

Newport Town Team

Markets Sub-Group – Notes of 4th April Meeting

Present: Sally Finnegan (Café), Cliff Pincott (JJ's), Helen Freer (Forget Me Not Fabrics), Jude Paton (Hey Judes), Jan Talbot (Country Market), Eddie Whitfield (Green Grocer), Tommy Palmer (Cake, Biscuits & Sweet Stall), Karen Woodcock

Apologies: Lesley Theobald (Paintings / Prints), Marie & Stewart Jackson (Jackson's), and Valda Banks (Vald's Wool)

The agenda included:-

- Feedback on actions agreed at the last meeting
- Discussion about promoting 'Love Your Local Market' fortnight
- Signage into Newport from the A41
- Markets Cleansing
- Attendance of T&WC market officers

MA reported back on the main actions arising from the sub-group meeting held 01/03/14 as follows:-

- Provision of background music in a public place requires a PRS / PPL license. Initial investigations suggest that these will cost in excess of £3,000 per annum for the market hall – agreed not to pursue further;
- Issues regarding the Farmers Market had been raised with Mal Yale & Clive Barton (T&WC). They acknowledged the points and agreed to 'police' insofar as that was possible. However, they did agree to work closely with the town team and the markets sub-group and would pilot this with some joint promotions – MA to liaise with MY;
- Notes from the last meeting of the markets sub-group had been discussed with Andrew Davies (DWP) who was generally supportive of initiatives to improve the indoor market but could not commit resources to deliver changes.
- A suggestion to extend opening hours on a Friday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm received a mixed response and could not proceed without a consensus of support. Market trader views to be canvassed formally at a convenient point in time.

Love Your Local Market

Generally agreed that improved marketing and promotions for the indoor market are required – and that the 'Love Your local Market' fortnight offers an excellent opportunity to do this.

EW advised that the National Federation of Market Traders had produced a leaflet – MA to download and distribute.

Agreed to pursue a markets promotional banner for suspending over the high street, or on the railings adjacent the library (MA/KW)

Also need to generate media interest – MA to organise a photo-call.

Signage from the A41 By-Pass

A wide-ranging discussion considered how best to increase footfall in Newport, and in particular how travellers by-passing Newport could be persuaded to call in for services and refreshments.

MA to contact T&WC highways / Highways agency to discuss proposals for brown visitor signs / or local direction signs highlighting Newport's market town offer.

Markets Cleansing

It was suggested that an industrial floor cleaner be hired regularly to help keep the market area clean – following discussion traders did not see this as a particular priority.

It was generally considered that the markets caretaker was doing a good job in keeping the market area free from boxes / packaging, and that he was also sweeping regularly.

Attendance of T&WC Markets Officers

Market traders were asked whether they felt there would be any benefit in T&WC's markets officers attending the markets sub-group.

It was agreed to extend an invitation for one or both of the officers to attend a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

3.30pm Saturday 3rd May in the Gallery Café