

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Monday 11th September 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.

Traders were complimentary about the footfall in the market during the Flower Show, with traders having a busy time.

We still have one trader on long term sick, but hopefully we will have positive news in the next couple of weeks.

TRENDS

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

Saturday 23rd September

Saturday 28th October

Saturday 2nd December

Early indications are that the traders are not keen on opening during the Christmas Light Switch on or the Carols in the Square, those that did open previously felt that more traders could have supported the late night event.

SUNDAY MARKET

The market Manager reports that the Sunday Market has had an extremely wet July and also six weeks of road works at the entrance to the market, which created long tail backs and made it difficult to enter and exit the site. Attendance have been boosted when the West Midland Show ground hosts events and cannot hold a car boot sale. One week the market closed early due to travelers on the site. The manager spoke to them Saturday to forewarn about the Sunday market and all seemed very amicable.

On Sunday traders were threatened, and had stock stolen. Minors entered the office and removed objects, when attempting to recover property, family members circled the office and threatened the manager and his family. With traders leaving the site and the intimidation, the manager felt it was safest to close early. Due to the distressing nature of what traders and the manager experienced, he is reluctant to open in future if travelers are on site, which would have financial implications for the town council.

The following week the manager had to be on site very early to clean up after the visitors had gone, and he reports it was very unpleasant!

Repairs to the barriers have been completed, site is now secure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report is noted.