

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Monday 5th June 2023

Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

MARKETS UPDATE

Purpose of Report

To update the Council on the current situation within the Indoor and Outdoor Market

UPDATE

The Indoor market continues to operate with 100% occupancy and no arrears. Recent articles in local papers indicated markets aspire to copy Shrewsbury's continued success.

Footfall has increased, and winning Britain's favorite Market has helped to promote the indoor market as an attraction to the town where you can shop and have an excellent meal with a drink.

TRENDS

The late nights will be returning again to the market on the following dates

Saturday 1st July

Saturday 23rd September

Saturday 28th October

Saturday 2nd December

SUNDAY MARKET

The market Manager reports that the Sunday market has levelled out with a steady amount of regular traders, casual traders and carbooters.

Tony is continuing with the online advertising which seems to have stimulated both awareness and footfall. Attendance appears to be adversely affected by adverse weather. A poor forecast leads to a poor attendance.

Recruiting new traders is tough at the moment as more businesses appear to be internet based or don't like working on the Sunday!

The car boot section has a reasonable following and is definitely the footfall driver for the market, it is a difficult area to expand or increase revenue due to the competition from the show ground who have a lot more space to utilize and fill.

Height restrictive barriers have been repaired and appeared to be working. Other smaller tasks such as repairs to toilet doors are still work in progress, but the manager is extremely grateful for the work that has been done so far.

Occasionally anti-social behavior blights the Sunday Market with certain members of the public who insist on not respecting the market rules and recently a van driver insisted on ignoring signs and driving through the crowds to collect something. When stopped they hurl abuse and will not listen to reason. Tony has been advised to pass the incident on to the police.

CONCERNS

The Sunday Market manager confirmed that some of his traders have also expressed concerns about the third car boot sale in Shrewsbury. The company concerned had been trying to recruit market traders from our own market and they were advertising fruit and veg plus meat, which is not the definition of a car boot sale which is purely for private sellers to sell used goods to make some money and should be products that would be reasonable for a private person to sell.

Losing traders and car booters would itself be detrimental to the future of the Sunday Market.

The first week of the third car boot sale did not happen as the number of carbooters attending was low resulting in early closure of the site.

Correspondence to national car boot sales reminding them of the market rights have not been answered and officers are continuing to monitor the situation and if needs be, invoke the market rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report is noted, and the Council supports its officers if having to invoke our market rights.