling to my regular loyal customers and for welcoming new ones! This is an amazing area and a great opportunity for my business!"*

A spokesperson from Sweet and Nuts: *"We are delighted to carry on providing you with the delicious variety of products including popcorn, nuts, candy and slush in Elephant and Castle. Looking forward to seeing you in Castle Square!"*

Claudia from Nicole's alteration, said: *"I am so happy to have the great opportunity to grow my business in a new location. I hope to keep contributing with my high-quality service of clothes alterations and repairs."*

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Diana Barranco
Community Director
Elephant and Castle
Town Centre



The new units at Castle Square and Ash Avenue form part of a wider relocation strategy to support the independent traders in the lead up to closure and after the shopping centre has shut. Initiatives have included funding to support with the cost of relocation, increasing discounts in rent from September 2018 to nil rent and service charge payments since March, establishing a database of available retail premises in the area and providing free business and legal advice.

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Anna Castro
Tenant
Elephant and Castle
Shopping Centre





Notes to Editors

About Castle Square

Castle Square is a temporary retail facility within the Elephant and Castle vicinity, to provide accommodation for traders based in the shopping centre whilst it is redeveloped.

This space will allow traders to continue operating and serving the local community.

Castle Square:

- Provides commercial space for local independent businesses.
- Creates an enlivened street frontage welcoming you to Castle Square.
- Maintains a retail offer for residents and visitors.
- Creates a square where people spend time, as opposed to just pass through.

Castle Square is located behind the Sainsbury's Store, at 50 New Kent Road, within very close proximity to the current shopping centre, the train station and the redevelopment area of Elephant Park. Castle Square is easily accessible by public transport.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.castlesquarelondon.com/>

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About the new Elephant and Castle town centre

Elephant and Castle is a development project which will continue over the next 10 years. It will deliver:

- 979 new homes, on a site where none currently exist and at a time when the Capital's housing provision is under significant strain. 35% of these will be affordable, including 116 social rented homes managed by Southwark Council or another registered providing and be offered in priority to people living and working in Southwark
- A new Northern Line entrance, escalators and ticket hall, with better accessibility and step-free access to Elephant and Castle mainline railway station
- A cutting-edge new building for London College of Communication, UAL and a centre for UAL's core university services, ensuring the leading education establishment can remain in the area. It will secure existing jobs in Elephant and Castle as well as relocating UAL staff to the area, alongside a more permeable space for public exhibitions and events
- Around 175,000 sq ft of new leisure facilities, shops, cafes and restaurants
- Space for community leisure uses - Delancey has listened to concerns and offered a bingo operator first refusal on one of the leisure spaces in the proposed development on the west site (currently occupied by the university). There is also leisure space on the east site (currently occupied by the shopping centre) that could be used as a cinema
- On-site affordable retail and workspace facilities
- Significant job creation during the build, with 1,230 construction workers per year needed across the ten year build time and almost 2,000 full time jobs being provided in the new town centre
- 2.5 acres of high quality public realm including new safer pedestrian routes, railway arches and a public square

Further information about the closure and redevelopment can be found on: <https://elephantandcastletowncentre.co.uk/>

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About Transport for London

Earls Court is one of the key sites to be part of TfL's housing programme, which will provide thousands of homes across the capital and includes a commitment to deliver 50 per cent affordable housing on average across all sites brought to the market since May 2016. Work has already started on almost 1,400 homes in the capital, as the programme continues to build momentum. For more information about TfL's housing programme, please visit: <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/businessandcommercial/property-development>

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