

Markets Forum

A meeting of Markets Forum was held on Wednesday, 18th July, 2007.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chair), Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Vice Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher).

Officers: S. Burgess, C. Watson (DNS), R. Kench, J. Doherty (CESC), M. Henderson, M. Jones (LD).

Also in attendance: Market Traders.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont

MF 1/07 **Appointment of Chair 2007/8**

RESOLVED that Councillor Cook be appointed Chair of the Markets Forum for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

MF 2/07 **Appointment of Vice Chair 2007/8**

RESOLVED that Cllr Noble be appointed Vice-Chair of the Markets Forum for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

MF 3/07 **Minutes of Meeting Held on 14th March 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March were agreed as a correct record.

MF 4/07 **Minutes of Meeting Held on 11th April 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April were agreed as a correct record.

MF 5/07 **Stockton International Riverside Festival Update**

The Head of Art & Culture introduced J. Doherty who had taken over a large amount of responsibility for Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF). The Head of Art & Culture noted that there were no changes to the previous plan. He reported that the Festival would be concentrated north of the Town Hall, however there would be a set show over the plaza south of the Town Hall. This show would mainly take place on an evening. There was to be a final run through of the building of the sets on Thursday 19th July 2007, which would be very detailed.

The opening show would take place on Wednesday 1st August 2007, and take the form of boat hanging from a crane above the fountain. It was not expected that this show would impact on traders. A Bollywood show would take place that may disturb the Friday and Saturday market and the Carnival was also expected to impact on traders. The clean up process was expected to take place after the finale on Sunday 5th August 2007 and Monday 6th August 2007, and was to be completed for trading to start. Traders were aware of dates and the space was to be manipulated to accommodate those displaced.

It was noted that the traders were informed of the arrangements for SIRF at a

later date each year. The Head of Art & Culture explained that this was due to waiting for confirmation that shows were booked before distributing information, and therefore not distributing misinformation. The Town Centre Manager suggested that to distribute the 'worst case' senerio at an early stage would enable notification to be given and plans made. If it transpired at a later date that the impact on traders would not be as big as anticipated then spaces could be offered to traders.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

MF **Markets Redevelopment Update**
6/07

Members received a verbal report on the prograss of the Markets Redevelopment. The new layout was implemented on the Wednesday and Saturday markets, and the encroachment onto the street by stalls was being worked on, although it was felt that this would be addressed soon.

The new canopies were discussed. The lightweight canopies seen were viewed as not being 'fit for purpose' and the heavyweight canopies were too heavy. The canopies being purchased were sufficiently lightwiegth but durable. Sample canopies were tested and problems were found with leaking during heavy rain. The sample canopies were sent back and two new canopies had been received. These would be tested week commencing 16th July 2007 and if went well, an order would be placed. Several standard sizes would be ordered. The company supplying the canopies would be on site on 25th July to measure irregular size and shape stalls. They would have two white stripes to one blue stripe.

The new No Smoking legislation was raised, with traders querying whether the legislation applied to market stalls. The Town Centre Manager informed that as the stalls were enclosed on three sides with a roof the legislation did apply, and laminated no smoking signs would be distributed for display on each stall. If a person was caught smoking on a stall the trader could be fined. It was queried whether smokers had to stand at a certain distance away from the stall, as with buildings, and the Town Centre Manager stated she would check the regulations regarding this and circulate the information.

The Chair queried whether the traders were satisfied with the new layout of the market. Traders were satisfied, but felt that the layout around the Town Hall needed further work.

It was noted that the market was at its full capacity at 135 spaces, which meant that it could not expand and grow. Therefore the Stockton Friday market, Billingham, and Thornaby markets were being expanded, with new and casual traders being asked to test these markets before being granted the next available space on Stockton.

The Forum decided to hold a walk-about of the market on Saturday 11th August. The Town Centre Manager would arrange this.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The Town Centre Manager would distribute laminated no smoking signs

2. The Town Centre Manager would circulate regulation detailing on how far smokers must stand away from stalls.

3. The Town Centre Manger would organise a walkabout for 11th August.

MF
7/07

Markets Fair and Launch Week

Officers reported on the arrangements for the Markets Fair and Launch, which was highlighted in a recent newsletter. This was a two day event which would take place on Wednesday 12th and Saturday 15th September. A ten minute film had been commissioned on the Market Past and Present, which would be used as a marketing tool and distributed to several places including coach companies and One North East. The film would also be shown at the Arc and on the big screen outside the Castlegate Centre. A trader suggested creating an advert for local TV from the film, as Darlington has done, and the Town Centre Manager stated she would investigate this.

A small craft market was to be held on Friday 14th September 2007, and it was planned to grow the craft market over a period of time. The Town Centre Manager urged current traders who wanted to hold a craft stall, or knew of other traders who may want to hold a craft stall, to get in touch.

There would be a recreation of a Stockton Market Fair in 1881 during the launch and market traders were encouraged to wear fancy dress and to decorate their stalls. Stockton Borough Council would pay for costumes, and those that dressed up would receive tickets to a night on the Teesside Princess on 22nd September. The public would also be involved in the event, with the bus lanes being closed and using the area around the Town Hall and plaza for competitions. There would be a greasy pole in Dovecot Street. It was hoped that some publicity could be received from local TV news.

A booklet which was being produced via The Circuit was discussed. Every trader would be interviewed and photographs of every stall would be taken to be included in the booklet. 50,000 booklets would be produced at a cost of approximately £6,150 - £6,500.

The Chair suggested using the internet as a way to advertise the market. The Town centre Manager explained that a markets site was planned via 'Go Stockton' website, however this was taking some time to arrange. In the mean time a town centre website was being placed on the Stockton Borough Council website, which would include markets.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

MF
8/07

Any Other Business

The changes to Thornaby Market were discussed. Traders would be moved out of St Peter's Square when Appleby House was demolished for Health & Safety reasons, but would return when work had been completed. The Town Centre Manager stated the plans for the location of the market would be taken to the Shambles for traders to view. Questions should be forwarded to the Officers.

A member informed that an event to celebrate Fair Trade's first birthday in

Stockton would take place on 22nd August at the Town Hall. It was suggested that those traders that sell Fair Trade products could put a sign up on the day.

The availability of a Charity Stall was discussed. Officers explained that a space for a charity stall was provided free of charge, however the person providing the stall had stopped doing so. Therefore if charities wished to hold a stall on the market they must provide their own. It was queried whether there were spare stalls that could be provided, and the Forum was informed that while there was a spare stall that could be used by charities, there was nobody available to assemble the stall. If charities could assemble the stall they could use it.

CONCLUDED that the Town Centre Manager take the plans for Thornaby Market to the Shambles for Traders to view.