

CALLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Market Stall Initiative Minutes

29th January 2019 at 6.30pm in the Council Chambers

PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr M Smith welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Market Stall Initiative. He explained that the Town Council had earmarked some resources for this but understandably is cautious about spending money without community support behind it.

PS asked for an outline of the concept. Cllr M Smith explained that we are provisionally looking at the Pannier Market as a possible location with a start in the summer, to benefit from the better weather. We have researched our neighbouring markets and Frome's. The initial idea being to purchase 15 stalls (with tables) with a black and gold colour theme. The primary aim of the project is to enhance the community not a money making initiative for the Town Council.

We are at the very early stage and open to ideas. There are thoughts to alternate between a Saturday and a Sunday, but would that confuse people? Ideally want a good mix of traders.

A trader asked how weather proof are the proposed gazebos. SI explained that a gazebo may not necessarily suit everyone, would we consider a marquee in heavy canvas, to possibly host a group of say 6 traders?

MM asked whether New Road carparks may be an alternative location? Cllr M Smith explained that we would need to pay Cornwall Council for the use of the carpark. Concerns were also expressed regarding the slop of the land in these particular carparks.

Cllr M Smith explained that the Town Council has recently taken ownership of St Mary's Close, which may be another option.

HM raised a point about trader licenses.

SR asked whether we could hire a marquee before committing to purchase? Cllr M Smith explained that the cost of hiring is almost the same as purchasing, as you also have to pay for the erecting costs, the Country Market confirmed this.

A resident asked if Public Liability insurance would be required by a Trader, and the Town Clerk confirmed it would be. The resident explained that this may automatically preclude her and other possible traders.

SI asked if it would be morning or afternoon event. Cllr M Smith felt it would be a 2-4 hour event, but would be happy to take guidance on this.

PS asked what the mix of the market would be? Cllr M Smith said that it would be open to all. We want a mix but it depends on what traders come forward. If someone could provide fresh vegetables and fish for example, we would welcome that.

Cllr M Smith also explained that the arrangement of the stalls would be done on a lottery basis, so people don't automatically have the same spot each time.

PS asked if power would be provided? Cllr M Smith explained that this hasn't been considered at this stage.

SR agreed that power would be a very useful addition to the market, for food produces requiring refrigeration.

JD explained that it depends on the length of the market as to whether refrigeration is required.

KO knows a company that supports events in terms of supplying ice, which runs on batteries, so an electricity supply wouldn't be required.

SR asked how regular would the markets be? Cllr M Smith explained that a monthly arrangement was being considered but can revisit this depending on footfall, and may add in another market say at Christmas.

KO asked about a pop-up shop scheme. It was recognised that we are seeing increasing voids in the town, most recently with the news of Pridham's closure. The Town Council doesn't unfortunately have access to any shops in the main streets nor a database of all the businesses. This idea may be something that we consider at a later stage, or something for Town Forum to look at.

Ultimately there are no limits on what organisations can use the equipment providing it benefits the town.

IW asked if there was any potential funding from Government, as we wouldn't want to miss the boat. The Clerk explained the rationale behind

the CLLD funding, as there is currently £2 million for SE Cornwall. Unfortunately the funding cannot support retail activity.

SI recognised that it cannot just be a craft event; we need to think about food and the importance of knowing where our food comes from.

KO reiterated that a pop-up shop would encourage everyday/weekly shopping habits.

Launceston Town Council has funded a pop-up shop.

SR would happily help to promote the system through the Tama Grow suppliers.

Clr Tolman explained that we need to start somewhere, and the support of the traders and customers is crucial.

JC said that the location of the market needs to be visible.

Clr M Smith explained that we are considering working with the traders by possibly considering a reduction in hire costs for the first six months.

Clr D Smith said that a monthly market allows us to resolve any teething problems. We want variety and some months we may have themed markets to draw in people/interest. We would also consider one-off hirers. The Pannier Market would be the easier location initially but could possibly consider alternative location but want it kept in town.

RJ mentioned how busy the town was at Honey Fair.

Clr M Smith went through the costings at Launceston; we are considering a hire cost in the region of £20 but with a reduced rate in the first 6 months.

MI asked whether we had considered the use of the main hall to host the markets, rather than pay out for gazebos? Clr M Smith explained that at the Christmas market the traders had reported that trade was better at the outdoor market and it had a stronger ambience.

The matter of insurance was raised again, having been a key issue with the Victorian Market traders. Many traders were unable to support this event because it required individual Public Liability cover.

RJ explained that much interest had been generated on social media and all the comments were positive.

JC explained that we want to compliment this with the existing Country Market and Tamar Grow.

SR said that anything which brings people into the town should be seen as positive.

JC said that we have a generation problem; we need to get the younger generation interested in markets and traders have to move forward. As a long term aim, need to consider card readers (people don't carry cash like they used to) and the use of social media.

HM have over 9,000 contacts with half being traders.

IW mentioned as a related matter; Cornwall Council is currently doing a consultation on the car parking charges, and urged people to respond with their thoughts. Cllr M Smith confirmed that the Town Council has already expressed concerns regarding the level of fees set for a 2 hour period (£2.10), which isn't aligned with our neighbouring towns.

The public session was closed at 7.15pm and the public left.

1. APOLOGIES

CLLR BURROWS & WATSON

PRESENT: CLLRS COAKLEY, GOLD, *RAPHAEL, D SMITH, M SMITH (CHAIR) & *TOLMAN *HAVE AGREED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 15 OFFICERS: CLERK & OPERATIONS MANAGER

2. MINUTES

None. Inaugural meeting of this Committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING -

None.

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

None.

5. FOR DECISION – TO DISCUSS THE MARKET STALL INITIATIVE IDEA

INSURANCE

The matter of insurance was recognized as a potential concern for a number of traders; although there is a thought that traders should actually already have their own insurance if this is their business. However, the matter would be pursued with the Town Council insurers to ascertain if cover could be provided for six events in the year, based in the Pannier Market, in order to permit all traders.

ACTION: Town Clerk to discuss with Insurance Company and report back.

HIRE COSTS

Discussed the potential hirer charges. Agreed that we need commitment from the hirers to buy into this scheme. Discussed the idea of £30 for 3 events or £20 for 1 show.

MARQUEE IDEA

The idea of a marquee to host a number of traders was supported by the Committee.

ACTION: Operations Manager to get some prices for a marquee* (including storage facilities, albeit a trailer).

*the size of a marquee would be marked out in the Pannier Market on 5th February for the TH&P meeting, so people could visualize its size.

Discussed parking provision and whether traders should or need access to their stock (particularly for food suppliers).

The Operations Manager explained that it is more time efficient to put up our own gazebos than hirers putting up their own.

The idea of a Sunday seemed good, as we could encourage local traders to showcase their shops/services, and promote awareness of what is on offer in the area.

The availability of electricity was discussed.

ACTION: The Operations Manager would get prices for (possibly 10) external (lockable) sockets in the Pannier Market.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Gold seconded by Cllr Cookley and agreed unanimously that a Sunday market idea would be pursued initially, with trading between 9am-2pm.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
12TH FEBRUARY AFTER OUTSIDE SERVICES.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.