

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 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.

Recently some of the food and drink outlets have expanded on to the footpath outside during the weekends, taking advantage of the road closures.

Some traders expressed concerns that during recent large events, footfall was down due to visitors not being allowed out of the Quarry.

The complainant was assured we have an agreement with all events that visitors can come and go from the event, as it was good for the town's economy. The complainant apologized and took down the grumble from social media.

One trader Will Dodd Butchers has closed for a number of weeks. Unfortunately Will was taken seriously ill and with support from family and friends they managed to get all the orders complete which was Will's request whilst waiting to be seen in hospital.

Will is making slow progress, but his wife is hoping she will be in a position to open again in three to four weeks.

We wish Will a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with his family.

**TRENDS**

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

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**SUNDAY MARKET**

The market Manager reports that the Sunday Market has been extremely fortunate over the summer with the weather and avoided any cancellations or early closures.

The manger has reviewed the layout of the site and reconfigured the car boot so that any voids on the site have been filled. This has given a more structured appearance and has proven popular with the majority of the people.

Market traders are still struggling with the general slump in non-essential retail, as the public hold on to their purse strings, a few more traders have ceased trading due to retirement.

The car boot attendance remains fair and doubles when the show ground cannot be used due to it hosting events. The Sunday market still finds it difficult to compete with a venue that offers as much room as you like policy, which could indicate it is not strictly householders selling surplus household items.

Repairs to the barriers are always slow and the market is currently without them at the main entrance as they have been hit and apparently taken away for repair.

Advertising on social media is still continuing and is proving a valuable tool for bringing in new casual traders, carbooters and public.

Litter continues to be a problem on arrival. Tony often collects multiple bags of discarded fast food packaging and bottles thrown in to the surrounding hedges.

Tony always ensures the site is left in a pristine condition including a thorough clean of the toilet block.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report is noted.