

AGENDA No. 9

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

PANNIER MARKET REPORT

TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report, is for Members to understand the current operating arrangements since the second lockdown, and update members on trading for the period of December and plans for January onwards.

1. CURRENT OPERATING POSITION

- a) With the recent announcement of the West Devon area moving into high alert tier 3, there is currently some trader concerns around the financial longevity of being able to maintain five-day opening during this next period of uncertainty. Discussion has been undertaken with the General manager to decide a strategy to maintain a mix of trader occupancy and financial stability.
- b) Understandably the current situation has made some traders feel some trepidation about returning or continuing to trade whilst numbers are on the rise. We will continue to try and support those that remain and continue to operate within the guidelines that the Government permits. With an imminent change to current restrictions looking likely, this will determine the approach that is adopted going forward, we already have the foundations of a logistical and strategic approach into the new financial year, which we will monitor and be ready to implement changes should restrictions alter or be taken out of our hand by Government.

2. TRADER OCCUPANCY/CONFIGURATIONS

- a) The table configuration remains at around 121 rentable tables, however the recent movement into tier 3 combined with the time of year has seen a substantial drop in foot fall, leading to less desire to trade. There are no immediate plans to change the layout as social distancing stills remains paramount to the safe operation of the Pannier Market.
- b) With the current trading position and the drop in footfall, it has been decided to currently keep the previously agreed 5-day trading but offer a further incentive, this should hopefully offer some stability to trader's a be beneficial to the Town Centre, this will be reviewed weekly and will be pending any national decision on further restrictions.

3. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

- a) After the November lockdown, the Pannier Market agreed with traders to trade every day on the build up to Christmas, traders were grateful of opportunity to trade throughout this period and footfall was good apart from a few of the Sunday's and Monday's, this gave us and traders opportunity to maximise income over this condensed period to try and recoup some of the loss that the November lockdown impacted on.
- b) By trading every day from 02nd December through to the 24th December, we generated table space income of **£26,202.00**, as a way of comparison, for the same period in December 2019 we generated **£28,121.00**, so as you can see, by opening on the additional days allowed to generate income just short of the usual table income over the same respective period.

4. TRADER CONCESSIONS/IMPACTS

- a) It was previously agreed with traders that the Pannier Market would attempt to return to some form of normality at the start of 2021, meaning we would open our traditional days of Tuesday – Saturday, this would then be reviewed during a rescheduled consultative meeting in January, it had been decided the normal concession of £8 per table would be implemented for January and February with the possibility of the March becoming an additional month top include the concession.
- b) In addition to this, and with the announcement of moving into Tier 3, it was decided that would attempt to continue 5 day trading but offer Wednesday, which is a notoriously slow day as free of charge, this would give traders an additional concession whilst we review the current situation, as explained earlier, Tier 3 has had a considerable impact on footfall and traders desire to continue with 5 days, this will be further reviewed by the end of week commencing 4th January as further government restrictions look likely.

5. TRADER SUPPORT/STAKEHOLDERS

- a) By undertaking regular reviews of the current regulations, has enabled us to offer support to traders where necessary and attempt to move forward in 2021 with some continuity that supports traders and the regrowth of the Town Centre's high street, whilst recognising the important part that the Pannier Market plays in enabling a stable retail environment for local shoppers and visitors.
- b) We will continue to work with Tavistock BID to ensure a collaborative approach is undertaken for the mutual benefit of traders, perimeter shops and the high

street, offering crucial support during such unprecedented trading times as we move forward into an uncertain beginning of 2021.

6. CONCLUSION

Much of what we do moving forward will be reliant on Government restrictions and the avoidance of a national lockdown or moving into Tier 4, however should this scenario happen, we will endeavour to continue with the essential hub that was implemented in November, that at least allowed facility for eligible traders to trade and a small revenue stream, we would also then consider again housing the Farmers Market once again in Butchers' Hall subject to applicable guidance.

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Tavistock Town Council