

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE MARKET FORUM
HELD AT COLNE MARKET, HARTLEY SQUARE AND VIA TEAMS
ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2024**

PRESENT

Councillor A. Sutcliffe (Chair)

Members:-

*Councillor S. Cockburn-Price
Councillor K. McGladdery
Steven J. Reed
Aneesa McGladdery
Mary Thomas*

*Pendle Borough Council (PBC)
Pendle Borough Council
Markets' Manager (Liberata)
Colne BID
Colne Town Council*

*James Wareing
Craig M Holden
Kathryn Pana
Pauline Hirons*

*Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader*

In attendance:-

*Councillor Dorothy Lord
Natalie Davis
Richard Savory
Sarah Lee
Phillip Spurr
Lynne Rowland*

*PBC
Liberata
Raise Partnership
Raise Partnership
PBC
PBC*

◆◆◆◆

7. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

8. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9. PROGRESS ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF COLNE MARKET

The Forum was provided with an update on progress with the redevelopment of Colne Market. It was noted that planning permission had now been granted and early strip out works had begun. An intrusive asbestos survey was due to be carried out at the end of February and works to remove the asbestos would take place soon after.

A meeting with the developer was due to be held later in the week to discuss the site layouts during the works.

The majority of traders (14) had now moved in to the former Poundland unit on Hartley Square and opened for business on 6th January 2024. It had been found that the hot air curtain and individual heaters were not sufficient to keep the building warm, therefore air heaters would be installed down the middle corridor.

There was a small fit out to be completed at Richmonds Court, but it was expected that the two traders moving there would do so in the next week or so. It was noted that the tree in front of the premises may need pruning to improve visibility to the units.

The Market continued to be actively promoted with social media activity; news stories; newsletters; posters; and banners. There had been a focus on the uniqueness of the Market and its loyal traders and customers. Outside the current location, each individual trader featured on the digital totem.

BBC Radio Lancashire had been to the Market on 14th January and carried out a number of interviews. The Mayor of Pendle had also visited.

A matter still to be considered was the future management and operation of the Market Hall. It was reported that, following a procurement exercise, the Council had appointed Quarterbridge Consultants to advise and make recommendations. They were due to report back as soon as possible.

10. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Forum was invited to give feedback on the temporary accommodation. Comments included the following –

- The move had gone extremely well, with specific thanks made to the Markets' Manager and his team.
- Having the same square footage was appreciated.
- The absence of shutters made a big difference and made the area feel more welcoming.
- Some customers had commented that people were still trying to find out where the Market was.
- The door at the entrance to the Market was difficult to open.

It was agreed to see what could be done to make the door easier to open. It was also confirmed that communication would continue.

In addition to the social media advertising, some traders wanted to use A-Boards. The barriers and disadvantages to this were discussed and alternatives suggested. However, the decision not to allow A-Boards remained an issue for some.

11. GENERAL MARKET BUSINESS

The Markets' Manager advised that there were currently no market events planned, although the option of doing something for Easter Saturday was being looked at.

It was acknowledged that the number of people allowed in the market building was limited, therefore it would be unwise to attract large numbers.

The opportunity for holding an event in the outside space was discussed and also whether the outdoor market should be relocated from the Parliament Street car park. To open up the space, a request was made for the stone spheres to be moved as soon as possible and stored until a new location had been agreed.

It was noted that the stone Colne Crest would also need to be relocated. Its new location had not yet been considered, however discussions had taken place regarding the stained glass crest, and it potentially being mounted in the pavement, with backlighting.

Although there were currently no market events planned, it was noted that Colne Town Council and Colne BID had several big events planned for the year.

The Forum was also advised that the Lancashire Archives were being searched for information on Colne Market with a view to holding an exhibition.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting be held in May 2024.

CHAIR _____