

Minutes of York Market Traders Forum (YMTF) meeting

11th November 2022

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

**Present: -**

Lee Boxall

Richard Dransfield

Jana Hall

Jym Harris

Rupert Harrison

Martin Spencer

John Taylor

Kevin Tuohy

**Apologies received: -**

Clare Morris

Natalie Kirrane

**Absent: -**

John Mannion.

**Agenda.**

1. Apologies
2. Committee member conduct
3. Christmas closing times
4. Market leaflet
5. MIY in general
6. Christmas video and website
7. Licenses
8. Leasehold units for sale
9. Other business
10. Apologies.

Apologies received from Clare Morris

1. Committee member conduct.

Kevin Tuohy raises the matter of committee member unacceptable behaviour. Everyone agrees that way forward is to be respectful to each other. Martin Spenser suggests being more considerate toward each other in terms of not interrupting when speaking and taking turns in expressing thoughts and opinions, as during the recent meeting with MIY there was a lot of voice raising, not letting others speak and interrupting.

1. Christmas closing times and other Christmas matters.

It was discussed that during the week days to keep the market opening times until 6pm would create a lot of difficulties for many traders, due to many personal reasons eg children need to be collected from schools before 6pm etc. It was agreed that the best option for market opening times during the ST Nicholas Fair would be: Sundays to Fridays until 5pm and Saturdays until 6pm as on Saturdays the footfall is very high after 5pm and therefore it would be dangerous to drive into the city. Also, the market is still busy and it brings more sales for many traders. The staggering times were also suggested for the vehicles to have a smoother access during this busy time of the year. Kevin Tuohy is going to contact MIY to clarify this..

During the discussion Kevin raised the matter about ST Nicholas huts blocking the exit from the Jubbergate. It was discussed that during the last week when the huts were build, several traders have been approaching the MIY staff to raise the matter but nothing was done to rectify the issue. Richard Dransfield raised the concerns that MIY staff have checked and reported that the huts are out only 18”, however, it is much more than that. It was discussed and agreed by all that this is the same issue every year, and every year it was promised to be taken on board, however, nothing has been done so far. Rupert stresses that the exit from Jubbergate is far to narrow, this would be a great risk in case of fire as people would have nowhere to go and would cause crowd crash, that it should be at least as wide as opposite M&S. Also, as the footway passing the Jubbergate is so narrow it would prevent from customers walking in the Shambles market as the pass way would be too narrow. Lee pointed out that MIY have taken a full row of huts out but it is still too narrow as the space in a middle have been increased but not at the side where Pret`s and M&S is located .Richard is going to forward to Kevin photos from the previous years hut position on ST Nicholas Fair and Kevin is going to contact Karen and new staff named Alice from MIY try to rectify this.

Rupert mentions that locals avoid city during the Christmas period and mentioned the example of other markets such as Lincoln City, who have one day, such as Thursdays, as locals only shopping day.

It was discussed that 10% Christmas shopper discount has not been clarified from MIY side. It is only known that the discount was mentioned on the ST Nicholas Fair application form, but nothing is clear - to whom, how often and how many times. Kevin is going to get back to MIY with the suggestions and ideas regards the matter.

1. Market leaflet

The market Christmas leaflet was confirmed for printing anonymously. The amount would be 2500 leaflets with cost of £162 and Jana mentioned that we would pay distributors £10 per hour and it would take about 3 hours in the mornings during the ST Nicholas Fair. The leaflets would arrive next Friday, 18th November and market office on Silver street agreed to keep the leaflets there and committee members could just go and collect as and when needed. Jana Hall mentioned difficulties to find distributors. It was discussed and agreed that the leaflets should be distributed at the coach station on Haxby Road and train stations exit. Also, it was suggested to distribute some to Visit York Information centre and possibly some local cafes. Martin suggested to get in touch with people from I`m reusable, it was agreed to be a good idea and Martin is going to email them. Jym Harris mentions Park&Ride buses. It was agreed that that would not be very effective as cleaners most likely would just bin the leaflets after cleaning. Richard mentions to get in touch with Hog Roast Joanne and there was more discussion regards to whom to speak. It was also agreed to speak to Big John who is not trader but is part of our market community and ask if he would be distribute some of leaflets. Kevin promises to ask if there`s a possibility for MIY staff to distribute some leaflets whilst out on their daily walks.

1. MIY in general

Richard starts discussion with mentioning how dirty and unacceptable for trading was Jubbergate last Monday morning. John Taylor agrees stating that it was completely disgusting on the previous Saturday morning as well. It was discussed and was also mentioned that Joe Etheridge from MIY was around and working on cleaning duties and that MIY is currently short on staff. It was agreed that something need to be done, no matter how poor Eboracum delivery is, especially that a very busy period is just about to start. It was agreed that MIY must be aware of the problem as otherwise they would not be able to keep on top of this with the current arrangements that they might have in place.

John Taylor points out the positive fact that MIY now is very responsive to our emails and this is improvement and heading in the right direction. However, he also states that the current physical state of canopies is absolutely unacceptable and this need to be sorted as soon as possible. He has spoken to Karen from MIY and she confirmed that Johny Cooper and his team could rectify canopies in a matter of days. It was discussed how poor the previous job has been, that Joe Etheridge was overlooking the project and that hopefully someone else will be supervising and leading the task.

There was discussion regards the solar panels that Sarah Loft has mentioned previously in the meeting and separately when having conversations with different committee members. It was agreed that we would ask MIY to provide with more technical information to see more details.

1. Christmas video and website.

Rupert passes this topic over to Jym as he overlooked the project. Jym states that the video was created last year and grant has been used for this, and that we could use that video again. Jym is going to speak to MIY about it and if they are happy for us to share the video as MIY see the name of the Shambles Market as their property. It then would be send out to wider trading community. Jym would be taking this task, will do this next week, and also will ask office if they are happy to send out generated email to all the trading community.

1. Licences

Rupert expresses concerns about commodity paperwork, and that actually we do not have licences at all and there is no legal documents to confirm that either. That when officers were walking around filling the form years ago, it was not about the commodities, but toe gather details eg staff NIN, contact details etc. The single commodity on those forms were just a quick and partial fill, not the whole list and was not meant like that or asked to be fully written. Jana asks for YMTF to have a look into Serhats current issue with his commodity list as for the rest of the traders it has been a temporary allowance in place to sell what they sold before the commodity checklist up until 31st December. Kevin promises to speak to Serhat again to find out if that ahs been sorted, but in general it has been agreed that the matter should be clarified between Serhat and office. Lee speaks about Jules and Mikes current problem to get casual stall for Christmas period as they are 1 point short. The committee agreed that if there are stalls available then there should not be any reason why officer would not let them trade that day as the main purpose of the market is to keep the market stalls occupied. Also, it was agreed that it is up to MIY to make such decision and that YMTF is going to stay put of it, it was nevertheless agreed that sometimes there are exceptional circumstances and in Jules and Mikes instance it was the fact that they had covid and therefore could not attend the market a week earlier to start trading to collect enough points.

1. Leaseholds.

 Martin starts the discussion about Stam & Marias apparent leasehold property on the Paddock. It was confirmed that Laura from Dark Horse don`t heave a lease on her part of the Paddock. It was agreed that we are going to leave it for the time being to see what comes out of that, as we currently do not have any leases. Also, the possible succession plan in the future was discussed, also the fact that from Karen`s part we do not have any licences full stop. Martin mentions if we could in a future to have leases and sell our businesses if we`d decided to. Rupert mentions that on other market one can sell the lease subject to the market operator decision. The draw back for the leases would be the loss of seniority. Rupert thinks that we should ask MIY and find out about it.

It was agreed that Kevin sends an email to MIY about main bits as discussed earlier: Christmas, relationships and 10% discount. Richard send the photo from Jubbergate of what huts looked like in the previous year. Jym takes care of Christmas video. Jana confirms the leaflets for printing and overlook the distributing calendar. Rupert mentions that next year we should take a stall up during the Freshers Week in University to distribute market leaflets.