

Markets Forum

A meeting of Markets Forum was held on Wednesday, 12th November, 2008.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Bill Noble, Ms E Hutchinson, Mr P Johnson

Officers: N. Laws, C. Watson (DNS), M. Jones (LD)

Also in attendance: Market Traders

Apologies: Cllr Ian Dalgarno, R. Poundford (DNS), Mrs P Mason

M Declarations of Interest

23/08

There were no interests declared.

M Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24th September 2008

24/08

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2008.

Market Traders holiday entitlement was raised and it was noted that investigations into this were ongoing.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2008 be agreed as a true record.

M Christmas Markets Festival Update

25/08

The Regeneration Projects Manager presented an update on the progress of the Christmas Market Festivals since the previous meeting.

All but one of the market pitches were taken for Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the area north of the Town Hall and the agreed plan on where each trader was to be located was tabled. The pitch that was still available was the most northern pitch.

All 28 log cabins were booked for crafters in the Parish Gardens and a further nine had signed up for the Shambles for all four days. Plans were also agreed as to where traders would be located. It was queried whether the craft market would be open until 9pm each day and, if so, would there be extra security staff present at the event. The Regeneration Projects Manager stated that the craft market would close at 9pm on Thursday 27th - Saturday 29th November 2008, and 4pm on Sunday 30th November, and security staff would be present at the event. It was requested that the security staff presence be highlighted on advertisement.

A Christmas themed circus had signed up for the full four days on the Riverside and a programme of street theatre and live performances was agreed with Tees Music Alliance (TMA). Full details of the TMA programme would be announced during week commencing 17th November.

The marketing and promotion of the event was discussed and leaflets were

tabled.

The location for the Farmers Market had been agreed and traders committed. Members were informed that there would be a demonstration by the Chef from Cafe Lilli, Norton, using produce from the Farmers Market.

Traders parking agreements were completed, and a parking plan would be distributed. It was noted that a main concern was that traders did not park in coach bays.

It was queried whether the Town Hall would be used during the event, and it was stated that performers would be using the space for changing into costumes etc. Disappointment was raised that the Town Hall would not be opened to the public and a discussion took place regarding holding a display on the heritage of the markets. It was agreed such a display could take place in the Shambles. Potential for using the Town Hall for civic purposes would however be considered in future years.

It was further queried how the regular market, and Stockton Borough, would be promoted at the Christmas Market Festival. It was noted that a leaflet would be designed promoting Stockton Market and Borough for distribution during the whole Stockton Sparkles programme.

CONCLUDED that:

1. A display to be held in the Shambles promoting Stockton Market Heritage.
2. Leaflets promoting Stockton-on-Tees Borough to be designed and distributed.
3. The information be noted.

M **Bags and Pennants Update**

26/08

The Forum was updated on the progress of purchasing environmentally friendly shopping bags and stall pennants to promote Stockton Town Centre and its market.

The final design for environmentally friendly cotton bags had been agreed and an order placed would be placed. A final design of the market pennants had been agreed with the manufacturers and an order of 30 placed. Delivery was expected on the 18th of November 2008 and flags were likely to be launched on Wednesday 26th November 2008 at the regular market. Plans had been submitted for advertisement consent for the pennants.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

M **Stockton Farmers Market Update**

27/08

The Regeneration Projects Manager informed that 12 traders stood at the last farmers market and a meeting was held with them on the 30th of October to discuss operational aspects, attendance at the Christmas Market Festival, December market and future plans for 2009.

At the meeting with the farmers' market traders it was agreed that traders should continue to pay in advance to stand at the market and any gazebos required pre booked. It was also agreed that traders could park their vehicles behind their stalls regardless of whether they were refrigerated, however the impact of this decision would be closely monitored.

An agreement had been reached that given that the schedule for the December farmers falls on Christmas Day, this would be brought forward to Thursday 18th December. Traders were fully committed to attend as part of the Christmas Market Festival but would be relocated to Wellington Square as a one off location and parking would be free of charge.

Traders were very positive regarding Stockton Farmers Market and whilst a number would not be trading in January or February they were committed to Stockton and keen to see future programming for 2009.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**M
28/08** **Thornaby Town Centre Market**

It was noted that Thornfield developers and the Market Manager had reached an acceptable decision regarding the lay out and assembly of market stalls in Thornaby Town Centre, and a plan was tabled. It was agreed that traders could drive onto St Peters Square but must barrow off. All vehicles must be off by 8am. The move to St Peters Square was due to take place on the 20th November, and there was to be a relaunch of the market.

When all traders had moved into the allocated pitches on the Square the markets team would then look at the available space and make a decision on which traders would be added to fill it.

It had been agreed that the scheduled market for Christmas day in Thornaby would be brought forward to Tuesday 23rd December.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**M
29/08** **Market Traders Promotional Budget - Balance on Fund**

The Chair noted that following an audit report recommendations, the Market Traders Promotional Budget Balance would be a standing item on the agenda.

The Regeneration Projects Manager stated that the balance of the fund was £21,315.94, which traders could spend as they sought fit.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted

**M
30/08** **Any Other Business**

It was agreed that Traders who worked the first three Wednesdays in January 2009 and February 2009 would get the fourth Wednesday free each month. It was noted that the fifth Wednesday in January would not be included in this concession.

Price comparison charts were discussed as a potential mechanism for promoting market produce. These were available for traders on the National Markets Traders Federation's website.

As it was the last meeting of 2008, the Chair wished members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.