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Newbury Market Use it or lose it



Councillors Martha Vickers, Julie Csala, Gabrielle McGarvey and Joan Day out raising awareness for the Market



New cheese stall all the way from Paris

Newbury Market has been serving the community each Saturday and Thursday before many of us can remember. The Newbury Market Royal Charter was granted in 1596 and there is strong evidence that the market existed long before then.

Newbury's ancient Charter Market is threatened. Steve Brind, Newbury Town Council's Market Manager, says although the market has normal seasonal highs and lows the present severe drop in footfall is very worrying (some traders are thinking of pulling out if trade doesn't improve).

The Town Council's Market Working Party (which reported back to the Community Services Committee meeting recently) has been looking into ways of reviving interest in the market. A new leaflet has been produced to introduce the market to newcomers and visitors to the town.

The working party see their priority as reviving local people's interest in their market. A banner is to be hung across Northbrook Street inviting people to turn the corner and re discover their market.

Councillor Martha Vickers says, "Market shopping is a different, more personal sort of shopping experience, with less packaging, it's the sustainable choice. It's more relaxed and personal, with friendly stall holders ready to share a joke and advise and help when needed. There is a great range of fresh food, including a new cheese stall on Thursdays directly from Paris as well as a traditional cheese stall selling a number of different varieties on a Saturday".

Last Saturday four Newbury Town Council Councillors (Martha Vickers, Julie Csala, Gabrielle McGarvey and Joan Day) were out and about in the town centre raising awareness for the market, handing out leaflets and chatting to local people about the market. Some of the comments they received from local people were:

"All my family shop in the market – we all live in Newbury and always shop there.

"I hope the market traders don't pull out of Newbury – they are important to the Town!

"I usually shop in the market on Thursdays. It would be good to have some stalls outside the shops on Saturday".

"I like to park in Bayer on Saturday because it is free – but it's too far to carry my shopping from the market".

"I'd like to see the market back on Northbrook Street"

"The market was busier and there were more interesting stalls when it was on Northbrook Street"

" You can't call yourself a market town without a thriving market".

"I shop in the Market because I like to support small retailers"

"I always buy my fruit and veg in the market and I like the new cheese stall on a Thursday"

Recent years have seen the introduction of the popular Farmer's Market and Continental Markets. The Town

Council welcomes these newcomers but urges the people of Newbury not to take their regular Thursday and Saturday charter markets for granted.

Newbury is a wonderful market town and we should do all we can to continue to support this crucial part of our history.

Use it or lose it! Rediscover your market!

Newbury Town Council

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