

# PRESS RELEASE

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## SMALL FAMILY BUSINESS FACES SHOCK EVICTION AS EAST LONDON BREWING COMPANY TAKES OVER COUNCIL LEASE

A popular family-run barbershop is facing closure after receiving a sudden eviction notice from their new landlord, leaving the owners with just weeks to save their livelihood.

Timmy Tapers Barbershop has operated out of the Council-owned unit on Black Horse Lane since April 2023. Owner Tim Cox and Partner Lauren Hogg knew their 'Tenancy at Will' contract with the Council was only temporary, but had hoped the their new landlord would sublet to the barbershop or be given reasonable notice to find new premises. Now the future of the family business is in doubt as they struggle to find new premises.



The future is uncertain for family business Timmy Tapers following a shock eviction from their Council-owned unit giving them only weeks to find new premises. They are appealing to the public to help them find new premises to help their family livelihood survive.

The couple were shocked to get a message on 3 Mar 2026 from new Landlord East London Brewing Company (ELBC) – which had been slowly moving into the premises since July 2025 – giving the barbershop less than four weeks' notice to leave.

The notice came out of the blue after the barbershop had heard very little in the preceding months after contacting ELBC and the Council in September and November 2025 asking for clarification about the lease.

Tim and Lauren say they're deeply disappointed the Council didn't reply earlier to forewarn them of the risk, and for the lack of support they've received since. Despite pleading to the Council for more time, they've been told there's nothing that can be done.

The couple is heartbroken at the callous treatment they've received from the Council and ELBC, saying that ELBC blamed the short eviction notice on the results of a recent HMRC inspection.

Tim and Lauren say they understand strict rules must be followed, but the short notice and lack of communication has left them and their livelihood devastated.

Lauren says they feel crushed at the Council's apparent dismissal of their family livelihood: "We built our business up from nothing on our own through hard work and our own money. But now that's gone and we don't know how we're going to survive. The Council says it wants to help small local businesses, but it hasn't done anything to help us: we feel totally ignored and invisible."

Meanwhile ELBC's actions appear to stand in stark contrast to its public image. The Brewery's website boasts that it collaborates with local businesses and supports and invests in the local economy. Yet, its sudden displacement of the barbershop appears to paint a different picture.

With a young child and another on the way, the family relies entirely on the barbershop to survive. Timmy Tapers Barbershop is now looking for its new home. This is proving a long and expensive process and the couple worries that without help, their thriving new business and community asset will be destroyed and their growing family's livelihood lost.

Despite their dire situation, Tim and Lauren say support from local businesses and the wider community has been overwhelming, with many people trying to help.

Lauren says they are open to all opportunities and welcome any help that the Waltham Forest neighbourhood can send their way to find a new home for Timmy Tapers Barbershop.

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