

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**Officer:** Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

**MARKETS UPDATE**

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**Purpose of Report**

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

**UPDATE**

Indoor market is currently performing well with 99% occupancy. We have recently lost some traders who have set up in shops around town, and the indications are we will lose some after Christmas, again because they are moving and expanding into shops.

We have some new traders who unfortunately could not commit to a full week due to family circumstances, or because of how the stalls are used, however we have increased the number of barrows, placing them in locations where space allowed. These traders have been delighted with how their sales have gone and are both also interested in a full time stall.

**TRENDS**

The late night events have been extremely well received with many of the traders opening mainly selling food and drink.

On Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> November, the market had its first late night shopping experience combined with the switching on of the town Lights. The evening was extremely popular and the market enjoyed excellent footfall, more of the canopied traders took part in the mid-week late night event and we would hope that most of them will be open for the winter warmer.

The next events are as follow:-

4<sup>th</sup> December late night Saturday

22<sup>nd</sup> December Mid – week winter warmer late night.

**SUNDAY MARKET**

The Sunday market continues to be affected by COVID restrictions, anti-social behavior and also weather conditions. If the wind is strong, we are unable to permit stalls to be constructed for health and safety reasons and this has affected the operation of the market a couple of times recently.

Footfall has been lower recently, the manager puts this down to the weather conditions and also concerns about COVID increasing.

The Anti-Social behavior appears to be happening Saturday night with the market manager having to cleanse the site of litter and nitrous oxide canisters.

The Markets Manager is liaising with the police, and we will raise the issue with Team Shrewsbury. Damage done to the toilet facilities mid-week tends to take a long time to repair after being reported and the manager often ends up repairing the issues himself.

The market manager reports he has lost a few traders due to retirement and also the change in retail habits, however he says it is not all gloom and doom as several craft stalls have traded with him recently which has brought a fresh look to the venue and an intensive internet advertising campaign has brought in some more car booters.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report is noted