



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Agenda No

8

Responsible Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager

UPDATE ON MARKET

Purpose of the Report

To receive an update into the Council's activities in the Market Hall

Market Hall

During the early stages of the lock down, the market was closed except for essential items only, subject to compliance with guidelines and restrictions on the number of customers allowed to enter.

It was interesting to note the traders all worked together, by delivering their own orders. For instance the fishmonger would deliver to his customers plus his customers were asking for fruit, veg and meats and these were being obtained from within the market and delivered, and this was reciprocated by the other traders. This became so busy, that deliveries had to be restricted to a specific number each day to ensure they could cope with demand.

We are now fully open with restrictions in place for eateries and social distancing. Each trader has to complete a covid 19 risk assessment and make the necessary adjustments to protect themselves, staff and customers.

This has been difficult as guidelines were changing on a weekly basis and on occasions only giving three days' notice for adaptations to be implemented which meant signage and banners containing specific instructions were out of date and needed amending at additional cost.

The building was visited by police and public protection to ensure we were complying with current guidelines.

To date, we are 100% utilised with many enquiries coming in from elsewhere.

The two markets Officers are still socially isolating and their absence has been covered by the asset manager, Paul and Gary who normally look after the toilets around town and Tony who manages the Sunday market, without their valuable assistance during these difficult times, the market would not have returned to full operation, whereas nationally it is reported that 35% of markets may not open again.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Report be noted