

Markets Forum

A meeting of Markets Forum was held on Wednesday, 5th July, 2006.

Present: Cllr B Cook (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Beaumont, Cllr Mrs S Fletcher, Cllr W Noble

Officers: S Burgess, C Watson (DNS); Mrs T Harrison

Also in attendance: Mrs L Hutchinson, P Johnson and Mrs P Mason (Market Trader Representatives) and Mr Wadsworth (Market Trader)

Apologies: Cllr Narroway

1 Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2006

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2006.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2006 were agreed as a true record.

2 Stockton International Riverside Festival 2006 - Verbal Report

Members were advised that the main layout had now been received and market traders from The Shambles to Dovecot Street would be displaced as the stage and maze would be much larger than anticipated, therefore 70 stalls would be displaced. Saturday would be the main day of disruption, however there would be difficulty in finding alternative locations for the affected stalls.

Members suggested that the whole market be moved to another location during the festival, however they were advised that it would not be possible as there would not be another place large enough to accommodate the whole market and the Market Traders' view was that they would lose business as customers would not attend.

The Town Centre Manager proposed to advise Stockton International Riverside Festival (S.I.R.F) Officers that they wanted compensation for loss of earning as a market, payable to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The compensation would be used to give two extra days holiday to the market traders, one day would be given in March whilst the second day would be the Saturday of the S.I.R.F, therefore avoiding any future clashes between the market and S.I.R.F. The proposal would not be effective until the 2007 S.I.R.F and could not be backdated.

It was noted that Market Traders had been invited to claim for loss of earnings as a result of the 2005, S.I.R.F. Market Traders were advised that those wishing to make a claim would need to provide proof of loss of earnings to the Head of Arts and Culture; however no claims had been received and compensation for 2005 was no longer available.

Market Traders could submit a claim for loss of earnings for the 2006, S.I.R.F if they were affected but would need to provide evidence of loss of earning which could also include compensation figures of bona-fide regular staff employed by the markets traders if evidence of the loss was provided through P60's and

accounts.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Town Centre Manager would submit a proposal to the Head of Arts and Culture, proposing that compensation for loss of earnings suffered by the markets service would be paid to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The compensation would be used to cover costs incurred by the market as a result of S.I.R.F.
2. Market Traders wishing to claim for loss of earnings for S.I.R.F 2006, would need to submit an evidenced claim to Stockton Borough Council via the Markets Manager, who would co-ordinate the claims.
3. From 2007, Two extra days holiday would be given to the market traders, one day to be used for the Saturday of the S.I.R.F which would result in the market not taking place in future on the Saturday of the festival. The second day would be March.

3 Markets Fair August Bank Holiday

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Markets Fair had not been held the previous year however she did not wish to see this tradition lost. Her department had a significant budget allocation which could be put towards the fair to pay for everything from the costume hire to the evening party.

The Market Trader Representatives advised that traders did not like the Markets Fair as they experienced an unexplainable loss of business. After some discussion it was agreed that it could be due to being held traditionally on the August Bank Holiday when many people were away therefore it was agreed with the Market Trader Representatives that the fair was held later in the year.

A date of 23rd September was suggested by the Forum, which would be put to the Traders to gauge support.

The Town Centre Manager advised that she would put the proposal into writing and would carry out a survey with Market Traders to ensure that the Markets Fair appealed to Market Traders, Market Officers and the public.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Town Centre Manager will send out a letter to all Market Traders advising of the proposal for the Markets Fair and will carry out a survey with Market Trader to ensure that the Markets Fair appeals to Market Traders, Market Officers and the public.
2. The proposed date for the Markets Fair will be 23rd September.

4 Market Redevelopment - New stall designs and consultation period -

Tabled

The Town Centre Manager advised that a consultation would shortly be undertaken regarding the proposed market redevelopment.

Prior to the consultation, members of the forum would receive drawings and details of the proposals and would be invited to comment on the proposal.

CONCLUDED that the Town Centre Manager will forward the drawings and details of the proposal to members of the forum prior to the consultation.

5 Forthcoming Events

Continental Market

Members discussed the Continental Market which had been a big success for which the footfall had been good. Only half of the Continental Market had been represented in 2006, however the full Market had put forward a request to attend in 2007. The full market consisted of 35 stalls and had requested to be situated along the Castlegate Centre.

The Forum were happy for the Continental Market to return and to be fully represented, however they did not wish the Continental Market to take business from the existing Market and advised that once existing stalls were prevented from using the Castlegate area it would not be right to allow the Continental Market to use the area.

Stockton Sparkles Christmas Festival

The Town Centre Manager advised the committee of her plans for a big Christmas event, which would begin with the switching on of the Christmas lights on 23rd November and would have events and street entertainment to run in conjunction with the market.

The Town Centre Manager advised that she hoped to provide Members with further information regarding Stockton Sparkles at the next meeting.

Market Traders informed Members that Darlington Council held a Christingle market on the four Thursdays before Christmas where free mulled wine was served. The Market Traders suggested that Stockton Council could do something similar.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The full Continental Market would be invited to stand in Stockton in 2006.
2. The Town Centre Manager and Markets Manager would allocate an area for the visiting stall holders to place their stalls.
3. The Town Centre Manager would provide a report to Members at the next meeting or the next dependent on when all the information was available.

6 Time and date of next meeting

The Chair noted that at the last meeting Market Traders had requested to change the starting time of the meetings to 6.00pm, however only one Market Trader had attended, therefore the Chair asked the Forum if they were happy to remain meeting at 6.00pm or if they wished it to change.

CONCLUDED that:

1. All future meetings will be held at 5.30pm.
2. The next meeting will be held on 6th September.