

## Meeting to Review of Eckington Christmas Market held Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Attendees: R Bullimore, Lisa Baker, Darren Herring, and Sharna Gascoigne.

The Market was well attended, there was a good mix of traders. There were 62 stalls and all the stall holders agreed that they had an enjoyable and profitable day. The businesses in the town centre were very busy and had bumper takings. The event received lots of positive comments and feedback. Peak time was the lights switch on and the visit from Santa, Santa handed out chocolate to 300 children.

Traders started arriving from 6.30am, we will apply to close the road from 6am until 8pm next time. A couple of traders arrived late due to accidents and traffic problems on the motorway.

The police, Stagecoach, fire service, ambulance service, highways, businesses, and residents were sent letters informing of the times of the road closure. We need to inform Ashley Travel who do the school runs about the closure. A lot of people were not aware of the road closure, and they had to be redirected. It was agreed that larger road closed signs are required and to give people more notice put these signs up the week before.

There was a bottleneck at Gosber Road around 4.30pm.

Suggestions for next time: One way traffic onto Gosber Road from Southgate between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. Vehicles to turn left onto Gosber Road when exiting the swimming bath car park. No vehicle access onto Gosber Road from Gosber Street/Ducksett Lane.

There were no parking issues.

There were 11 volunteer market Marshalls, 4 Parish Council staff and Councillor Dye, who did an amazing job between them to get the market set up and dismantled, monitoring the event throughout the day, and helping to keep everyone safe. During the event there was a traffic accident at Atco traffic lights, the police diverted traffic up Station Road which caused quite a lot of congestion especially on Gosber Road. Two of our volunteers helped the police to direct traffic which the police really appreciated.

The volunteers didn't have a key to empty the bins on the precinct and there was quite a large amount of waste left on site over the weekend. District Council to be asked to provide additional bins for future events. Parish Council staff to remove the waste at intervals during the day and when the event has finished.

There are some loose kerb stones and BT grate on the precinct. Deputy Clerk to report these issues to relevant authority.

## Equipment

Lighting is poor on the precinct, there was 7 portable lights available, but it was agreed that additional lighting is required for any future events. The Parish Council have two gazebos a further two are required. Lisa has bought 4 two-way radios to be used at the weekly market.

## Income

£160 hot food and drink trader stall hire. (No charge to other traders)

£122 tombola stall

£230 from Friday market traders and businesses to pay for the chocolate handed out by Santa

## Expenses

£210 Snow Globe

£70 Face Painting

£100 Decorations

£60 Electric to businesses

£250 Magician ETT paid £250

Eckington Town Team who organised the Craft Market inside the Civic Centre were pleased with how their event went. As it turned colder and dark more people came into the Civic Centre. The stall holders were disappointed on the lack of refreshments though.

## Future Events

It was suggested that we hold a Summer Market outside and a Craft Market inside the Civic Centre Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 9am until 6.30pm.

Date of the Christmas 2023 Market Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 9am until 6.30pm

## Proposed charges for the Summer Market

£25 hot food and drink traders (using electric) £5 for other traders

Budget £1,000 for road closure, entertainment, publicity material and unforeseen expenses.