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The 'best chicken shop in London' where people queue out the door for a takeaway that 'beats KFC hands down'

Chick-King in Tottenham is a go-to for fried chicken lovers in North London

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By [Amber-Louise Large](#) 13:12, 14 FEB 2022

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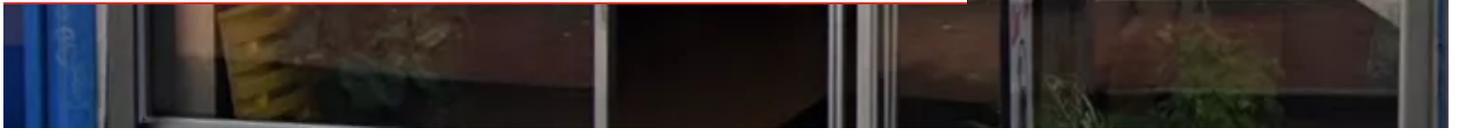
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Chick-King can be found on High Road in Tottenham (Image: Google Maps)

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It's a classic meal that works any time of day - whether it's during a lunch break or after a trip down the pub: London is a city that loves its fried chicken. There's certainly no shortage of chicken shops, either, so the title of 'best chicken shop in London' is a mighty one.

But apparently the title belongs to Chick-King in Tottenham. Reviews claim the chicken shop on High Road is even better than chain stores like KFC and the small takeaway often sees queues of hungry customers out the door. Chick-King is especially busy on match days as **football** fans from over the country have made it part of their tradition to visit after the game.

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The shop is hailed for its delicious, fresh **food** and brilliant value. The menu on Chick-King's **Facebook Page** lists one piece of chicken and chips just £2.60 and a family pack of six pieces of chicken with three portions of chips for £10.70. It is run by twin brothers who are also loved by customers for their friendly and efficient service.

Reviewer Joanna took to TripAdvisor to write: "You'll never head to KFC again after this! Don't be put off if there's a queue out the door, it's worth the wait." Chick-King's superiority to massive chain KFC is repeated in a lot of reviews. Gemma similarly wrote: "100% there's not a chicken shop that gets close to this! (...) But these guys got a better recipe than KFC that's a fact! 24/7 (queue)!"

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Andy added: "Best chicken shop ever! I've been eating here for a few years now while taking a break at work. It's the best chicken shop I've eaten and it beats KFC hands down!" Chick-King has been called the best chicken shop in London by many reviewers and some even think it's the best in the country. Family_Guy_Pie said: "This is by far THE best chicken shop you'll find. Not just in London but anywhere."

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Another topic that often comes up in reviews of Chick-King is its queues. However, that doesn't stop customers from becoming regulars. The shop has become a London staple, as itsdivadarling pointed out: "This place is a big part of Tottenham (...) Be prepared the queues are always out the door which is a testament to how good the food is."

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London (plus they do really lovely milkshakes). If you're not quite convinced yet, this review from Nicky...

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"Jesus turned water into wine. Jordan dunked from the free throw line. Sacha Baron Cohen created Ali G. All of these revolutionary moments of genius pale in comparison to the coating that Alex Tryfonos has come up with for his magnificent fried chicken.

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Chick-King can be found on High Road in Tottenham (Image: Google Maps)



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'We are not just a fried chicken shop - we're the community's beating heart': Residents fight council plan that would 'wipe them out'

The controversial regeneration of Tottenham High Road involves creating 3,000 homes which residents fear will be unaffordable for them

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By [Ruby Gregory](#) Local Democracy Reporter 11:16, 8 MAY 2022 | UPDATED 17:11, 9 MAY 2022

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Alex Tryfonos says his fried chicken shop Chick-King, which has been in the community since 1981, will be demolished if this part of the regeneration plans get given the green light (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

It's a late Wednesday afternoon in North London and Tottenham's Chick-King is filled to the brim with customers patiently waiting for their fried chicken and chips as it begins to rain outside. Inside Chick-King there are community elders, school kids still dressed in their blazers and ties, a bus driver who has clocked off for the day, some builders popping in for a quick pit-stop and two boys who are eyeing up the menu above the serving counter.

Outside it's gloomy and wet and the sky has just turned a shade of grey that even the ominous Tottenham Hotspur Stadium can't seem to block out. But inside North London's most famous chicken shop on Tottenham's High Road, it is bright and warm and the atmosphere is lively even if it is a Wednesday.



has been at the heart of the Tottenham tently. It's also born witness to two riots iots and a lot of stuff going on. It's a lovely

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[made so many people so angry'](#)

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📍 Alex and his family have run the Chick-King empire for over 40 years (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

Chick-King and its legacy means something different to everyone, but the word 'community' echoed from the mouths of every Haringey local [MyLondon](#) spoke to. This place which is at the beating heart of N17 is at risk of being demolished as part of Haringey Council's regeneration plans, Alex claims. The area is very special to Alex, his family still live there and he first met his wife on Love Lane Estate.

"For years and years, no one wanted to come and visit Tottenham. But then when the football ground turned up everyone wanted to come here." Alex explains. "The local community does not benefit from that. Which of the young people here are going to own a flat for [Privacy](#) a developer came in and just stole the land that no one once wanted. All of a sudden it is now becoming a prime location."

Alex, who is in a freehold property ownership and owns the land outright, is not the only businessman who could lose their spot on the High Road. Devrim Tanguil, who has owned Tottenham Hot Spuds Cafe in [White Hart Lane](#) for more than 15 years, argues that the council cannot make a freehold into a leasehold if the land is not theirs to begin with.



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Chick-King is loved by the Tottenham community and Spurs fans (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

He said: "At the end of the day, this land here does not belong to the council, it belongs to other people. It is freehold. How can you effectively take a freehold and give it back as a leasehold?"

The council's High Road West scheme was launched in response to the 2011 London riots, an uprising which began in the area and saw the city burn for five nights after the police shot dead 29-year-old Tottenham local, Mark Duggan. On paper, the scheme promises to 'create a vibrant, attractive and sustainable neighbourhood and a new sports and leisure destination for North London' and stresses that Tottenham would not lose its 'social driven housing character'.

Along with the promise of an attractive neighbourhood that's still in touch with its heritage, the council plans to demolish the 297 homes on Love Lane Estate and build 2,929 new homes including 564 council homes, directly opposite the £1 billion Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

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 **The Tottenham Hotspur Stadium cost £1 billion to build and is the biggest club ground in London** (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

They also announced over 3,500 new jobs and more than 1,500 training opportunities as part of the development. However the scheme, approved back in December 2014, has raised questions for residents. Many told MyLondon they believe the original community is being left out of the council's plans while others fear regeneration will price out locals and will be affordable for just the rich.

Abiba Paul, a resident who once lived on the Love Lane Estate for over a decade, tells MyLondon the council has fallen short of its promises. The 35-year-old believes the council's priority is financial profit rather than making prioritising the community's best interests.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Abiba moved out of her flat in 2016 and into a new council property. At the time she thought she had lucked out bad on the promise of a brand new council home - but six years on, the flat she once lived in remains exactly as it did back then.

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 **Abiba lived on the Love Lane Estate for 11 years** (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

"I'm quite happy now because it's still the same way. They have people living in there temporarily who are disturbed by the football. It's chock-a-block," she said. "The promises are nowhere to be seen, all the effects are definitely being felt -everyone who lives around the stadium is still struggling. See the regeneration proposal, everything seems good on paper, that's the problem with this country, everything seems good in theory but when it comes to practice, it's us lot that suffers. They promise us all of these things."

Abiba's brother, Verral Paul-Walcott agrees: "You just feel for these residents because they're just caught in the middle and their futures are uncertain. They build new here and new there and they're just sandwiched in the middle." **Verral** has been campaigning on behalf of the business owners and residents who are against the council's current plans.

Verral believes change in an area can happen positively if everyone is included throughout the entire process. But for people like Alex, who has proudly served the community for decades, it's now a matter of fighting to keep his spot not just for himself, but for the community.

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Verral Paul-Walcott is a passionate advocator for the community (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

"I'm all for people living in better conditions - that's perfect, but if it doesn't involve people that were living in the places to have rights to those spaces afterwards then it's pointless," he says. "I don't think it's fair that communities who sustain areas and pay business rates and council tax are then told to go because they want new people to come in."

Chick-King has also gone above and beyond when it comes to helping others in times of need. Alex donates meals to homeless people or to those who simply cannot afford it. "People can still come if they don't have the money," he told MyLondon.

Justin Watson, a long-time friend of Verral's who advocates on the same issues and supports the community, has lived in the area his whole life, never settling too far away from his beloved Tottenham. "I'm part of the fabric of North London and have been there ever since, same as my family," he proudly says.

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 **Justin is a long-time friend of Verral's** (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

The 38-year-old recalls how he gained some of the best advice and life lessons simply from talking to the older generation at Caribbean restaurants when he was younger, he says his life could have gone down a different path if he did not have his mentors to look up to.

"If you don't have a father or mother figure in your family and you come to a place like Chick-King or several other takeaways or restaurants, you have that engagement - they ask you how you're doing, it's also therapeutic," Justin argues.

He added: "So to remove these entities from these communities, well you are potentially damaging the community - from mentoring to engagement to therapy. This is a very tough area to be bought up in. so removing this from the community is definitely not the way to go."

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Residents and businesses remain concerned over council's regeneration plans (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

The concerns raised by Alex, Devrim and Verral, Abiba and Justin has seen Tottenham Hotspur shaking its head in disapproval over the regeneration plans. Most recently in March, Spurs chairman Daniel Levy wrote a comprehensive, three-page letter to the council explaining his disapproval of the current plans.

He wrote: "We are extremely concerned that this application not only lets down our communities and residents, but that it utterly fails to live up to even the most basic of aspirations that the council set for positive change in the area. What is coming before the planning committee has no socio-economic or community benefits to speak of.

"It is plainly and simply a dense housing estate of up to 3,000 homes. There is no mixed-use – the proposals are for up to 97 per cent residential uses. The total space secured for indoor sports and recreation use is just 500 square metres across the whole area."

The power of the chairman's letter has allowed for a delay in the approval of the next stage of the High Road West development, with a decision not now expected in June. However, people like Alex remain in limbo over the future of his business, as well as his livelihood, while Verral and Justin have become a voice for the community.

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Tottenham Hotspur wrote a letter of disapproval over the current regeneration plans (Image: Facundo Arrizabalaga/MyLondon)

A Haringey Council spokesperson told MyLondon: "The council is committed to working with businesses to find suitable relocation options that meet their individual requirements and aspirations. In the first instance we are looking at a small row of shops, most of which are already leasehold properties. We are helping to support them in moving to appropriate premises.

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"Detailed discussions with businesses north of White Hart Lane have yet to take place, and we look forward to working with them in the future. We recently balloted our residents, who voted 'yes' to progress the High Road West Scheme. This will deliver 500 affordable, high-quality council homes, including new homes for all eligible existing Love Lane residents, along with a major regeneration of the area, including a new health centre, library, open spaces and employment opportunities that will benefit a large number of people in the local area."

A spokesperson for Lendlease, the property developer working on the High Road West plans said: "We're working with the local community, and providing support for Haringey Council, on a scheme that will help re-energise this proud and historic area of London by delivering vital new and affordable housing, jobs and open space."

Are you a Londoner worried about change in your area? Get in touch with Ruby by writing to her at ruby.gregory@reachplc.com

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**Council plans redevelopment of Tottenham High Road West
'We're being bullied out of our property,' says Chick King owner**

David Conn

Wed 30 Oct 2013 16.59 GMT

Haringey council's "masterplan" for redevelopment of the Tottenham High Road west area opposite Spurs' planned new stadium, where the club owns substantial property transferred to a company registered in the Bahamas, has met fierce opposition from local businesses.

Brian Dossett runs DW General Wood Machinists from a large factory at 855-863 Tottenham High Road, which his father and uncle started in 1948. Proudly spreading on his cluttered desk black and white photographs of the works as his family built it over the decades, Dossett says the business now employs 20 people: "We're proud of what we do, to have kept the business going for 65 years, constantly investing in new, modern machinery, making whatever customers ask us to make."

A recent commission was a maple plaque marking this year's [50th anniversary of the National Theatre, which the Queen unveiled at a ceremony on the South Bank](#).

Like most of the businesses affected by Haringey council's proposed reshaping of the area, Dossett, busy working, found out almost accidentally and remains shocked by the discovery that DW is earmarked for demolition on all three of the council's plans.

"Somebody from the council explained to me that because Spurs are building a new stadium, they want to improve the area, but how can they make plans to knock down my property? That's theft. The government says we need real jobs: these are real jobs, but they want to drive us out to build houses."



📍 Sam Oliveri in his garage at the Peacock industrial estate. Photograph: Jonny Weeks for The Guardian

Mechanic Sam Oliveri, who has run a garage on the fully occupied Peacock industrial estate, off White Hart Lane, for 27 years, found out from another trader that the whole estate is slated to be demolished under two of the council's "masterplan" options. He supports and admires Spurs as a football team and wanted them to stay in Tottenham, but believes the plan has been worked up to enable the Premier League corporation to profit from residential development on previously industrial land.

"I started this business from scratch," he said. "Now they want to take my livelihood away, give me peanuts for it so somebody else can make a fortune."



📍 Alex Tryfonos's shop Chick King on Tottenham High Road is earmarked for demolition. Photograph: Jonny Weeks for the Guardian

Alex Tryfonos and his family run Chick King, a fried chicken and chips shop opposite Spurs' current and proposed new stadium, which has famed status among Spurs fans. His father, who came to England from Cyprus, still lives above the shop. Chick King

and the other shops in its row are earmarked for demolition, to make way for a new library next to the planned walkway for Spurs fans, just along from the current library. Tryfonos says the council failed to prepare businesses for the shock and has not discussed alternative locations or compensation. The council says it is too early to do so, because the plans are only proposals for consultation.

"We never had any intention of selling to Spurs or moving from Tottenham," Tryfonos says. "Now Spurs are staying, we are being bullied out of our property. As businesses we have come together and we are calling on the council to include and involve us in the plans to improve this area, not drive us out."

Lia-Clara Gomes and her husband Bob own and live with their children above the Urban Tattoo parlour, a 20-year fixture in a row on White Hart Lane planned to be demolished for the Spurs walkway. She discovered the plans from a friend, and broke down crying when the council confirmed them. "When Spurs were planning to leave, we signed the petition asking them to stay," she says. "Now, we have a question mark over our homes and our future. It is very upsetting."

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