

**MARKETS IN CHARNWOOD SCRUTINY PANEL
TUESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 5.00PM
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3, SOUTHFIELDS, LOUGHBOROUGH**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. SCOPING OF THE REVIEW

At its meeting on 19th July 2010, the Scrutiny Management Board resolved to continue with the Scrutiny Panel established by the Investigation and Review Scrutiny Committee on Markets to consider potential improvements to current arrangements, a range of alternative markets and the feasibility of holding markets in other locations in the Borough. At its meeting on 17th August 2010, the Policy Scrutiny Group agreed that Scrutiny Panels be progressed as set out in the Scrutiny Work Programme, including Markets in Charnwood.

Terms of Reference of the Panel:

To continue the Panel as established by the Investigation and Review Scrutiny Committee:

1. To examine the health of the market as measured by the number of stall holders and their views about their future participation.
2. To identify the success of the market in attracting stall holders in relation to other markets, such as Hinckley, Leicester etc.
3. To explore the possibilities of markets in the other towns and villages of the Borough.
4. To discuss the effectiveness of the Farmers' Market on Wednesday mornings.
5. To look at the publicity that is given to the market, particularly the Farmers' Market.

3. LOUGHBOROUGH MARKETS REPORT

As agreed at its initial meeting on 17th May 2010, a report of the Markets, Fair, and Town Centre Operation Manager to consider current information in respect of Loughborough Markets is attached for the Panel's consideration.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

The Panel is asked to consider future meeting dates and issues to be considered. A copy of the Scrutiny Witness Charter is circulated with the agenda.

Membership of this Panel:

**Councillors Burr, Brown, Campsall, Day, J. Hunt, Radford and Walker
(Chair)**

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LOUGHBOROUGH MARKETS

Loughborough Markets were first founded as a result of a Royal Charter that was first granted to the Lord of the Manor in 1221. The granting of the Charter gave permission directly from the King to hold a Market and Fair in Loughborough. The original charter of 1221 was re-confirmed in 1227. Both charters specified Thursday as the trading day and this makes the Thursday Market 789 years old.

Charters for Fairs and Markets were granted by the Crown, providing the King with an income. The grant of a Royal Charter to a landowner was thus of great value and it gave protection. Under common law, the holder of a Market charter is still entitled to this day to take action against any rival who opens a market or attempts to open a market within six and two thirds miles.

The Charter holders have always been able to charge a toll for a trading position on the Market. Today market traders pay charges to current charter holders, which are often local authorities. Giving councils the responsibility doesn't guarantee care, but the former royal prerogative is hard to dismiss. Tampering may require an act of Parliament.

Loughborough Market is owned and managed by Charnwood Borough Council, the retail market is held on Thursday, and Saturday of each week. Both days follow a similar pattern whereby stalls owned by the authority are erected by council staff and let to traders for a charge. Areas or pitches are also let within the trading area and traders have been allowed in some cases to erect their own stalls. The collective rents from the annual income is paid to the Council.

The traders are allowed to use the same stall/pitch on a regular basis and are allowed to take four weeks free holiday days per year on each market day. Casual traders are also encouraged to attend the Markets and are allocated available stalls on a daily basis.

Market regulations that have been formulated over a number of years are in force and are used to ensure that the traders are regulated and comply with current legislation, and health and safety requirements.

The two retail markets are supported by a Flea Market which is held every Friday, and a Farmers Market that is held on the second Wednesday of every month. All markets are managed and administered by dedicated staff employed by the Authority. The Market and fairs department also provides support with regards to town centre events and arrange specialised French and continental Markets as part of the Loughborough Events calendar throughout the year.

Currently both Thursday and Saturday retail markets boast a high rate of occupancy. A healthy casual list exists for both days particularly for the Thursday Market. Enquiries for stalls are being received on a regular basis and information is being sent to potential new traders. Annual surveys have been carried out on behalf of the Authority by outside agencies where both trader groups and market customer groups are questioned as to the success of the market.

A recent snap survey was carried out on all Loughborough markets by market staff. This in turn led to a customer journey mapping exercise which have been graphed and are available for study. Regular liaison meetings are held between trader representatives and the Market

Management when Market issues are addressed and usually through mutual agreement problems are resolved

As far as rival markets are concerned (within the six and two thirds miles) all operators of car boot sales or any operation that is deemed to be a market must make a formal application in writing to C.B.C .and are controlled by licence which is issued by the Markets and Fairs office upon payment of the relevant fee.

Tragically the national trend indicates that Markets today are on the decline. There are initiatives however to encourage preservation of Markets, not least a government white paper and the appointment of a Minister responsible for Markets. Both the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) are vigorously engaged in promoting markets throughout the country.

A European directive also refers to Markets and contains criteria which challenge certain areas of how markets offer trading opportunities. Some of the directives mentioned are in the form of legislation which has now been added to the legal requirements of Market Operations.

Once the main centres of food provision to the population traditional markets are now dominated by retailers selling clothing, jewellery, cheap footwear, and a wide range of mainly imported goods. What is left of the food offer comprises of food traders who buy wholesale food imports and the same produce can be found on almost any market.

Michael Bird
Markets,Fair, and Town Centre Operation Manager