

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS STRATEGY GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2020

Due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic this meeting was held remotely by way of zoom videotelephony system.

‘To research, develop and promote the Markets being mindful of their historic evolution’

	Present: Cllrs Sharman, Lightfoot, Woodmin, Westrop, Hendry Town Clerk E Oliver	
1	<u>To receive Members apologies</u> Cllrs Bulley, Hayes, Groom & Pickering	
2	<u>To receive any declarations of Interest</u> There were no such declarations	
3	<u>Agree the notes of the Market Strategy Meetings 14/9/20</u> All Agreed	
4	<p><u>Discussing the way forward for the market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Woodmin reported the weekend had gone well and there was good feedback. • Cones were put in place to stop the cyclists • TTrevor Pet Beds stall is not coming back, we have written to him and welcomed him back if he changes his mind at any time. • Cllr Sharman reported that the dress shop at the end of the Howdale is interested in having a stall, he will contact the Clerk. • It was thought that it might be a good idea for shops to have stalls to market their goods. This may be a good target market • Cllr Lightfoot concerned about new traders are being asked to contact other people and actively being told not to sign the new market licences. • Some new stalls are taking advice from other sources and this needs to be sorted out as we own the market and need to get grips with this. • The importance of screen shots was emphasised • There was one post that said Rain Wizard wasn't trading on the market anymore this is incorrect as he seems to be a casual who trades presently. • It was reported that the planters are coming from BCKLWN and are on order. • Cllr Sharman was concerned when the Town Hall is back the blood donors lorries may not fit in with the planters. • It was explained that the planters were agreed to be mobile so they could be put wherever needed. • Ongoing these will be our responsibility • Cllr Westrop did mention the temporary plug on the side of the TH. This was confirmed this was only temporary and will be removed. • It was felt that we needed to keep posting that the responsibility of the market is ours. • Cllr Sharman asked when the TH would be available for coffee mornings. Cllr Lightfoot replied that the TH is not finished then will need being cleaned and decorated. This will be discussed further at the next TH strategy group • The reality is that it may not be opened this side of Christmas. • It was felt that saying nothing but just giving out a press statement seemed to be working and more dignified. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The licences are due to be sent out with an accompanying letter • It has been reported the petition will be ready to be handed in soon. • It was agreed we all want to save the Market so good that all are in agreement. • We do have the right to run the market. This has never been raised in all the time at least since the traders put the petition against changing to the car park side. • Cllr Sharman reported that Cllr Lawson has apologised about three times for the letter he implicated him. He has stated that he will ignore his emails in future. • If we have a meeting with the traders, we need to have a clear idea of the purpose and have a mediator to chair the meeting. • Cllr Lightfoot said we could ask them to structure questions and have a structured public zoom meeting • Cllr Sharman said if you could convince the traders fine, but he didn't think we could and so carry on doing what we are doing proving and then they will see the right side of it. He felt that to hold an open meeting If Cllr Hayes could show the reason why a meeting would be worthwhile, he would • We can work positively with a group of them. • Cllr Westrop felt the time for open meetings had gone. • Cllr Sharman felt if you argue back with Cllr Lawson you give him fuel and you can never win. • Cllr Woodmin felt that a public meeting could change the public perception • It was agreed that a meeting would not be beneficial. <p>Proposed by Cllr Sharman, seconded by Cllr Lightfoot not to hold a meeting unless a reason for it to be held could be found.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Woodmin felt the best option is to keep going and find new traders to trade on the market. She has found a lot of enthusiasm for this. • Cllr Hendry thought that new traders should be informed of some of the issues to pre-empt some of the negativity. • Cllr Westrop stated that the atmosphere was changing over Saturday and it felt a lot better than it had for a long time and felt that we needed to build on that. • She felt we needed to keep it focused and straight forward. • Cllr Sharman felt without the barriers there was a better atmosphere. • Distribution of the new licences was discussed, and it was felt that we could hand them out on market day with a signature saying they had been received. • Gloves and sanitisers would need to be used. • Cllr Woodmin felt that it would be a good idea for the Market Officer to go around and check that the stalls had sanitisers, managing their queues with tape and cones, and have responsibility for their customers. • Morrisons have brought back the old restrictions ahead of the Govt announcement tomorrow • Essential that masks are being used on the market by our staff and contractors. • It was felt important to get the licence out asap, and maybe have a SAE enclosed or handed back to us. 	
--	---	--

5	<p><u>Future Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking forward to opening the clock side in October • Thoughts about a Christmas market, this could be part of a late night shopping event. This could be a shop and market event • It was hoped that the lights could be on for this event rather than treat it as a Christmas lighting event. • This could be discussed more fully after the PMs announcement tomorrow night and if there are restrictions that could affect markets we would need to meet urgently. 	
---	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hendry offered to help Cllr Pickering out to get the licence ready. It was agreed that Cllr Hendry would offer to help him. • Feed back if we hear anything about the petition • We expect the petition will be put through the letterbox. • We will inform our Contractors and our staff not to accept the petition • John Snow a new trader who is in conversation with Judith Taylor 	
6	Date of next meeting: 28 September 2020 <u>9.30am</u>	
	SIGNED	DATE