

Notes of Markets Working Group Meeting held on Thursday 15th September 2022 at 11.00 am at St. John's Chapel

Present: Cllr Carol Angharad, Cllr Simon Mallett, Tina Faloon, Paul Terry, Pippa Mansell

Monthly Farmers Market

Tina reported that:

- 2 new stalls has been taken from August, an artist and Belper Microgreens. The artist is no longer going to attend as she didn't sell well, but Belper Microgreens have been very popular and will be a regular trader.
- The vacant stall has been offered to Springwater Mushrooms, Buxton who should be starting in October.
- Tina is now managing the 'Belper Farmers Market' Facebook Page.
- We are keen to consider a reconfiguration of the market stalls / investing in new infrastructure.
- Current issues are:
 - Stalls take several hours to put up and take down and there is no flexibility to remove a few for the Friday or Sunday events.
 - The market stalls are quite unattractive, the ply boards don't weather well and are very expensive to replace.
 - The current stalls, at 10 ft long, are too large for many small traders.
- The Council have 75 x 6 ft market stalls which they purchased a few years ago and these could be used but need sand blasting and repainting first, boards would need to be purchased / cut down and new covers purchased.
- Councillor Angharad has identified 2 unspent budget lines totalling £1000 and it is proposed that this could be used to purchase 2 or 3 pop-up gazebos to be used as a trial in the Farmers Market. This would be discussed at the next Facilities Committee meeting. The 3m x 3m gazebos take up more space than the market stalls, but this could be mitigated by using the smaller, 6 ft stalls. A combination of gazebos' around the perimeter with a grid of small market stalls in the centre of the Market may be a good compromise. It should be noted that gazebos will still require tables to be provided, either by traders or the Council.
- Councillor Angharad also proposed that a budget of c£5,000 be sought through the Finance Committee to modernise the infrastructure of the Market; this could fund the purchase of additional pop-up gazebos, refurbishment of the old, smaller stalls and the purchase of new advertising banners.
- It was agreed that we would continue to offer one Charity Stall (for £5) at each market and Tina would continue to arrange representation from a variety of local charities.
- We had received a complaint from a member of the public through the website regarding lack of pricing, labelling and hand washing, specifically mentioning The Loaf. Tina will speak with The Loaf and send a reminder to all other stallholders reminding them of the market rules and statutory requirements. Tina will attend the next market to monitor.

Friday Flea Market

- Tina reported that Dan Sweeney wanted to discuss the possibility of these continuing next year. We noted that a discounted rate of £100 was charged for all of the Friday Flea markets this year, but that, as there were 26 stalls available to rent out at around £20 each, this could represent a significant profit for the operator. Tina will meet with Dan to discuss and advise that Council will need to consider an increased fee for next year.

Sunny Sunday Markets

- The 6 markets this year were all successful and we will recommend to Council that 6 themed Sunday markets be held again in 2023.
- It was noted that a plant market will need to be organised as soon as possible as commercial plant growers commit to events a long time in advance.
- It was proposed that the September market be a 'Harvest' theme, pulling together eco, plants, artists, Churches and children's crafts. Pippa and Councillor Angharad would meet to discuss this idea.
- Another craft market had been requested.
- Pippa mentioned the problems which arose with securing public liability insurance for the Young Traders event. Tina advised that the Council cannot cover events unless it has organised them and unless they have a physical presence on the day itself and this has staffing implications.
- It was noted that at least some of the Sunny Sunday market haven't yet been invoiced. Tina will speak with the Finance Officer.

Advertising

- Councillor Angharad would like consideration to be given to buying in advertising expertise to ensure that our events and markets are being advertised widely. Tina agreed that the quality of posters and banners needed to be improved. Tina would discuss with the Clerk.
- We also would like to see details of markets passed to local B&B owners, campsites etc. and Tina will discuss with the Clerk how this could be facilitated.

Food Festival

- Because of the cross-over between the infrastructure for the Farmers Market (stalls and gazebos) and the staffing implications for both events, it was proposed that the Food Festival come under the remit of the Facilities Committee, rather than Arts, Events & Heritage. Tina will discuss this with the Clerk.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 25th October, 11.00 am at St. John's Chapel.