

Item 7. Newent Farmer's Market



1 Saturday of every month

Newent was granted its Market rights in the 13th century, once supporting industries such as glass and coal, along with fairs of horse and beasts and of course farmers and traders.

We recognise that we are fortunate to have the Friday Market at the Memorial Hall and of course Market to your Door – which is a fantastic addition, and well supported by our towns residents. We also have the Green Tops Market on the 3rd Saturday which has newly started.

Local street businesses recognise that when these markets happen trade improves. Adding another reason for people to spend money within the town can be of benefit to all, including bringing in other people from nearby villages by car or on new the Daffodil Line. One concern raised was that closing a road could reduce people from parking along Broad Street, which some residents and business said would reduce people wanting to go.

We have canvassed local farmers and traders and are hoping for a wide spread of local produce and have been pleased with their interest.

The 1st Saturday is a popular day for Market and so some producers couldn't make that day as they are committed elsewhere but could do the 2nd Saturday, but this isn't ideal with Green Tops on the 3rd Saturday. There are also quite a few very established local produce markets on 1st Saturday locally, which could be negative competition.

We have looked at costs:

NTC would need insurance to run the market which is currently in place and comes under the Council's standard insurance, and no extra cost.

Stall holders would provide their own stalls and covers and indemnity insurance to cover their stall. They will also complete a form in advance at the time of booking: with their details, their insurance details etc. NTC have a form all set up.

There would need a Market Manager for the day to ensure that all stalls are set up according to the plan, to be there at Set Up to check that what is being sold is correct, and then at pack up to ensure it has all been tidied up. 3 Councillors (Escritt, Selwyn and Josh) have agreed to share this role at least for the initial 6 months and then take it to council to discuss a permanent Market manager role if the market is a success. There would be no cost for this role in the initial 6 months, and cost

following is currently unknown. It is hoped that other councillors would be available to step in on occasional months if necessary.

Local market stall Prices.

Newent Memorial Hall - £7 per small table

Rudford/Tibberton - £5 per table

Ross Market Square - £16 large pitch (double)

Profits raised from pitch hire can be utilised to go towards paying for the future market manager and to support further seasonal markets, such as an evening Christmas Market.

However, to give a boost to stall holders and help build their customer base we could consider £0 per stall for the initial 6months, and thereafter review the charge.

Location:

Under the Market House and all over the paved area. This can support 12 to 13 stalls of 3X3m Gazebo size. This is a manageable number and a good way to have some regular stalls and also space for seasonal stalls too.

This has been marked out and Steve will help produce a numbered map so that the stall holders and market manager know which producer is going on which stall position.

Time

Set Up – 7.30am

Market Open 8.30am – 2.30pm

Packed Away – 3.30pm

Proposal

Newent Town Council to agree to start a monthly Farmers Market on either the 1st or 2nd Saturday of every month on the Market Square (to be determined by producer availability). It will be run by the Town Council and a TC representative will be there at set up and at close down and 'on hand' throughout ensuring health & safety regulations are in place and the area is left clean and tidy after the market closes. This market manager role will be reviewed after initial 6months. The stall fee will be set for initial 6 months at £0 to allow for growth development and then reviewed.