

Whitby Market – Review as at 12-06-2018

A comprehensive review of the operation and management of Whitby Market commenced in April 2018 following the appointment of a new Market Superintendent for Whitby and Scarborough.

Initial investigations have determined that the review will take place in 3 stages as follows:

Stage 1. Immediate / Short Term – Now

To ensure conformity of existing operations to regulations and legislation and to put in place management protocols as necessary to ensure compliance.

This stage includes consultation with existing traders and directly affected stakeholders

Stage 2. Medium Term- within 6-12 months

To develop market operations to improve the viability and appeal of Whitby Market to customers and traders and introduce best practice and modern operating protocols where required.

This stage will include consultation with traders, stakeholders and other interested parties

Stage 3. Within 12+ months

To develop longer term business and investment plan for Whitby Market including potential capital investment in existing facilities.

This stage will likely include wider consultation with all stakeholders and potential funding partners and agencies.

Stage 1. Progress

To date the review has encompassed observing current working practice, meeting with traders and stakeholders and reviewing procedures and trading activity.

It has become apparent that management and operations at the Market have not always been satisfactory and that there needs to be a number of immediate actions undertaken to ensure the Market is placed on a sound and sustainable footing before moving forward.

Importantly the Council must ensure that the Market and Traders therein are fully compliant with all legislation and regulations. i.e. ensuring that traders are registered with the Council and carry appropriate levels of public liability insurance etc.; and to ensure that trading is carried out on days and times agreed with the Council and at days and times which can be effectively managed and regulated.

This process is currently in train and all of the traders will receive written communication as to the process and associated timescales as a matter of priority.

In summary the Council aim to have Stage 1 of the process completed before the end of July 2018 and to commence Stage 2 of the process immediately thereafter.

Trading Days

There is confusion from some with regard to the days that trading is permitted at Whitby Market. Unfortunately this situation has arisen due to a number of temporary consents coming into operation and subsequently expiring but which have subsequently become accepted as the norm by traders. Currently Trading takes place on an ad hoc basis on anything up to seven days a week.

Our research suggests that Saturday is the only “chartered market day” in Whitby (The Whitby Market Act 1872). That Trading on a Tuesday was introduced by way of a temporary licence in 1990 (but continued following the expiry of that agreement) and that consent for a Farmers Market to be held on Thursdays was given in 2012.

To date we have found no documentary evidence which provides consent for trading on a Sunday however it is apparent that Market Trading on Sunday has been occurring for a number of years and at least since 2008.