

**COLNE MARKET PANEL MEETING
HELD: MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2018
VENUE: GRANNY'S CAFÉ - COLNE MARKET**

ATTENDANCE

Representing the Council as landlord:

Ian Varley - Market Manager (Liberata) who chaired the meeting.

Market Traders:

Maureen Hardacre
Karen Riley
Michael Maybury
Pat Carlin
Shauna Withnall
Kathryn Pana
John Connelly
Carly Wilson
Milo – representing Jodie Britton

Apologies:

Were received from the Market Chairperson Dorothy Lord and Chris Blacoe
The meeting opened at 4:30pm.

1 Introductions:

Ian Varley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Matters Arising:

None

3 EVENTS:

The big event for June the annual *ComiColne* again was a success and is taking place again on the 29th of June 2019.

The Myth & Magic event last weekend, which Kathryn P organised, was deemed to be another success. If the weather had been better it would have been a lot busier.

Ian congratulated all involved in the planning and setting up of these trader lead events.

Maureen is arranging a Mac Millan coffee morning on the 28/29th of September, if any traders want a poster for this event, to put in their stall, please see Maureen.

4 CHRISTMAS 2018

Opening times for Christmas this year will be normal hours with Christmas Eve opening time being set at 8am.

It was agreed at the meeting that throughout December traders would open Tuesday mornings from 9am to 12:30pm. This will be promoted through November and December.

The market will reopen on Thursday 26th December, 2018 as normal and will be closed Tuesday 1st January, 2019.

5 OPENING HOURS + STALL APPEARANCE

Ian has (at the request of the Council) recently maintained a log of traders opening and closing times, due to the fact that stalls closing early had a detrimental effect on the market as customer feedback suggests that shoppers perceive that stalls are not opening through the core trading period and will shop elsewhere. This issue was discussed at the previous Panel meeting. This subject was brought up again with traders at the meeting expressing an opinion that the market was suffering from a non-professional attitude from certain traders. Traders at the meeting suggested that trading times be amended, agreeing that the earliest acceptable closing time should be 4:30pm, to provide shoppers with some assurance that stalls will be open for business. Traders are also concerned that shutters down during core trading time give the impression of the market being closed and would prefer all shutters to be up. Ian advised the Panel that the Licence terms provide that traders core opening hours are 9am to 5pm and the Council would have to be consulted if a change to opening hours was being suggested by traders.

Traders also were concerned with the appearance of some stalls looking like "jumble sales/car boot sales" and that certain traders placed goods outside of their stalls in the main walkways. Ian suggested that he would ask all traders to look at their stall layouts and if advice or assistance is required then they could speak to him.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Trader Behaviour:

A long discussion took place regarding behaviour of certain traders. Some traders appear to have showed a total disregard to the general public and other traders and there are many examples where stall holders swear in front of the public and who "entertain" friends in their stalls and use bad language. These actions can be damaging to the good reputation of other traders and the market generally.

Traders were also reminded that smoking under the Glass Canopy/Walk Way at the front of the market is prohibited and that anyone found smoking or throwing cigarette end onto the floor can be fined up to £80.

Maureen is currently carrying out a survey on how much attention the public take of notices in and around the market and will report back to the next Panel.

Christmas Preparations:

The Christmas tree will be erected and dressed within the "Glass Box" at the front of the market hopefully on or around the 14th of November, 2018.

The Christmas events were discussed and the following was agreed, some subject to funds being made available either from the trader fund or from the Council:

- That throughout November, from half term school break, and through December craft days for children would be held in empty stalls subject to availability, Shauna and Kathryn to liaise with these.
- Carly asked if we could do a daily shopper's raffle leading up to Christmas to run like an advent calendar. Ian would look into possible funding with trader assistance.
- More promotion by traders on their Facebook pages would help to bring in more shoppers and it was agreed that traders who use Facebook for their businesses include the various events are taking place in the market.
- Discussions took place regarding whether we could run a Grotto with a Father Christmas, John said his brother would play Santa and Ian will enquire about the DBS requirements. Traders agreed to provide toys and look at what we could charge for entry.

The meeting closed at 6:30pm.

NEXT MEETING T.B.A.