



**Markets Working Group
Notes
Wednesday 29 March 2023**

Present: Cllrs Aldcroft, Hughes, Manton
Iain Mills, Shropshire Council, Kate Gittin, Shrewsbury Market,
Sue Thomas, Town Clerk

1. Welcome and introductions.

Introductions were made. Kate Gittins, who manages the Shrewsbury Market, was in attendance to talk about how she improved the Shrewsbury Market and offer suggestions as to how the town market could be improved.

2. To elect a chairperson.

Councillor Hughes was elected as Chairperson.

3. To agree Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were agreed.

4. To agree the notes from the last meeting.

The notes from the meeting held on the 6th July 2022 were agreed.

5. To discuss steps that can be taken to improve the market.

A discussion took place regarding the decline of the markets in the town. Iain said that he is working on various options to try and improve the market, at the moment there is not a preferred option.

The market is currently running at a loss and Shropshire Council are subsidising it at an annual cost of around £18,000. Pre-covid the market made a minor profit.

Kate said that a discussion needs to take place around what the market brings to the town; currently most of the items for sale on the market can be bought in local shops. She asked if local shop keepers and traders want to keep the market.

Councillors said the Market should be kept; the Town is a Market Town, general consensus was that the market needs improving to bring residents from Market Drayton and surrounding area back into town on market day.

The location of the market was discussed and whether it would fit on the pedestrian areas in the town; it was felt that at this time moving the market would have a negative effect and that the focus should be on improving what we have.

With better marketing and promotion, it is hoped that the market would improve; currently a sufficient level of promotion is not being done. A solution needs to be found as to how all parties involved with wanting the market to improve can work together.

It was agreed that the working group would not meet again until Shropshire Council can share more information about their proposals for the market.



C&G Committee Meeting

29 June 2023

Appendix CG36

**MARKETS MEETING
NOTES
17th May 2023**

Present: Cllrs Aldcroft, Hughes and Manton
Dermot McGillicuddy and Siobhan Noake from LSD
Iain Mills, Shropshire Council and Sue Thomas, Town Clerk

The meeting was called by LSD.

Dermot spoke about the general downturn in markets and the reduction in market traders.

According to the National Market Traders Association in 2001 there were 80,000 traders most recently there are 31,000.

He said that the contract with Shropshire Council limits what LSD can do; they only have a management role.

He said that some towns have benefited from the British High Street fund to help improve their markets.

A discussion took place around the challenges traditional street markets are facing due to on-line shopping and cheap retail stores.

The following initiatives to encourage traders to the market were discussed:

Indoor Market

It was agreed that a community event would be held on Saturday 1st July to promote the indoor market.

The event would be an opportunity for traders to try the indoor market; there would also be street food stalls and entertainment outside on Arlon Square.

Stalls to be charged at £10 per day (half price) on the 1st July and for the following three months as an incentive to encourage stallholder to the market. Stallholder will have the option having a stall on just a Wednesday or a Saturday or both days. If hiring stalls on both days they can leave their sock in the market Hall.

If any traders wish to hire a stall before the 1st July they will be charged half rent for three months from their first day.

Iain confirmed that Shropshire Council has already agreed to half price rents for indoor traders.

Existing indoor market traders will also be given 3 months at half rent.

LSD to arrange the event with support from the Town Council and an individual from Marys Meat stall.

Publicity material to be produced by LSD and circulated to the Town Council and Shropshire Council.

Event to be under LSD insurance.

Iain Mills and Cllr Aldcroft to approach Shropshire Council for a small budget to provide entertainment.

Outdoor Market

Initiatives to attract more traders to the outdoor market was discussed. It was suggested that new and existing outdoor traders could be given the same incentive, 3 months at half rent. Iain Mills agreed to ask Shropshire Council to approve this initiative.

Parking

Free parking for all on a Wednesday was discussed; it was identified as being too expensive for Shropshire Council to approve as other market towns would expect free parking.

It was proposed that all Stallholders could be given free parking permits for a Wednesday as an incentive or that stallholders be allowed to park in the laybys on Cheshire Street; this would possibly need Shropshire Council approval to ensure they did not receive parking tickets.

Iain to discuss the above options with Shropshire Council.

General Publicity

The current posters were identified as being outdated. LSD to produce new publicity material.

A representative from the indoor market joined the meeting

He spoke about the decline in the market and the need for free parking.

He said that the indoor market is not kept clean, the floor in particular is all black. He also mentioned the leaking roof and that some of the light bulbs are not working. Dermot explained that there is not a floor cleaner at the market Hall. Iain to report that light bulbs need replacing. It was agreed that all complaints that need to be forwarded to Shropshire Council should be emailed to the estates team with Iain copied in.

Iain said that he was not aware that Shropshire Council has any plans to shut the indoor market.

Holding a meeting in approximately four weeks time was discussed to update on progress for the Community Day, hear feedback from Shropshire Council on the parking options mentioned above and half price stalls for the outside market.

