

Markets Forum

A meeting of Markets Forum was held on Wednesday, 16th February, 2011.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chairman), Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Bill Noble, C Higgins (Market Trader Representative), M Pinkney (Market Trader Representative)

Officers: R Bradley, Mrs A Brayshaw, Mrs S Daniels, J Glancey, N Laws (DNS); Mrs T Harrison (LDS)

Also in attendance: Market Traders

Apologies: Cllr Mrs J Beaumont

M **Declarations of Interest**

48/10

There were no declarations of interest.

M **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2010**

49/10

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

M **Market Traders Promotion Fund**

50/10

Members were provided with a report which advised that officers had sought advice from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's legal team in respect of the dissolution of the Market Traders Promotion Fund. The current structure left the decision making and control in the hands of the market traders although the Council held the funds. It was therefore proposed that:-

- Collection would cease from the end of March 2011.
- Any balance of funds would be allocated during the 2011/12 financial year in accordance with market traders wishes.
- Traders to put forward suggestions on how to spend the remaining funds.

Market trader representatives advised that the majority of market traders had requested that the remaining fund be used to pay the traders' rent until it was finished.

CONCLUDED that the fund would be used to pay market traders' rents until the fund is finished

M **Thornaby Market Update**

51/10

Proposals to refurbish the Inshops into smaller sized retail units for local businesses were being developed by owners of the shopping centre.

Following feedback from the owners of the town centre, the suggested improvements to the market would be discussed once the position on the Inshops development was confirmed.

Market traders expressed unhappiness at the length of time it was taking to sort out the market. Traders requested that they could turn their stalls round to face the shops. Traders observed that it would not affect the footprint of the market but would encourage more business as they would be facing the right direction for trade. Officers advised that permission would need to be sought from the Town Centre Manager; officers would provide the Town Centre Manager a plan of the proposal and request permission. Upon his agreement the traders could change position immediately.

CONCLUDED that market officers would meet with the Town Centre Manager and provide a plan showing the proposal to turn the market traders round to face the shops and obtain his approval.

M
52/10 **Billingham Market Update**

Members were advised that following Billingham Town Centre Management's request for a restriction of vehicles using Queensway and no vehicles would be permitted west of Superdrug, things seemed to be satisfactory for the management and market traders alike.

Officers advised that a new food store would be opening next to Billingham Arms and a B & M shop would be opening in the location of the old Kwik Save.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

M
53/10 **Town Centre Specialist Markets and Events**

Members were advised that a programme of specialist markets and events for the town centre had been agreed for 2011. A programme of the events was given to Members, which included farmers markets, collectables/antiques fairs, record fairs, Stockton Bazaar and a craft market with the addition of small scale children's activities on a Saturday to supplement the regular market.

Members were advised that an A5 booklet would be published and distributed providing details on the programme of events along with the promotion of the main market.

It was acknowledged that working collectively with neighbouring authorities, would avoid conflict and help each market.

Market traders advised that they were happy for specialist markets to stand only if they were not required to be moved from their usual spots.

Following Members' queries market traders advised that the specialist markets did not generate more business for the original market.

The dates for the annual Stockton Riverside Festival were confirmed to Members – Wednesday 3rd August to Sunday 7th August 2011. There were no changes to the event space for the Friday and Saturday shows, traders affected would be the same as last year. It was confirmed that a letter detailing the proposals would be issued to traders within the next 2 weeks as agreed in previous scrutiny. Members were also advised that proposals were currently

being drawn up for a show to be delivered on the High Street on the Thursday; due to set up arrangements there may be some displacement of traders on the Wednesday market. Officers advised that as soon as detailed plans were available they would be sent to traders.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

M Urban Design Guide

54/10

Discussion took place regarding the Urban Design Guide which would set out ideas and various uses within the Town Centre. Members were advised that following a full consultation the approved guide would provide design guidance to any party involved in the regeneration of Stockton Town Centre on areas undergoing change or where change was needed to be promoted and managed.

Officers advised that some of the funding that had been secured for the Town Centre Prospectus would be used to tackle the negative press which had been published, to create more confidence and attract investment.

It was noted that following the announcement of the forthcoming opening of the Globe Theatre there had been significant interest in properties close proximity to the Globe. It was believed that interested groups would bring more business to the Town Centre.

Members were advised that the consultation on the urban design guide would begin on 3rd March and would last for three weeks. The consultation would consist of drop in sessions and briefing sessions around the Borough.

Following traders' queries, officers advised that it would not be known until the start of the consultation whether there was a proposal to move the market.

Discussion took place regarding the best method of consultation with market traders regarding the urban design guide. It was agreed that a special Markets Forum meeting would be arranged within the consultation period. Each market trader would receive a hand delivered letter inviting them to the special meeting. Traders would be required to return the reply slip to advise if they would be attending the special meeting to enable officers to provide a suitably sized venue.

Members queried whether it would be better for market traders to attend smaller consultation groups as some traders may not share their thoughts in a big meeting but traders disagreed.

Officers agreed to include information in the letter going to market traders advising that if they wished, they could attend smaller consultation groups at their request.

CONCLUDED that:

1. A Special Markets Forum be arranged in March to discuss the proposals.
2. A letter notifying each market trader of the special meeting or the opportunity

to attend a smaller consultation group will be hand delivered to each trader.

3. Each market trader will be expected to return the reply slip on the bottom of the letter advising whether or not they will be attending the special meeting to enable officers to provide an appropriately sized venue.

**M
55/10**

Dates for Markets Forum meetings 2011-2012

Members considered the proposed dates for the Markets Forum meetings 2011-2012.

Concern was raised at the meeting of 6th April due to purdah, however the Chair advised that as the Forum was not a decision making body, the meeting would be acceptable.

CONCLUDED that the dates of the Markets Forum meetings for 2011-2012 be agreed as follows:

6th April 2011

13th July 2011

5th October 2011

25th January 2012

4th April 2012