

Arundel Farmers Market - Working group update

5th November 2020

October market report:

We had a lot of positive feedback both on the day and subsequently, from stallholders and customers regarding organisation and safety, however our post market review highlighted a few learning and we have applied those lessons learned to our future planning.

1. We had taped off the market area and implemented a one-way system which we felt worked well, however the pavements were outside the controlled area and people used them in both directions, which we felt was a little constricted, we did move the tape to give more space to the pavement walkers as soon as we noticed this.
2. We did have some live music which we found needed closer monitoring as people stopped to listen and volumes needed to be controlled.
3. We had 14 marshals on the day who were all fantastic, but some find it difficult to approach people who may be starting to congregate and needed to be able to call for back up.

One or two shop traders are very against the Farmers Market and were particularly vocal on the day. All their concerns have been discussed with the working group.

Council Surgery stall:

Members of the Farmers Market working group shared the October Council Surgery stall in order to talk about plans for November and December full High Street road closure with residents and gather feedback. All people that were engaged with were positive about the market road closure proposals.

Two influential residents from River Road, were aware that we are trying to avoid taking traffic down River road and were puzzled as to why we were going to so much effort. They both felt that occasional use of River road has always happened. They simply don't want River road to be used for extended periods and are wary of "the thin edge of the wedge" which is an issue of trust between them and Arundel Town Council. The working group plan to open a dialogue with the River Road residence once we have trialled our alternative proposals for cars exiting the Crown Yard car park.

November market plan:

Covid Status has changed. In England new national restrictions came into force on Thursday, 5 November – lockdown 2.

Adur District Council, who we rent our stalls from, have decided not to supply the stalls during lock down. The organising committee also feel it is not right to ask our volunteers to leave their homes and act as marshals during lockdown.

Under these restrictions and taking into account these other factors, it is the working groups recommendation that we cancel the November Farmers Market.

December market plan:

We hope that lockdown restrictions will be lifted for the December Market and plan to implement the following should it be possible to hold the Farmers Market. We are also working collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce to give local businesses the opportunity to be involved.

- We have applied for a double road closure, yet to be approved (please see the maps attached), and are locating all stalls within this area, in this way we will be able to use our marshals better and free up the rest of the town for normal activities.
- We have invested in 8 walkie talkies to improve communication between organisers and marshals.
- We will monitor the amount of people in each area of the market and with the help of the radios, be able to control entrance if necessary.
- Live Music has been relocated to south side of the monument which is smaller and will discourage people congregating.
- A marshal will be posted by the music at all times to monitor volume and social distancing.
- Music sets will be reduced in time and musicians rotated with some periods without music at all.
- No pavements will be taped off and the High Street as a whole will come under the market's controlled area making it much more open, all entrances will be marshaled
- A One-Way system implemented for those pedestrians shopping the market stalls— see the attached plan.
- We will have clear signage supporting the One-Way system and marshals will be on hand to advise.
- We are again positioning stalls such that no High Street business will have their frontage obstructed.
- We are also extending the trading hours of the market to try to spread the customers out more.
- We will continue to sanitise all customers on entry into the market area
- We will continue to review our stallholder guidance and ensure it is adhered to (copy attached)
- We will provide marshals with masks and encourage them to be worn even though it is not a legal requirement.
- We will use the music PA system to make regular announcements about social distancing.

If the full road closure application is not approved we will continue with a partial road closure of the High Street.

