

# LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

## MARKETS SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 1000 HOURS

Present: Councillors      D Bowater  
                                    J M Freeman (Chair)  
                                    T Morris  
                                    S Cotter  
                                    C Palmer (substituting K Cursons)

Also in attendance:      M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)  
                                    V Cannon (Head of Cultural and Economic  
                                    Services)  
                                    A Harrison (Market Manager)  
                                    M Jahn (Committee Officer)  
                                    J Martindale (Project Officer)  
                                    K Young (Market Trader Representative)  
                                    D Gibbons (Market Trader Representative)

Members of the Public:    1  
Members of the Press:    0

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

### **092/MK APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor B Spurr and Councillor K Cursons (by Councillor C Palmer).

### **093/MK DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No declarations were made.

### **094/MK QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Questions were raised regarding the market layout and the issue market trader rents. Concerns were voiced on what impact these rises would have on the market and whether some traders would be able to continue at Leighton Buzzard Market.

### **095/MK MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the previous meeting, held on 2 November 2017 for consideration.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Markets Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 November 2017 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

#### **096/MK MARKET GENERAL UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received an update report on market activity from the Market Manager. Apple Day was cancelled due to bad weather in 2017 but it was hoped to run the event this year and the cycle event deferred from November 2017 would take place later in the year. The Christmas Eve market was delivered at full capacity with all 40 gazebos in use. Trader recruitment would continue to be monitored with a new trader signed up for the Tuesday market and two traders transferred from the pop up market onto the Craft Market.

Investment would continue with ground fixings being purchased for the market umbrellas to help with erection/take down times. New blue striped cover sheets had been purchased and given to those traders who continue to use their own stalls in order to achieve the standards of presentation endorsed by the Committee.

Publicity via social media, Facebook and twitter, was proving beneficial as traders could now promote their produce and general information about the market could be circulated to a wider audience. Bespoke training would be offered to traders on how to use this platform to their best advantage and details would be confirmed in the next few days.

The Market Manager visited other markets in Epping and Aylesbury to understand how they operate and our own market was visited by Harpenden Council's Town Clerk to gain understanding of how the market looked and ran.

In January officers attended a one-day NABMA Conference 'Markets Through Partnership' and the Market Manager has been enrolled onto the NABMA Market Diploma in Markets Administration course for 2018 to start in early March 2018.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **097/MK REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICY DOCUMENTS**

- (a) The Sub-Committee received a report recommending a revision of the Market Cancellation Policy. The report proposed revised conditions regarding adverse weather conditions, erecting gazebos in snow and icy conditions and the charging conditions if a market is cancelled.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Cultural and Economic Services Committee to endorse the revised Market Cancellation Policy.

- (b) The Sub-Committee received a report recommending minor amendments to the revised Community/Charity Pitch Policy and creation of a Community Tuesday Speciality Market to take place once a month.

**RESOLVED to recommend to Cultural and Economic Services Committee**

- 1.1 to endorse the minor amendments to the revised Community/Charity Pitch Policy.
- 1.2 to endorse the creation of a Community Tuesday Speciality Market to take place once per month.

**098/MK BUDGET REPORT**

The Sub-Committee received a budget report for July to September 2017. It was noted that the Market was an asset for the community and is being subsidised by the Council. The Chair confirmed a decision had been taken by the Council to run the market as a community event with a subsidy if required but the aim would be to reduce the subsidy.

**RESOLVED to note the report**

**099/MK MARKET RELAUNCH DELIVERY UPDATE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update on the progress of the market relaunch activity, ongoing improvement work and an outline of a new market development plan.

The findings of a survey conducted by the Traders Representatives was passed on to the Head of Cultural and Economic Development for consideration.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

The time of the next meeting of the Market Sub-Committee was amended to 1000 hours on 17 May, 2018.

The meeting closed at 1159 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2018.

Chair

17 MARCH 2018