

AGENDA ITEM 10b

NOTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING of the TOWN HALL & MARKETS CONSULTATIVE GROUP held on WEDNESDAY the 20th January 2021 at 5.00pm.

PRESENT

Representing Tavistock Town Council

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Mayor ex officio)

Councillors P Squire, B Smith, Mrs G Parker, A Lewis, A Hutton, A Venning

Representing Market Traders' – R Jones

Representatives of COVID-19 - Mr K Bruce, Mrs D King, Mr B Vella, Ms K Milton

Representing shops in the Pannier Market surround – Christine Rickard

Representing Users of the Town Hall – none present

Representing BID – Chris Palmer

Representing the Chamber of Commerce – none present

Officers – Town Clerk (TC), General Manager (GM), Town Hall & Events Manager (TH & EM), Market Reeve & Designated Premises Supervisor (MRDPS)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs S King

2. CONFIRMATION OF NOTES

- a) The Notes of the Meeting of the Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 were received.
- b) There were no matters arising.

3. CORONAVIRUS

- The General Manager began by asking the Market Reeve to give a short overview of the current situation and plans going forward.
- The Market Reeve explained how the changes to the Tier rules from Tier 2 to Tier 3 was not a popular one as it seemed contradictory that the government was advising people to stay at home unless absolutely necessary.
- The Market Reeve went on to explain that there was a plan in place to operate an Essential Traders Hub within the Pannier Market through the January lockdown as was done in November in Butchers Hall. He noted that the plan was to open the south side of the Pannier Market down to Bob's Café for the sale of essential goods only. This option was put out to traders who fell within this category, however there was not enough interest from traders this time around as some thought footfall would be minimal and some felt it unethical as people are being advised to stay at home. Those essential traders who wished to trade had therefore been advised that they would be able to do so on Bedford Square during the lockdown period.

4. PANNIER MARKET/BUTCHERS' HALL/TOWN CENTRE REOPENING

- Members discussed funding available for additional safety measures for the reopening of high street and were advised by the Town Hall & Events Manager who was facilitating the scheme with WDBC and BID that all options are being considered to maximise use of the available funds, but that there are strict rules on how it can be used. There had been a recent meeting with BID to ensure the usual collaborative approach. Linked to this, the Town Hall and Events Manager advised members that the ambassador programme which was used through December on the high street would not be implemented again during this period as the initiative had not been productive.
- Councillor B. Smith raised a point that he has noticed that drivers are driving along the high street at unsafe speeds and that members of the public had also raised this as a point of concern with him. He asked about the potential of adding in additional signage to help to mitigate this. The General Manager was in agreement that this was something which needed to be reviewed with BID, WDBC and DCC further to ensure the safety of users of the town. It was noted that it would be beneficial that any signage would need to be placed in a way that warns drivers in advance of them entering the high street itself.
- Members discussed safety measures which could be implemented throughout the town such as barriers for pedestrian walkways and hand sanitizers. The General Manager advised that barriers should be considered for implementation in some key areas, dependent of Government Guidance and that a site meeting with BID would be arranged to discuss the options.
- A market trader asked if the available funding could be used to purchase items in advance for the reopening of the Town and was advised that that is something which is being explored but that the rules are quite strict and that anything purchased with this funding must be for the general use of the town and not aimed at helping any specific business in particular.
- It was raised that there seemed to be a growing number of A-Frames being used on the high street again which is making the pedestrian walkways feel cluttered. It was noted by members that street furniture should continue to be reviewed in conjunction with WDBC as the enforcement authority to ensure that it is appropriate.

5. COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

- The General Manager emphasised the importance of good communication to keep all stakeholders informed during this period.
- The Market Reeve explained that communication with traders had been quiet during this lockdown and that the majority were awaiting

further announcements from the Government. Contact would be made to all regular traders when there was new information to disseminate. The Market Reeve informed members that a list of prospective new traders was being compiled, as well looking to re-introduce some traders that have not traded since the start of Covid-19, it was noted that some of these traders have now not traded for nearly a year, which emphasised the importance of introducing new traders where possible.

- The Market Reeve has emailed existing and potential new traders with the plans for Bedford Square in 2021, to continue building a foundation of traders for this area for the April – September period. It was decided at a previous meeting that trader reps would like some involvement in this to help ensure a complimentary mix of traders would be used that would mutually benefit both Bedford square and the Pannier market, a zoom meeting would be arranged with said traders.
- It was explained that a contact details list for all perimeter shops had been developed to ensure effective communication during lockdown and going forward, this list would be passed to the perimeter shop representative for the same purposes.
- The Town Hall & Events Manager advised that there had been a plan for Butchers' Hall events to restart from the end of January but that the aim is to now begin in April, starting with the Arts Market on April 3rd. All Arts Market traders had been contacted with the event schedule for 2021 and that other Butchers' Hall traders either had been or would be contacted in the coming weeks with the other themed market dates.
- The Town Hall & Events Manager had continued to keep in touch with traders and hirers throughout this period and was forwarding any relevant information across as soon as was practicable on receipt.

6. TOWN HALL ARRANGEMENTS/BEDFORD SQUARE & EVENTS

- The General Manager & Town Hall & Events Manager advised that all Town Hall activities have been cancelled until 31 July 2021 and that further review would be undertaken in April to discuss plans for August onwards. The Town Hall and Events Manager advised that bookings were being taken from August onwards, however much would rely on the restrictions going forward.
- The General Manager advised members that the plan is for Bedford Square to remain free from most street furniture in order to facilitate open air markets with as much space as possible to ensure public safety and to maximise useable space.
- The General Manager reiterated that the Garden Festival had been cancelled for 2021 as had been mentioned at prior meetings.

- The General Manager stated a review of the potential for Goose Fair for 2021 will be undertaken in May.

7. ANY MATTERS RAISED BY REPRESENTATIVES

Trader representatives advised that they had invited comments from traders in their capacity as representatives, however nothing had been raised at this time, apart from consideration of later opening times, as the majority are waiting to hear more information from the National restrictions.

8. ANY MATTERS RAISED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TAVISTOCK BID

No further matters raised by Tavistock BID but it was explained that the next meeting of BID was to be held on 21st January and that matters such as reopening the town centre would be discussed at that meeting.

9. ANY MATTERS RAISED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No members present from the Chamber of Commerce

10. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

No urgent business brought forward by the Chairman

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that an additional meeting would be held on Wednesday 24th February 2021

The date of the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 23rd March 2021

The Meeting closed at 17:40pm

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....