

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 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**

It is pleasing to report that the indoor market is still running at 100% occupancy levels which is still bucking the trends of markets nationally.

We have lost one barrow in the centre aisle, as they have moved onto one of Shropshire Council's units on the periphery. However our fire safety consultants did recommend that one of the barrows needs to move to ensure the exit is not obscured, so this departure gave us the opportunity to comply.

The reduction in income has been made up however with more traders opening on a Thursday.

The first late night Saturday on the 25<sup>th</sup> March was a success, with those traders who opened very pleased with the turnout, with some of the restaurants having to accept pre bookings only.

**TRENDS**

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

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July

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 he has made a concerted effort to raise the profile of the market and car boot sale, by more on line promotions and new displays.

He says that since doing the work, both income and exposure has seen a significant lift.

The online work has seen an increase in visits to the website by over 500%.

Last weekend he had a good turnout on the market and car boot sale with good visitor numbers, but he says the public are still mindful of their spending limits due to the current economic climate.

The manager is reaching out to external organisations in an attempt to create a more interesting and varied weekly event.

**CONCERNS**

The Sunday Market manager is aware of a potential car boot event being held at Shrewsbury Town Football Ground as well as the existing one at the county show ground. He believes it may not reduce his traders significantly, but he is concerned about footfall. If footfall reduces, he may see a knock on effect of traders moving to another location.

So far the rival market has been sent an application form and made aware of prices, but no further enquiries have been made.

The manager is concerned that no repairs have been made to the height restrictive barriers. Over the past couple of weeks, travellers have set up in the middle of the market site, then on the Tesco's site and they were back on the market site last week.

Some repairs are still waiting to be completed in the toilet block, such as faulty door locks and water heating.

Officers have been in touch with Shropshire for an update, and they are currently talking to contractors regarding the repairs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report is noted