

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS STRATEGY GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2020 AT 3:00PM

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified of the emergency evacuation procedure from the Town Council Offices
 Members were reminded that they should have their mobile telephones turned off or switched onto silent mode.

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

	<p>Present: The Deputy Mayor Cllr Groom, Cllrs’ Bulley, Daymond, Doyle, Horne, Lightfoot and Sharman. Non-Strategy Group member Cllr Pickering. Deputy Clerk R Davidson</p>	
1	<p><u>To receive Members’ apologies</u> Apologies - Cllrs’ McKee and Soehnle. Cllr Westrop did not attend the meeting.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>
2	<p><u>To receive any declarations of Interest</u> There were no such declarations</p>	
3	<p><u>To agree the notes of Monday 16th December 2019 Strategy Group meeting</u> The notes were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>	
4	<p><u>To discuss the Strategy Group’s previously identified future priorities, and any further priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping existing traders <p>Cllr Doyle emphasised the need to retain the existing traders and expressed his concern that in the event of more than one trader being licensed in a commodity, this could cause both businesses to fail.</p> <p>Cllr Doyle stated the current council is the custodian of a 1000+ years history and he believed the existing traders are resistant to any change or relocation.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor Cllr Groom concurred stating the strategy group should be increasing footfall of the town not just the market.</p> <p>Cllr Lightfoot felt that much progress could be achieved with a Marketing Policy involving social media.</p> <p>Cllr Bulley thought it beneficial that a market trader(s) be seconded onto the Strategy Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding markets and investigate moving into High Street South <p>Cllr Lightfoot reported that eight of the current market stalls could be accommodated in the on street parking bays on High Street South and asked how much a Road Closure Order would cost. It was answered a Small Event Road Closure Order costs £36.94 each day but it is not known if there was an upper limit on how many occasions these can be applied for. In the event of an application for a permanent closure, the Town Council would be responsible for all of the Traffic Regulation Order</p>	
		<p>Cllrs’ Bulley, Lightfoot and Pickering to investigate High Street South possibilities</p>

	<p>costs.</p> <p>Cllr Lightfoot reported that when the closure occurred for the Downham Market Live music festival, High Street South shops seemed content with the arrangements and had reported good levels of trading.</p> <p>A query was raised in respect of deliveries and other access, but it was suggested a model could be adopted like on the continent where traffic is permitted for access and delivery.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor Cllr Groom commented that pedestrianisation of High Street South had been considered during the town regeneration works of 2004/05.</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk counselled against taking decisions without public consultation; advising Rt. Honourable Liz Truss MP and the editor of Your Local Paper had contacted the Clerk regarding a belief the markets were due to be relocated to High Street South.</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk also counselled that neither the Friday nor Saturday Markets are at capacity on their current site, Town Hall Car Park.</p> <p>It was countered that to keep the market vibrant it needs to develop more.</p> <p>Cllr Lightfoot described her vision where Artisan, Farmers, Antiques, Collectible Markets are held alongside the traditional market.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor enthusiastically agreed but stated she did not believe it appropriate or right to move the traditional market site again.</p> <p>Members agreed that whatever recommendation was reached, such a decision would be required to be taken by Full Council.</p> <p>Members were cautioned by the Deputy Clerk as to making recommendations that may impact upon the work other committees are undertaking, particularly the Car Park Management Strategy Committee.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Bulley Seconded – Deputy Mayor Cllr Groom ‘Our preference is to leave the existing Friday and Saturday markets where they are’ All in favour</p>	
5	<p><u>To discuss three recommendations made at 16th December 2019 Markets Strategy Group meeting and not progressed at 14th January 2020 Full Council</u></p> <p>The Chairman Cllr Doyle explained that due to the delegation of Market Traders that had attended the Full Council meeting, he suggested discussion on this topic be delayed, until an opportunity to hear their comments at the Market Traders meeting scheduled for Monday 10th February 2020. Members agreed to this.</p>	
6	<p><u>To receive details of Market Traders Meeting 10:00am Monday 10th February 2020</u></p> <p>The Deputy Clerk explained the arrangements and asked councillors to try and attend.</p>	

<p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p>	<p><u>To discuss New Trader Incentives packs</u> Due to the length of discussion earlier in the meeting members asked this item to be postponed to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>To discuss what other commodities would the Town Council wish to attract to its markets</u> Due to the length of discussion earlier in the meeting members asked this item to be postponed to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>To discuss Table Top Sale programme</u> Due to the length of discussion earlier in the meeting members asked this item to be postponed to the next meeting.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed: 4:02pm</p>	
	<p>SIGNED</p>	<p>DATE</p>