

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	<b>Market &amp; Town Hall Committee (1)</b>	
	<i>Date</i>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026</b>	
	<i>Document</i>		<i>Ref No</i>
	<b>Market &amp; Town Hall Manager's Report</b>		<b>MTH1/9</b>

### **Neston Market**

We have had a few new traders join the market over recent weeks and now have regular attendance by various casual traders making the market offering different every week.

Traders have commented that sales are lower than expected for the time of year, the cost-of-living crisis is obviously having an impact and possibly people are reluctant to travel from outside of the area due to the current cost of fuel.

### **Town Hall Hire**

Town Hall hire continues to be good; we have sadly lost our regular Pilates group as they did not have enough participants to continue. However, we do now have new bookings from The Merseyside School of Elocution Music & Drama, for a series of free concerts for the community, over the rest of this year.

### **Stage Project**

The stage project is now complete and I'm sure you will agree that the final outcome is a very much improved stage area. Little Actors Theatre Group have let us know how impressed they are with the improved space and may have an additional performance this year as a result of this.

Our caretaker has made an excellent job of sanding back many years of grime and wear from the stage the final result is outstanding, the new polish that he has applied has only enhanced this. I would like to thank him for the hard work that he put into this task, for volunteering the use of some of his own tools to save on budget and make the job easier, and for the additional hours that he worked to complete the work in a timely fashion.

The next steps will be to re paint the front lower section of the stage and to put up the lighting boom bars at the sides of the hall.

### **Town Hall & Market Square maintenance issues**

We are still awaiting an update from Equans/CWaC regarding the outstanding maintenance issues, including the market square bollards.

Our caretaker will be continuing to work through a list of more time-consuming repairs/improvements over the summer months, whilst trying to keep on top of the more minor jobs, safety checks and any issues that arise weekly.

Quotes have been received for the repair to the sink in the ladies' toilets. As this has come in within my delegated authority a contractor has been appointed and arrangements are in progress.

### **Town Hall Roof Works**

The final sky light was fitted on 4<sup>th</sup> June and all of the scaffolding was removed on 7<sup>th</sup> June to bring the roof works to completion. The final result is a very much improved roof and appearance of the Town Hall. This will be further enhanced by the improvements currently being carried out to the front of the building, as a result of a C&E initiative.

A repair to the external police door, at the top of the fire escape, that was caused by the scaffolding, will be carried out by the roofing contractors shortly.

### **300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Neston Market**

Plans are progressing well for this event and the Task & Finish Group are due to meet again on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Once plans are finalised, I will report back to committee.

### **Martyn's Law**

I have attended a NABMA webinar regarding Martyn's Law which comes into effect from April 2027. Some interesting points to note:

- Outdoor markets/events are excluded UNLESS they are ticketed. This is regardless of the number of people attending.
- However, if the market is attached to an indoor market/event and overall attendance is over 200, at the busiest time, then it does fall into the requirements. Something to consider for any Christmas events etc...
- For any events that do fall into the requirements then we would need to notify the SIA with details of the event and details of the Responsible Person. This is on top of everything else required, not in place of.

Although the Friday market is excluded, we obviously need to continue to be mindful of health and safety.

More info on Martyn's law can be found on the following websites:

- Protect UK
- GOV.uk
- NABMA

And I'm sure many others.

High Speed Training, and others, also offer a course to explain the requirements, if ever needed.

With the emphasis on Security and H&S and the fact that the current Terrorism Risk Level is severe, it becomes more of a priority to get the bollards, on the Brook Street entrance to the market square, fixed ASAP. CWaC/Equans have again been contacted for an update on this issue.

**Free room hire (Minute 10b M&TH 27.6.23)**

Free 2-hour room hire was provided to the Karate group on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May for their annual charity night, this year in aid 'Merseyside Against Blood Cancer' for which they raised a total of £676.31.

**Reduced Pitch Fees (Minute 10a M&TH 27.6.23)**

The maximum agreed figure of £200 per quarter for free or reduced pitch fees, to community or charitable organisations where there is community benefit, has not been exceeded.

**Equals card expenditure**

The total expenditure for the Equals card from 1.4.26 to 31.5.26 was £1005.74 This includes the purchase of a new Union Jack flag, the hire of tools and supplies for the stage project, tickets for a mayoral event and prizes for the upcoming summer market event.

**Exceptions** – There are no exceptions to report.

**Delegated Authority** – There are no delegated authority actions to report.

**Donations (Minute 24b M&TH 23.9.25)**

*Delegated authority has been given to the Market & Town Hall Manager to make up to 3 donations of £50 per year, should the need arise*

No donations have been made so far in the 2026/27 council year.

**Nicky McMahon**  
**Market & Town Hall Manager**