



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
MARKETS FORUM

Held: TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2007 at 10.00am

PRESENT:

Councillor Westley (Chair)

Councillor Allen
Councillor Naylor

Councillor Lloyd-Harris
Councillor Potter

Co-opted Members

Mrs Dawn Alfonso
Mr Paddy Deevey

Leicester Market Traders Federation
Leicester Market Traders Federation

Officers in Attendance

Peter Chandler
Trevor Mee
Dina Nathwani
Andy Thomas
Stacey Welton

Acting Head of Markets
Markets Department
Solicitor, Resources Department
Head of City Development
Committee Services Officer

Other in Attendance

Mr Graham Chambers

National Market Traders Federation

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3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Westley declared a personal interest in the business to be discussed, as his cousin was a market trader in Leicester and a non-prejudicial interest on item 7, as he had received papers regarding this for the Audit Committee on 5 September 2007.

6. RIVAL MARKETS POLICY/ BLABY FARMERS MARKET

Peter Chandler, Acting Head of Markets, reported on the current situation with the Leicester Market's Charter. It was set in place to protect the Leicester Market and prohibited other markets within 6 and two thirds of a mile of the City Centre without permission from the Council. Blaby District Council had been granted three Farmers Markets a year and an additional three which would

need to be run by the City Council. Blaby District Council had an additional requested to host twelve farmers markets a year, which would be debated by Cabinet. Councillor Connelly, Cabinet Lead for Culture and Leisure, reported that there was a possibility the decision would also go to Full Council.

Members of the Forum expressed concern that extending the number of markets would set a precedent and that it would not be possible to prevent other markets from taking place in the area. A Member of the Forum gave examples of a number of cases where requests had been made and that legal cases had been won using the Markets Charter. Members of the Forum strongly emphasised the importance of the Markets Charter to the City of Leicester and in their view this action would undermine any future protection of the City Market. It was suggested that this would also affect other cities that had market charters who had worked with Leicester City Council in the past.

It was suggested that an increase in other markets would add to the growing problems already facing Leicester Market. Members of the Forum felt that more support was needed for the Leicester market and traders. It was suggested that farmers markets were not always dedicated to local produce. In response it was noted that only local produce was allowed, and that it would be enforced.

Councillor Connelly welcomed the views of the Forum and agreed to present them to Cabinet. He felt that in light of the views of the Forum that the decision was likely to go to be resolved in Full Council. However he explained that the purpose of the farmers markets was not to undermine the City market and did not believe it would be affected. He explained that the charter had already been changed by granting three and felt that this would not be altered by increasing this to twelve markets. It was noted that there were possibly other reasons why there were problems in the market, which were being investigated.

A Member of the Forum noted that the three markets had been designated as a reasonable compromise to Blaby District Council to support local farmers who were struggling after the foot and mouth crisis and that the additional three were unnecessary.

Councillor Allen, seconded by Councillor Potter, moved that the Forum recommend to Cabinet to reduce the number of farmers markets that Blaby District Council were able to hold back down to three per annum. Upon being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

that it be recommended that Cabinet reduce the number of farmers markets allowed by Blaby District Council to three per annum.