

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - TUESDAY 2nd JUNE 2020

AGENDA ITEM 7 – EVENTS

The below correspondence has been received from the Chamber of Commerce regarding future events.

“We are obviously looking ahead to the events that we have booked, primarily the Local Excellence Market on 29th May & then the Summer Craft Market on 27th July.

Also, as you are aware, a number of people have now stood down from the Extravaganza Committee (including myself after 10 years), meaning that we no longer have a committee in place to organise such an event.

However, given the current unprecedented circumstances that we are currently living in & after speaking to a number of our former Extravaganza committee, we would like to make the offer to organise a smaller scale event to switch on the Christmas lights on 28th November.

As it is looking like the “lockdown” will be extended later this week, we may be looking to postpone the market currently scheduled for 29th May. We would look to postpone it until 28th November, but hold the market from 9AM-6PM & then switch the lights on at 6PM as usual by the Mayor. We would invite a few local bands & choirs to play carols by the tree throughout the day, and also open the community shop with kids crafts and activities as we would do for a normal Extravaganza. We would not bring in a large stage & there would not be fireworks due to the lack of time to obtain sponsorship. We would apply for a road closure of High Street from 4PM-7PM as normal for safety reasons.

We would fund the entire day from Chamber funds & the only assistance we would ask from the Town Council would be to borrow some yellow cones for East & West St Helen Street, orange barriers to be placed around the flower bed & 2 members of the outdoor team, with vehicles, from 4PM-7PM to assist with the road closure (as has been the case in the past 2 years).

Given the situation we are all finding ourselves in at the moment, we believe that public would understand why a much smaller event would be happening this year.

Furthermore, if we need to postpone the summer craft market currently on 27th June, we would be looking at 26th September if the Market Place is available then, but the decision of this market could be made in a few weeks’ time.

I would appreciate a reply as soon as possible so that we can start to make the necessary arrangements or if you would like to discuss any element please call me on 07813 466186.”

Further to the above, note that:

- (i) The Local Excellence Market due to take place on 29th May 2020 and the Summer Craft Market due to take place on 27th June 2020 have been cancelled by the Chamber, as organisers.
- (ii) 26th September 2020 is available for the Summer Craft Market.

The Committee are asked to consider and advise.

Louise Brown
Administrative Assistant
28th May 2020.