
PROPOSED CONTINENTAL MARKET FOR RAYLEIGH

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks the views of the West Area Committee on the options for hosting a continental market in Rayleigh town centre.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In 2008, a continental market was held in Rochford Market Square and another is planned for the weekend of 7 June 2009.
- 2.2 The market operator is keen to find a location in Rayleigh to hold a market in October. However, unlike Rochford with its established market square, it has proved more difficult to identify a suitable location in Rayleigh.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 There appear to be two locations that might be suitable for a continental market in Rayleigh.
- 3.2 The first location is the Mill Arts & Events Centre car park – the oval-shaped car park next to the windmill.
- 3.3 It is understood that the area available in this car park is sufficient for the needs of the market operator, but this car park could realistically only be used if no weddings were booked to take place in the windmill over the weekend of 9, 10 and 11 October, the dates suggested for the market.
- 3.4 This location would be convenient for the Bellingham Lane car park on the other side of the Mill Arts & Events Centre, though it is some distance from the High Street.
- 3.5 The closure of the car park for a Friday and Saturday morning would result in a loss of income for the Council, but this could be covered by charging a fee to the market, which is a commercial operation, to cover the loss and administrative costs.
- 3.6 The second location that might be reasonably considered for the market is the top end of Rayleigh High Street. This option would require a road closure.
- 3.7 The top end of Rayleigh High Street was recently closed to enable the upgrade of the gas mains. Whilst closure resulted in some disruption, vehicular traffic was still able to travel through the town centre and arrangements were made to re-route buses. The closure of the High Street also occurs on other occasions, in particular, for the Christmas lights switching on/off.
- 3.8 The High Street is, in many ways, a more satisfactory location for a market, given its central location in the town and very good level of accessibility.

4 WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 Views of the Area Committee are sought on the principle of a continental market being held in Rayleigh town centre.
- 4.2 If the view is that a continental market is something that could be beneficial to the town, views are then sought on the two locations suggested in the report or any other locations that might reasonably be considered.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If the Mill Arts & Events Centre car park is closed for a Friday and Saturday, the loss of income would be about £500. The market operator would be charged for the loss of income.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a statutory procedure to be followed to enable a temporary road closure and this would require the agreement of the Highways Authority and Police, the costs of the process would also need to be met by the organiser. The applicant will also need a Street Trading Consent to operate the market and a Temporary Events Notice under the Licensing Act, if alcohol is sold.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS** its views on:-
 - (1) whether it is appropriate to hold a continental market in Rayleigh town centre; and
 - (2) the preferred location.

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Background Papers:-

None.

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