



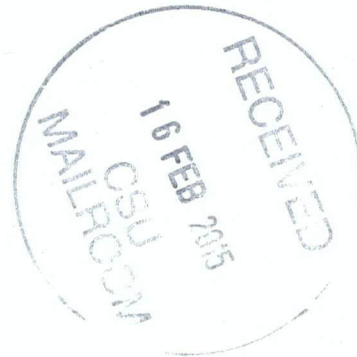
BARCOMBE NURSERIES

ORGANIC VEGETABLE GROWERS & CUSTOMISED BOX SCHEME



Ed Hele,
Principal Environmental Health Officer,
Lewes District Council,
Southover House,
Southover Rd,
Lewes BN7 1AB

12th February 2015



Dear Mr Hele,

I am writing to ask you and the licensing committee to support us, and other entre-prises like us, to be a part of the licensed market in Lewes.

We are a small business in Barcombe, 3 miles from the centre of Lewes, growing Organic Vegetables and running a vegetable box delivery scheme. Producing food on a small scale without the use of chemicals is not very profitable; yet one that is, we believe, crucial. The closure of small dairies around the country is testimony to the challenges of being a small, food producer.

Food costs now make up a much smaller percentage of the average household income than it did even 40 years ago. People expect food to be unsustainably cheap. We do not use the currently cheap, imported petrol based fertilisers; we invest in the soil adding compost and growing green manure; supporting the growth of a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem; and working the land in a way that reduces soil erosion and the risk of flooding.

We have been bringing a market into Lewes Cliffe for over 6 years and have built up a loyal customer base. There are many people in Lewes who want us there; we also bring people into the town who otherwise might go elsewhere. The stall does not make much profit (see attached); we justify it as raising the profile of our box scheme in the town. We enthusiastically share our passion for good food and sustainable farming; sharing recipes and gardening tips. There are no Green Grocer shops in Lewes.

Selling food, produced locally, directly to the consumer also befits the character of a market town such as Lewes. We would like the licensing committee to acknowledge and support a variety of initiatives locally; making the market accessible by offering discounted fees and having a flexible pricing policy (eg. charging by the day or part of; size of stall; size of business; turnover; etc.) for example:

Charities and local community initiatives and information-giving stalls

Businesses such as 'Fresh from the Ground Producers' and start ups; allowing them to invest their money in their work

Businesses that support council remits, such as the sustainability policy, or promote health and wellbeing

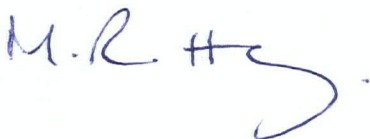
Currently we only trade on 28 Saturdays through LDC - 24 are with Common Cause, from whom you already receive a fee; we do not have the staff to trade on other days. We are charged £700 for the year (the price of a second hand, time saving tractor, or a huge contribution to our seed bill) ie £25 /stall. This seems to be a flat rate and would be the same if we were selling Double Glazing. Common Cause charge the same rate but with this, pay for a market organiser, publicise the markets, support local farmers and do educational work.

We are residents of the district and want to see the centre of Lewes a vibrant and dynamic place. We believe our weekly stall adds to this. Shop rates are so high in the centre of town that most businesses on the Cliffe are part of larger chains. The small independents cannot afford to trade there. We don't want our town centre to be a carbon copy of many other towns around the country.

We would like to be a part of the consultation process; if people have issues with any of the markets we would like to be able to respond and find solutions with them. Obviously the Council needs to be fair, but we believe a system such as we have outlined above would allow this, at the same time as giving support where deemed appropriate.

If you have any more questions, we would be happy to meet with you, the public, other market traders or businesses in the Cliffe. We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



Maggie Harvey

Produce Manager

OUTLINE OF BARCOMBE NURSERIES TYPICAL MARKET TAKINGS FOR 9/12 MONTHS

MARKET TAKINGS	£300
MARKET EXPENSE	
Nursery & Produce cost (including picking) 50%	£150
Van costs - Tax, insurance, Servicing, MOT, Depreciation, Fuel	£ 10
Parking	£ 5
Disposable - paper/plastic/carrier bags, pens, notebooks, labels	£ 5
Hardware - label pins, market boxes, barrows, display, calculators, scales etc	£ 5
Market Prep (Tom/Maggie)	£ 25
Market Stall Labour (Maggie/Freya)	£ 60
Waste (10% back to compost)	£ 30
TOTAL EXPENSES	£290
PROFIT	£ 10