

RAYLEIGH MARKET REVIEW

1 SUMMARY

This report advises Members of the results of the investigations carried out following the discussions at the last meeting held on 10 June 2003 when the feasibility of relocating Rayleigh Market within the High Street was considered.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members have already received representations from the County Officer (Highways), the proprietor and market trader representatives, Chamber of Trade, Town Council and representatives from the Rayleigh Lanes Indoor Market on this issue.
- 2.2 Following the meeting on 10 June Members were interested to hear from the emergency services as to their views on the matter. Members also requested that inquiries be made into how other markets manage to operate in High Street locations and how they overcome the difficulties raised at the earlier meeting. Information on the recent traffic study undertaken in Rayleigh was also requested.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Fire Service, Ambulance Service and Essex Police have all been contacted for their comments upon the proposals and invited to attend this meeting. Any responses that are received will be circulated upon receipt.
- 3.2 The Rochford Market Operator has provided some information on management of the Rochford Market site, which is held within the public highway. The Operator has confirmed the need for food stallholders to have convenient access to washing facilities. The operator also expressed the view that nearby taxi facilities were crucial to the success of a market and this could present difficulties for the Rayleigh Market if the taxi ranks were to be utilised or the High Street closed completely.
- 3.3 Litter was seen as an important issue that would be more difficult to control if the market was spread out along the High Street. The practicalities of Stallholders providing cover for each other and the likely increase in public liability Insurance for a High Street location were also factors to be considered in examining the feasibility of the proposals.

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- 3.4 The Operator's experience of the Rochford Market was that it brings more trade to the local shops in the square and Tuesdays prove to be the retailer's busiest day.
- 3.5 Sudbury Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also provided information in respect of Sudbury Market. Sudbury Market takes place on an area, which is otherwise used, for car parking. It is not located within the High Street and only marginally interferes with the flow of traffic at the end of the day when the market stall holders are clearing away, due to the double parking of large vehicles.
- 3.6 Members were concerned about the traffic issues and in particular requested information relating to the recommendations from the recent traffic survey undertaken by Essex County Council.
- 3.7 A Rayleigh Traffic Study was commissioned by Essex County Council on 2nd May 2003. This Study highlighted the traffic delays and congestion problems in Rayleigh Town Centre, which is particularly bad at peak periods when there is severe congestion and queues resulting in grid-locking of the town centre network. The Study identified various proposals for improving the traffic situation, for instance by signalling all key junctions and introducing additional turning lanes. These options are presently being evaluated and are the subject of current discussions between the District and County Authorities.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) To consider further the feasibility of relocation of the market within the High Street and receive further representations from statutory authorities and consultees.
 - (2) In the light of those representations, to determine the way forward in connection with the future relocation of the market.

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Background Papers:

None

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