

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE  
PANNIER MARKET REPORT  
TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report, is for members to understand the current operating arrangements since the second lockdown, and update members of planned operations for December and the current and projected financial implications at this point in time and going forward, along with other key elements and decision making in relation to the future operation of Tavistock Pannier Market.

**1. CURRENT OPERATING POSITION**

- a) Before the announcement of the second lockdown we were operating at 4 days a week, with the agreed opening times of 9am–4pm, the days of opening were Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, it was also the intention to extend the opening days to five days per week for the duration of December, with the addition of some Sundays.
- b) With the latest announcements from central Government, allowing non-essential retail to re-open on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, it is now our intention to include opening on a Monday to previous/existing plans, this means we would be open every day up to and including Christmas Eve, this gives traders the opportunity to recoup some of the lost income incurred by this second lockdown, whilst maximising revenue for Tavistock Town Council, please note that these plans are subject to agreement at the next Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group Meeting, which is being held at 5pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**2. TRADER OCCUPANCY/CONFIGURATIONS**

- a) Table occupancy levels remain the same as previously reported, with the current configuration allowing approximately 121 trading tables, we have slowly increased on the original allocation of 111 tables since re-opening back in July, and this figure should increase slightly as we look to maximise trading space going forward.
- b) The current configurations still allow for a safe trading/shopping environment, whilst following Government guidance on Social distancing measures, we have had extremely positive feedback of the measures that are in place from both stakeholders and the general public, with the feeling that a safe environment has been well implemented.

### **3. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION**

- a) Inevitably this second national lockdown has had a detrimental impact on current and future projected income, we have the initial loss during the closure and the uncertainty of future opportunities into the New Year. In the previous report members were informed of the projected financial position until year end, and at the recent finance workshop subsequent amendments were made.
- b) During this latest period of closure, the Pannier Market has missed sixteen trading days, with the current 4 days a week opening times, this equates to a loss of table income of approximately £17,424 based on a maximum occupancy of 121 rentable tables per day.

### **4. TRADER CONCESSIONS/IMPACTS**

- a) Along with the potential days of opening from January, trader concessions will be discussed at the forthcoming Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group Meeting, this will give us the opportunity to gauge trader opinions and appetite, alongside a strategic managerial approach to ascertain a practical and sustainable plan during such fragile and uncertain trading times.
- b) A more concise approach to trading during the said period will be detailed in the next report to Budget & Policy, this will outline our objectives and targets up to the financial year end.

### **5. TRADER SUPPORT/STAKEHOLDERS**

- a) We have continued to work closely with traders and other support where necessary, during this period of closure the Managerial team initiated an Essential Hub in Butchers' Hall (and click and collect) for the traders across all areas of activities that fell into the essential categories, this has been operational for three weeks with modest income, however it has provided traders with the platform to continue to operate and have a presence in the town.
- b) The Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group meetings continue to be the medium for meaningful engagement and a collaborative approach to current and future operations of the Pannier Market, with the meeting that is due on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November being brought forward to ensure adequate engagement for the next crucial trading period and beyond.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The next phase of engagement will be fundamental in agreeing a practical approach to the uncertain times ahead, this will give us the platform to offer crucial support to traders whilst undertaking a strategic managerial approach to maximising opportunities as we approach the New Year.

Duane Carruthers  
Market Reeve & Designated Premises Supervisor  
Tavistock Town Council