

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

MARKETS SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 1030 HOURS

Present: Councillors G Perham (Chair)
 R Yates (substituting for D Bowater)
 F Kharawala
 J M Freeman
 T Morris
 A Dodwell
 R Berry
 P Carberry (arrived at 10:35)

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 A Harrison (Market Manager)
 B Holttum (Market Support Officer)
 M Jahn (Committee Officer)
 Cllr V Harvey

Members of the Public: 0

88/MK APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Snelling, Goodchild and Bowater who was substituted by Councillor Yates and Dave Gibbins NMTF Liaison Officer / Market Trader.

89/MK DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made and no dispensations were requested.

90/MK QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

91/MK MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19 May 2022 for consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Markets Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 May 2022 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

(b) No updates were given but would be covered during the meeting if needed.

92/MK MARKET GENERAL UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a general market update report and appendix for consideration. These included updates on delivery of activity, pitch usage, social media communications, planned visiting markets and general updates.

It was confirmed that the Vegan Market would now attend once a year in May and the Street Food Heroes had confirmed their attendance on the last Sunday of every month from March to September 2023.

It was noted that six young traders progressed to the Regional Finals of the Young Traders Competition held in Bury St Edmunds on the 27 July but due to other commitments only one could attend the event. This trader and one other then attended the Young Trader Finals held at Stratford Upon Avon at the end of August. Although our entrants did not win they came away with a sense of pride and picked up ideas and useful tips to aid their businesses in future.

A suggestion was made regarding the Tuesday market, which was the quieter of the two days, for choirs from the local schools to be invited to sing to encourage parents and friends to attend the market to support the children. Also, it was mentioned perhaps a stall could be used as a meeting place for community groups or lonely people. However, it was felt the Chatty Café held in the Tactic Centre already provided this and logistically it would be difficult to operate on a market stall.

The Adverse Weather Policy was being reviewed to include extreme heat options following two days during the summer when this had caused a problem to traders with perishable goods. Members also felt that a review of the Market Rules and Regulations should be continued and marked as on-going on the Market Annual Work Plan and also how the market could be promoted to new residents in the area, especially with all the new housing on the eastern side of the town.

RESOLVED to note the report.

93/MK BUDGET REPORT

The sub-committee received a budget report which showed the market continued to perform this quarter compared to the same period last year.

RESOLVED to note the report.

94/MK 12-MONTH ANNUAL REVIEW

The sub-committee received and considered a detailed 12-month review report showing market data covering footfall, trader recruitment, pitch usage and product list. This was the fifth review since the market relaunched in late September 2017.

The ETRO was still in place and traders were happy with the layout of the market at present with the stalls facing inwards towards the road and no access for cars and buses on market days. A review of this was not anticipated until a decision had been finalised regarding the ETRO in the High Street.

A public and trader survey had taken place but not many responses received. Members thought it may be more beneficial for surveys to take place less frequently or when there was a particular issue where the public and traders could offer their opinions. It was also felt that the lack of responses could be a positive outcome as no issues highlighted.

It was suggested that visiting other markets and talking to their traders could result in a more varied offer of stalls which would enhance the market and bring more footfall into the town. The Market Manager agreed this could be looked into.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting closed at 12:15 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2022.

Chair

23 FEBRUARY 2023