

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Market & Town Hall Committee (3)
	<i>Date</i>	19th November 2024
	<i>Document</i>	<i>Ref No</i>
	Market & Town Hall Manager's Report	MTH3/38

Halloween Market

The Halloween Market on 1st November was well attended and was delivered at a cost of £349.19, which was £150.81 less than the approved £500 budget.

Friday Market

We have had several new traders join the market in recent months including, nightwear & lingerie and a craft/party painting supplier and now have a short list of potential new traders who, space permitting, may join the market in the coming months.

After discussion with traders, we have agreed to hold an additional market on Monday 23rd December, as agreed at the M&TH committee meeting on 10.9.24 (minute 27).

This is likely to be a smaller scale market than the usual weekly event.

Town Hall Hire

We now have a new theatre group using the hall long term for rehearsals every Sunday afternoon/early evening. The organisers of this group, who are now Neston Town Councillors, are holding their Theatre shows in the Town Hall and are organising an antiques & craft fair in early December. They are also looking at the possibility of holding a monthly farmers' market on the market square, amongst other ideas that are being explored. I very much look forward to working with them to hopefully achieve these initiatives.

We have a short-term booking from a gold valuation company who are hiring the Town Hall weekly throughout November for drop-in appointments. Neston Samba Pirates Band will now be using the hall for their rehearsals on Monday evenings, going forward. Also, Neston Karate is starting an additional Friday night session starting from January.

All of the above will increase the profile of the Town Hall as a venue, improve income and potentially lead to further bookings.

Town Hall Roof Work

As you will have seen, the roof work has now started. We are informed that the intention is to complete the work to the front and side of the building before moving round to the back, because it is expected that the scaffolding and fencing at the back will encroach significantly onto the market square which may cause issues on market day.

It has been highlighted that the lack of ramp access at the front is a potential health and safety risk should there be an emergency. The contractors have therefore agreed to add a gate with coded keypad access to the fencing to allow access to the

right of the front door down to the side of the Town Hall. A ramp to the front is going to be provided by the contractors in time for the Christmas Events.

Market Square Handrails

The Market Square handrails have been ordered and the joinery company has been approved to fit them. However, due to their current workload and the ongoing wet weather the work has not yet taken place.

Market Square Bollards

The Brook Street entrance bollards have still not been fixed; however, the help desk have informed me that they are awaiting a cost of an alternative option. I have made it clear that it does need to be an automatic option, mainly due to the access and possibly emergency egress for the police vehicles.

Property services have contacted our Chief Officer for more information regarding the bollards and their usage. We hope this means that a repair/replacement is close.

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

No free room hire has been provided since the last meeting.

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

As agreed with the Chief Officer, a monthly free pitch has been offered to NCYC for them to promote their fundraising initiative.

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

Equals card expenditure

The total expenditure for the Equals card from 1.9.24 to 31.10.24 was £433.89. This includes the purchase of prizes for the Halloween Market Trail and also the purchase of a new salt spreader at a cost of £155.94, to replace the old broken one.

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

There has been no further update on the GSM/Safe line issue and installation since the last meeting, despite chasing the issue with the help desk and property services.

Delegated Authority - Trader of the Year Trophy (Minute 25b M&TH 10.9.24)

The trader of the year trophy has now been arranged and delivered.

Nicky McMahon
Market & Town Hall Manager