

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**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**

The Indoor market continues to operate with 100% occupancy and no arrears.

We have recently had a couple of changes of traders.

The caterer who provided Italian food has left and we now have a caterer providing Moroccan food.

They have been operating for three weeks and they are delighted with how the business has gone.

We also have a new company on Willy Dodd's Butchers stall.

They are a couple of young lads who trade as wild street food.

They have won the British Street Food awards in 2022, for sustainable food. They visit shows with a mobile unit and sell locally sourced meats and produce, they appear to have made a great impression in the market in the short time they have been setting up and we look forward to them attracting new customers into the market as well

**TRENDS**

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

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Having reported that the market will not be opening for the Christmas Light Switch on or the Carols in the Square, we have been informed by the facilities manager that the market will now open.

**SUNDAY MARKET**

The market Manager reports that the Sunday Market did see an upturn during the month of October, this was mainly due to most of the Sundays being dry – even though it was a wet month overall. An additional major factor was the closure of the West Midland show ground car boot sale due to high river levels.

There was a dramatic rise in car boot sellers which also encouraged more casual traders to come along and experience the market and a few of those have attended regularly since.

Word of mouth is also pushing up footfall and social media pages are making exciting reading.

The market manager still finds the site in a very poor state on arrival. He collects around 2 black bags of litter prior to opening the market each Sunday morning and this mainly consists of fast food waste, discarded vapes and laughing gas bottles, he recommends at least a couple more bins on site might help ease the problem as there is only one on site and it is located next to the bus shelter.

The market manager has concerns that as we head towards the winter months and ever changing weather patterns, he is concerned that heavier rain fall and stronger winds will obviously make trading impossible at times, but he is keeping his fingers crossed for a good run up to Christmas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report is noted.