



Sleaford Town Council
Culture, Events and Markets Panel
Notes and Report of Meeting – 20th April 2021
10.30am to 12.15pm

Panel members present:

Councillor Linda Edwards-Shea
Councillor Paul Edwards-Shea
Councillor John Parry
Councillor Adrian Snookes

Meeting and Panel supported by the Deputy Clerk and Administration Officer (SG).

1. Chairman's Welcome

Councillor Linda Edwards-Shea welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence with reasons were received from Councillor David Darmon.

3. Minutes from 4th February 2020

The Minutes from the meeting held on 4th February 2020 were received and noted.

Councillor Linda Edwards-Shea suggested that a future St George's Shield Making event or similar event using recycled materials should take place again and this to be kept in mind.

4. Culture, Events and Markets Panel Terms of Reference

The Panel received the Culture, Events and Markets Panel Terms of Reference.

It was agreed that no more events should be added to the list at the moment on the Terms of Reference due to the pandemic. It was agreed to note the Terms of Reference and the Panel to keep moving forward.

5. Markets Update

The Panel expressed how the past year has been extraordinary and has increased a desire for outdoor Markets. Thoughts put forward were that Sleaford Market is currently thriving with a wide range of stalls and is very impressive with contented traders. The fruit and veg stall have exotic produce and have even taken on an extra member of staff to cope with demand.

The Panel were informed that the non-essential traders have recently re-joined the essential traders following Government guidelines. Friday bookings have currently had to be put on hold due to the amount of traders now attending.

It was noted that the Market is currently advertised widely on social media and on the Town Council's website, which generates a lot of interest and engagement. Officers have permission to use photographs taken by a local resident which are used in the advertising. It was also noted that the Town Council have a full page news section in Your Local Lincs every month and the Market was recently advertised in the publication.

The local press have recently reported on the success of the Market during the pandemic. Photos and information to be forwarded to the reporter in the future for another press report.

Discussion followed regarding having a banner to advertise the Market, which would be hung up over Southgate.

Recommendation: that a banner be purchased to advertise the Market (designed, hemmed & eyeleted):15x3ft for £75.00.

Vote: unanimous.

The problem of cars parking in the Market Place was discussed. It was suggested that a compromise could be holding a mini Market on Saturdays on the NKDC staff car park on Eastgate, meaning that cars could then park in the Market Place. The Markets on Fridays and Mondays to still be held in the Market Place, but with no car parking.

It was requested that the Town Clerk be asked where the Market discussions currently stand with NKDC officers and if the Clerk thinks it's appropriate, for a letter to be sent from the Town Council to NKDC regarding parking on Market days.

Recommendation: that a letter be sent to NKDC regarding parking in the Market Place on Market days, only if the Clerk confirms that it is appropriate.

Vote: unanimous.

6. Events for Discussion

- a) Christmas Market – discussions took place regarding the length of time that the event takes to organise and all the safety implications that would need to be put in place due to the pandemic. Usually, the office would have received many stall applications and enquiries by this time of the year, due to traders liking to have set events in their diary, but there have been none. It was noted that the Twelve Market Days of Christmas held in 2020 in place of the one-day Christmas Market was successful and well received. It was noted that at this point, that no one knows where we will be with the pandemic in the Autumn and Winter.
- b) Twelve Market Days of Christmas – this event was held for the first time in 2020 due to the cancellation of the one-day Christmas Market. This involves far less organisation than the one-day Christmas Market. Twelve small Christmas themed Markets were held in the Market Place only on Fridays, Saturday and Mondays, from the end of November up to the Market day before Christmas Eve. Regular traders were joined by new traders each day to sell gifts and Christmas themed stock. A limited number of pitches were made available to allow for social distancing, there was a one-way system and all Covid-19 safety measures were put in place. A free Christmas raffle took place on each of the Market days and prizes were luxury hampers. This was extremely popular with the public.

Recommendation: that the one-day Christmas Market does not take place in 2021 and the Twelve Market Days of Christmas to be held instead on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays, from 26th November to 20th December 2021. The one-day Christmas Market to resume again in 2022, pandemic and Government guidelines permitting.

Vote: unanimous.

It was suggested that a wandering musician could be booked for the Twelve Market Days of Christmas, but this to be looked at nearer the time.

c) An event to mark the past year of the pandemic, for positivity

Much discussion took place on marking the past year and ideas included:

A Blossom Garden as an area of contemplation on Eastgate Green.

A plaque at the base of the tree in Eastgate Green which HRH Prince Philip planted, in memory of him and the people lost over the past year.

A sculpture.

An exhibition of sculpture work, poems, stories and paintings.

An Inter-Faith Service.

It was requested that this item be put onto the next agenda, which will be to consider an area of contemplation and repose and to remember HRH Prince Philip.

d) Harvest Festival

An idea was put forward for a Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service to take place in October 2021 as a Thanksgiving event and also to mark the pandemic. There could also be a facility for people to contribute food items, which would be donated to the Food Bank. All the faiths in Sleaford would be contacted to ask whether they would be interested in taking part in the service and this would either take place in person, or virtually, depending on the Government guidelines.

Recommendation: that a Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service be held in October 2021, in principle.

Vote: Unanimous.

e) Events for the younger and older generations

It was agreed that past events have catered for all generations. An item to be put on the next agenda to go forward with this.

7. Forward Planning for the Council Year 2021 to 2022

The following events are hoped to be put forward to be held within the next year:

Harvest Festival

Blossom Garden or an area of contemplation

Sleaford Town Awards (to be put on the next agenda)

Twelve Market Days of Christmas

It was noted that we are unaware of where the pandemic will be in the Autumn and Winter.

8. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 10.30am.

The meeting finished at 12.15pm.