



28 May 2024

Dear Members

Policy and Performance Advisory Committee - 30 May 2024

I am now able to enclose, for consideration, the following report and appendix at the above meeting that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Item No	Item
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9	<u>Update on the Lewes Farmers Market petition - to follow (Pages 3 - 8)</u>
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Yours sincerely

Committee Services
committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
01323 410000

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Report to:	Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
Date:	30 May 2024
Title:	Update on the Lewes Farmers Market
Report of:	Lee Banner – Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Transformation
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To update the Committee on the work towards producing a survey for the Lewes Farmers Market parking provision.
Officer recommendation(s):	The Policy and Performance Advisory Committee is recommended to note the update and discuss how best to progress the work.
Reasons for recommendations:	The Committee has previously requested updates on the work.
Contact Officer:	Name: Julie Quanstrom Post title: Head of Neighbourhood First E-mail: julie.quanstrom@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is to update on the survey work, which was proposed in relation to the Lewes Farmers Market and its current location in Friars Walk car park. This was an action that was agreed following a petition to the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee (PPAC) earlier this year.

2 Background

- 2.1 In June 2020, Lewes Farmers Market was moved to its current location at Friars Walk car park. The decision to move the market was in response to concerns about social distancing and limiting the spread of COVID-19. The market has remained at the Friars Walk location since that date. In August 2023, Lewes District Council received a petition requesting that the market be returned to its previous location at Cliffe Precinct. The concern raised by the petition was that the lack of parking space at Friars Walk car park, as a result of the market moving there, was impacting on businesses in the town. The Lewes Farmers Market operates 9am to 1pm over two Saturdays a month.

It was discussed and agreed at the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee in November 2023 that, in order to properly consider the impact of the market in Friars Walk car park, a survey of traders in the vicinity, market traders and residents needed to be carried out. Alongside this survey (attached at Appendix A) there would also need to be a footfall count on both market and non-market

Saturdays together with a count of available car parking spaces again on both market and non-market days.

A quotation was sought from a surveying company to carry out the work however, these costs were considered excessive, so this avenue was not pursued.

Officers designed a short, draft survey which was shared with the petitioner, Common Cause (the organiser of Lewes Farmers Market) and elected members for their input and comments.

The Council's Communications and Engagement Lead considered all comments from stakeholders on the draft survey and incorporated them into the final survey which is appended to this report.

The survey will be launched following the Parliamentary Election on the 4th July 2024.

3 Financial appraisal

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

4 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

5 Risk management implications

There are no direct risk management implications as a result of this report.

6 Equality analysis

There are no direct equality issues as a result of this report.

7 Environmental sustainability implications

There are no direct environmental sustainability implications as a result of this report.

Survey on Lewes Farmers Market

1. Are you completing the survey as: *

- A businesses based in Lewes
- A stallholder at Lewes Farmers Market
- A businesses based somewhere other than Lewes
- A resident of Lewes district
- A visitor to Lewes
- A partner organisation e.g. a charity, public body or community group
- Other (please specify):

If responding as a business, organisation or group, please tell its name (optional):

2. Are you more or less likely to go into Lewes town centre on market days?

- More likely
- Less likely
- It makes no difference to me
- Other (please specify):

3. Getting to the market

3. When you visit the market, do you usually:

- Walk or bicycle
- Travel by car
- Use public transport
- Other (please specify):

4. Parking

4. When you travel by car to the market, where do you park?

- A paid car park
- Free parking e.g. at a supermarket or on-street
- On-street parking (pay and display)
- Other (please specify):

If you use a paid car park, which do you use on market days?

5. Does the location of the market impact where you park on market days?

- Yes - I park somewhere other than Friars Walk car park on these days
- Yes - I avoid travelling to Lewes on market days because I cannot park in Friars Walk car park
- No - I am usually able to park at Friars Walk car park on market days
- No - I don't usually park at Friars Walk car park
- Other (please specify):

6. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current location of the market?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Strongly dissatisfied

Comment:

7. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current timings of the market? Currently this is 9am to 1pm on the first and third Saturday of the month.

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Strongly dissatisfied

Comment:

7. Questions for businesses based in Lewes and market stall holders

8. Does the current location of the market have any positive or negative impacts on your business, market stall or organisation?

Positive impacts

Negative impacts

9. Do you have any other comments about the location of Lewes Farmers Market?

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