

## KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>FINANCE &amp; GOVERNANCE MEETING</b> <b>17 JUNE 2021</b>	Page 1
<b>Report Originator</b>	Emma Driver	<i>Agenda item No</i> FC21/006
<b>Title</b>	<b>Operation of Markets</b>	

### **Purpose of Report**

To decide the way forward for the running of the markets when they should restart and how and what charges should apply.

### **Information**

As part of the Community Governance Order 2020 the Market Charter and Market Stalls were transferred to Kettering Town Council. The charter provides for

- A general market on Fridays and Saturdays
- A second hand or flea market on a Wednesday and if desired, as part of the Friday and Saturday markets  
(Note a Tuesday market originally existed but had ceased to function about 20 years ago)

The pandemic has had a big impact on the markets; initially, they were all cancelled. The second-hand market restarted during the summer of 2020 but was relocated to the Market Place where social distancing was easier to achieve and because the temporary toilet in Meadow Rd took up some of its space. This market has run on Wednesdays, Fridays, and some Saturdays where demand has been high enough.

Plans were in place during the autumn to restart the Friday and Saturday market, round the clock – for social distancing purposes - but the renewed restrictions and lockdown overtook those plans, and they have not resumed. In the meantime, of course, responsibility has now transferred to the Town Council from the old Borough Council, which has further hindered progress.

Charges for market stall holders were abandoned in April last year in recognition of the impact of the pandemic on trading conditions.

### **Options and arrangements**

The assumption was made in late 2020 that NNC staff who currently manage the market as part of their role would continue to do so in the transition period and that there would be a dialogue with NNC managers when they were in place and able to address this issue. That dialogue has yet to happen, and this paper is intended to

seek members' views about their preferred approach as we go into those discussions.

The NNC resource which supports the market consists of

- Admin staff – a few hours week – who take bookings, ensure stall rents are collected (by bank transfer now; no cash collections are envisaged) and deal with any issues arising from market traders. Some publicity and promotion work are also included.
- On site staff who mount and demount stalls at the start and end of each market day – these are essentially depot staff with a separate contract for this work.

When the Town Council budget was agreed at the end of 2020, the assumption was made that the market income would meet the costs of administration and stall erection, so a nil line was included in the budget.

Previously market traders paid £16 per stall and were given free parking by KBC. There had been some discussion about whether this should be changed before the pandemic, to attract more traders.

A verbal report on costs and income received by KBC will be made at the meeting.

Members should also note that the Heritage Action Zone works due to start in 2021 will replace High St paving between Meadow Rd and the Market Place and so will generate some disruption to the normal market location on High Street.

### **Decisions required**

Guidance from members is sought on

- Restarting the Friday and Saturday markets - this will require some PR and making contact with the traders who used to attend.
- Identifying the optimum location for stalls to ensure it remains safe – the options being - on street in its traditional location on the High St and Meadow Rd, within the Bakehouse Hill area and on the Market Place, any, or all of which will require NNC as landowner and highway authority, to agree.
- Re-instigating charges and at what level for all three markets
- Continuing to use NNC staff to manage the market and meeting those costs from the income.