

D R A F T Minutes from Market Forum Meeting
Wednesday 1 December, 2021
10:00am
Zoom

Present:

John Careford – SDC (JC)
Lisa Cowley – STC (LC)
Cllr Matt Jennings – SDC (MJ)
Jon Holliday – LSD Promotions (JH)
Pat Matjaszek – SDC (PM)
Dermot McGillicuddy – LSD Promotions (DM)
Sarah Summers – STC (SS)
Cllr Kevin Taylor – STC (KT)

Part One, Open Session: -

1. To receive Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jason Fojtik, Ian Fradgley, Kate Rolfe and Ian Shenton.

This meeting was not quorate, therefore it continued on an information only basis.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 September, 2021

These minutes could not be approved due to the meeting not being quorate. They will be deferred for approval until the next Forum meeting.

3. General Update from LSD Promotions

DM gave a brief update on each market:

• **Rother Street Markets**

DM advised that the Friday market is performing okay, using the phrase “not great, but not terrible”. He noted that a slump in trade is typical for this time of year.

However, the Saturday market on Rother Street is trading well, and is not experiencing as much as a decline in trade as it may have done in previous years.

- **Sunday Upmarket**

DM reported that the Sunday Upmarket is performing well, with its move from Waterside to Bridge Street being seen as a success by both traders and customers.

The Bridge Street Upmarket will reopen on 16 January 2022, before moving back to Waterside in March.

- **Victorian Christmas Market (VCM)**

DM advised that plans for the VCM are near completion, and that all is going well from LSD Promotion's point of view. Stalls are fully booked with traders, and the long-term weather forecast is looking positive.

The entertainment stage will be relocated from its previous position on Henley Street to the top of Wood Street/Rother Street.

Road closures for the event will come into place at 2:00pm on Wednesday, 8 December.

Following the latest government guidelines, LSD have printed additional signage to encourage social distancing, use of hand sanitiser, and the wearing of face masks.

PM asked JC to enquire whether SDC should also put up posters encouraging vaccinations.

- **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

DM reported that plans underway for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. LSD Promotions are taking part along with other key stakeholders and one meeting has already taken place at the Town Hall to discuss this. The next meeting will be on 15 December. LC will ensure JC and MJ from SDC members are invited to this meeting.

4. General update from The Town & District Councils

- **Future Management of the Market**

JC advised that SDC will soon be trying to find replacement for PM but is wondering whether to recruit now or in the new year. PM stated that she would be happy to do a handover with whoever is employed.

STC and JC will be the port of call for market information until a new recruit is found.

Forum members thanked PM for all of her hard work over the years and noted that she will be missed.

- **Victorian Christmas Market Festival – Civic Opening**

SS reported that plans for this are in hand and that invitations have been sent out. Responses are coming back in and are currently 50/50 for attending or not attending.

Unfortunately, the SDC Chairman cannot attend so JC and MJ will rally round for SDC support. LSD Promotions will be involved, depending on how busy they are dealing with operational issues.

- **Market's use of Bridge Street during January and February**

As this will be outside of the market contract, LSD Promotions seek the street trading permissions required.

- **Any Other Business**

SS reminded members to be extremely cautious with regard to data protection.

5. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that LC would send out a poll to ascertain the availability of members for the next meeting in February, 2022.

The open session of the meeting closed at 10:48am.