



WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday 18th April 2024
Time: 3:00pm
Location: Micklethwaite Room, Wetherby Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE

Present: Councillor Billie Ager-Mills
Councillor Paul Bradley (Chair)
Councillor Dean Buckle
Councillor Galan Moss
Councillor Alex Riddell

In attendance: Iona Taylor, Town Clerk
Rowann Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk
Helena Briden, Communications & Events Officer

MINUTES

1. **Apologies** – None.
2. **Declarations of interest and request for dispensations** – None.
3. **Questions or comments from members of the public** – None.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting.**
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting of the Markets Committee, held on *Thursday 21st March 2024*, be approved.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
 - 5.1 **Communication with traders.**
It was **NOTED** that there were no new updates to be received.
 - 5.2 **Parking on market days.**
There was no new information to be reported however there was an anecdotal report that the bollards near Cross Street have been damaged by vehicles attempting to reach blue badge parking bays. Vehicles parking and obstructing the junction of the Shambles and Cross Street also appears to be a regular occurrence.

Clerk to chase up LCC for an update on the additional blue badge parking bays on market days.
 - 5.3 **Wetherby Easter Market.**
The Assistant Clerk gave a verbal update on the Easter themed activities which were run on *Thursday 4th* and *Thursday 11th April 2024* as part of the Market. Positive feedback was received throughout the period, with participants active throughout both days of activities.

Participants were counted by the number of activity sheets that were used however it was noted that the number may be inaccurate as many younger participants worked together on a single activity sheet rather than individual sheets.

A suggestion was made that a formal system to record and measure the success of the activity could be utilised, however, it was **AGREED** that this was not required for smaller activities with low costs to run such as the Easter activities.

6. Survey.

It was **NOTED** that the survey period for the public consultation of the markets ended on *Thursday 28th March 2024*.

Councillor Bradley reported feedback has been received from 19 regular market traders however they aim to speak to a couple more in the near future. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Buckle and Councillor Riddell would begin work on collating and capturing anecdotal data from trader responses, with Councillor Riddell beginning to draft a report in time for the following committee meeting on *Thursday 16th May 2024*.

Currently two conflicting sentiments appear to be emerging: The feedback from some local businesses indicates that they feel the market competes with their business, while public feedback expresses that more frequent and diverse markets is wanted, particularly at times outside of regular working hours.

The committee expressed that their aim is to improve the market for all members of the community and could not prioritise businesses over other members of the community. However, it was suggested that members of local businesses could be invited to trade at the market if specific goods are requested. This would give businesses first refusal and help them shape the market scene.

The committee also discussed potential dates for additional markets. It was suggested that as many businesses are closed on a Sunday, a Sunday market may be better accepted especially as it is outside regular work hours and will increase footfall and diversify visitors to Wetherby.

Councillor Ager-Mills also reminded the committee that as per the market charter, an additional market can be held for 3 days over St James Day. This would take place on *Thursday 25th July 2024*.

7. International Market.

7.1 **To receive and consider a request for a 4-day international market.**

A request from an independent market operator was received requesting permission to hold an international market around the Town Hall and down the layby down towards Bridgefoot Garden.

It was **RESOLVED** that as the committee have a duty to diversify the market, to suggest *Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, and Sunday 6th October 2024* as potential dates for the International Market. This will allow the market to integrate as part of Wetherby Festival and increase footfall in the town during this period. It was suggested that the committee could work with the organisers of the Wetherby Festival to tie the promotion of the international market into the Wetherby Festival.

7.2 **To receive a verbal update on the site meeting which took place on Tuesday 26th March 2024.**

Following a sit visit on *Tuesday 26th March 2024*, it was **NOTED** that the market operator for the proposed international market is working on drafting up a market plan. Once the plan has been received and a date confirmed, a letter of notification will be sent out to local businesses.

Councillor Ager-Mills agreed to aid in composing and disseminating the notification to local businesses.

It was **AGREED** that due to the lead time required, an extraordinary Markets Committee may need to be facilitated for the purposes of discussing the international market plan.

8. NABMA Diagnostic Tool.

It was **NOTED** that edits had been made to the NABMA Diagnostic Tool working document by the Assistant Clerk. Councillors were reminded that the document is a collaborative work which needs responses from all councillors.

9. **Items for information** – None.

10. **Next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting of the Markets Committee was confirmed as being on *Thursday 16th May 2024* at 3pm in Wetherby Town Hall.

It was **NOTED** that an additional extraordinary meeting may be facilitated prior to this. Date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 3.37pm.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Rowann Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk.

Signed copy available on request.