

**Report to Downham Market Town Council 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**Councillor Josie Ratcliffe**

Please accept this brief (and belated) report this month.

I included highlights from the Market Strategy Document in my recent Councillor newsletter to residents and received positive feedback about the suggestion to hold table-top sales and other events in the Town Hall. However restrictions on vehicle access for stallholders to load and unload on market days (which would be the best days for event footfall) would make events difficult to run. I hope the Market group and Town Hall group could consider ways to work around this. I have experience as a stallholder and as an organiser of table-top sales and I could support with promoting events when we're able to hold them safely.

Distributed in my Councillor newsletter in April:

## **News about the Market**

**Downham Market Town Council is pleased to confirm that the market is expanding. This is thanks to the relaxation of Covid-19 lockdown regulations which allows more shops and stalls to open.**

You can now shop at a wider range of stalls. The market runs on Fridays and Saturdays, 8am to 3pm, next to the Town Hall.

### **Market Strategy**

Downham Market Town Council is committed to its market and the history that goes with it.

After a difficult year for trade, the Market Strategy Group has a vision to *promote, improve and expand* the Market to bring more people into the town centre, and:

- To hold regular themed markets such as Farmers, Craft, Antique and Victorian and involve local businesses
- To make better use of the Town Hall on market days, eg. invite local groups to hold coffee mornings, table top sales and craft exhibitions
- To expand on the success of Downham Market Live! by welcoming buskers, musicians and drama societies to perform on market days