

	Meeting (No)	Market & Town Hall Committee (6)	
	Date	23rd April 2024	
	Document		
		Market & Town Hall Managers Report	MTH6/77

BBC Radio Merseyside

Phil Munns from BBC Radio Merseyside visited the market on 8th March as part of his breakfast show. He interviewed Cllr Kynaston, who spoke about Ladies Day, and Cllr Wastell. Unfortunately, he only had time to interview one trader, Nick White (Meats & Cheese) who did a great job of promoting the market as a whole. This was an excellent opportunity to promote the market and the radio link and pictures of the day, including Phil 'working' on the fruit and veg stall, have been put up on social media.

Easter Market

The Easter Market was very busy, and was delivered under the allocated £900 budget, for £830.79 including 2 banners that can be re used in future years. Over 110 children took part in the Easter Trail and traders reported record takings. It was brilliant to see the community come together for the event, shopping, eating and watching the entertainment, we even had some people dancing along to the Sea Dogs which was lovely to watch.

The Charity book stall raised £84 for Neston Community Transport, The Port Sunlight Sea Dogs raised £200 for RNLI with their collection and Maggie's, who had representatives out on the market, raised £228, this is great news for all concerned.

Due to the additional set up required first thing in the morning an additional member of HRGO staff was arranged for 1 hour, with the approval of the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Free room hire (Minute 10b M&TH 27.6.23)

As agreed, and in consultation with the Committee Chair, Free room hire has been provided to Little Actors for a fundraising table top sale on 24th February from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Reduced Pitch Fees for extreme bad weather

In consultation with the Committee Chair a 25% reduction of pitch fees only, was applied to market traders who traded in bitterly cold and very wet weather on 1.3.24, to encourage trading in future extreme bad weather for the benefit of the market.

Reduced Pitch Fees (Minute 10a M&TH 27.6.23)

As agreed, and in consultation with the chair, free pitch fees were given to:

- Neston Primary School on 16.2.24 – Recycling awareness in conjunction with CWaC
- Foster 4 recruitment hub on 8.2.24
- Little Actors fundraising stall on 29.3.24

The maximum agreed figure of £200 per quarter for fee pitch fees, to community or charitable organisations where there is community benefit, has not been exceeded.

Market Square Handrails

Our caretaker and Market Officer hopes to have completed a section of the market square handrails by the end of May, weather permitting, so that we can then assess if repair or replacement of the rails is the best option and if any further tools are required.

Tree Works

At the meeting on 18.10.23, agenda item 54, it was agreed:

- (i) **RESOLVED** that the PDQ Landscape Maintenance would be requested to carry out annual work to cut back new growth on both trees on an ongoing basis.
- (ii) **RESOLVED** that the maximum cost for the annual cut back of new growth would be £200 + VAT from budget line 4417 Responsive Maintenance.

The works took place on 19th March.

Finance questions from meeting on 13.2.24

At the meeting on 13.2.24 the committee asked for clarification from the RFO on the reason for:

- The projected overspend on budget 4425 Business Rates & Services Charges.
The RFO has advised that this was the best forecast available at the time.
- And also, on the reason for the projected underspend on 4439 Electric.
The RFO has advised that further bills for the year are expected.

In both cases the final figures will not be available until the year end has been completed.

Equals card expenditure

The total expenditure for the Equals card from 1.2.24 to 31.3.24 was £93.57.

Exceptions – Town Hall Lift Maintenance (Minute 67 M&TH 13.2.24)

Despite ongoing communication at date has not yet been provided for this work to take place.

Delegated Authority - There are no delegated authority actions to report.

General Risk Assessment (GRA) & Fire Risk Assessment (FRA)

As requested in Item 60 of the M&TH meeting on 13.2.23:

- The GRA & FRA have been updated to reflect the fact that markets do occasionally take place inside the Town Hall.
- The police have reported that the electric bike is now being stored at Ellesmere Port police station for use in that area.

Nicky McMahon
Market & Town Hall Manager