

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**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**

Indoor market currently performing well with 99% occupancy. Unfortunately the trader approached to utilize the vacant stall only lasted one day due to family pressures and so we are currently speaking to potential traders to fill the vacancy which should be completed in the very near future.

**TRENDS**

The late night events have been extremely well received with many of the traders opening mainly selling food and drink, a lot of the canopied traders feel the clientele do not attend the late nights to purchase fruit and veg or hats and bags, so they tend to keep away.

The next events are as follow:-

30<sup>th</sup> October

4<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday late night opening is still progressing, however it will be subject to guidelines at the time relating to incidents of Covid in the County.

Late night shopping as follow:-

24<sup>th</sup> November

1<sup>st</sup> December

8<sup>th</sup> December

15<sup>th</sup> December

22<sup>nd</sup> December

All stalls will be asked to participate and the doors will be open until 8pm, this event does involve the Town Council and its Markets Officers.

**SUNDAY MARKET**

The Sunday market had noticed a small decline in the number of market traders due to the pandemic affecting small businesses. Many of the stall holders have had to modify the way they operate, some such as fruit and veg, now selling in packs as opposed to people touching veg to pick and choose. The layout of the market had to be slightly reconfigured to ensure passageways were sufficiently wide enough for distancing and stalls laid out to prevent queues blocking walk ways.

On the plus side, the car boot pitches were in demand as people took the opportunity to have a clear out during lock down, unfortunately each pitch has had to be given a larger area to allow distancing, which in turn reduced the number of car boots we could accommodate.

The Sunday market is subject to weather conditions and so income will be dependent upon this factor.

**CONCERNS**

The market manager spends a considerable amount of time ensuring the area is litter picked prior to the traders arriving. We have seen a large number of eateries and fast food outlets in the area, and many of their customers unfortunately do not use receptacles provided, and the market manager does not want the finger of blame pointing our way.

He has encouraged traders and car boot people to take their rubbish home with them, which has considerably reduced the amount of waste disposed of on site, however we now find the compound to house the bulk bins is regularly used to dump rubbish next to it, which we unfortunately have to dispose of.

It is also noticeable that when the Show ground has an event on and are unable to host a car boot sale, the number of visitors to the Harlescott site is far greater. The Show ground is advertising larger pitches for traders, which we are unable to provide, so this too could affect future growth of the Harlescott market.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report is noted