

Appendix A

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S STREET TRADING POLICY

Summary of Responses from First Consultation On Draft Revised Policy Consultation Period 3rd June 2019 – 2nd August 2019

| | Consultee | Consultee Comment |
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| 1. | Stonehouse Town Council | Stonehouse Town Council considered that the District Council were achieving the best strategy for the Street Trading Policy. |
| 2. | Stroud Town Council | Stroud Town Council has no observations regarding this consultation. |
| 3. | Kingswood Parish Council | Kingswood Parish Council has reviewed the consultation and would like some clarification on the need for a licence for events on its playing field. |
| 4. | Minchinhampton Market Committee | Please advise why you feel that the market held in Minchinhampton may fall under market street consent legislation. The advice I have been given is that the right is vested in the owners of the Market Hall. Therefore I believe the market is exempt. |
| 5. | Minchinhampton Parish Council | Minchinhampton Parish Council concurs with the chairman that Minchinhampton's ancient Chartered Market Town status protects it from this legislation. |
| 6. | Slimbridge Parish Council and Whiteshill and Ruscombe Parish Council | <p>Both Parish Council's believe that the charges should not apply to these sort of events as they are usually fundraising events or raising for further community events; charging just defeats this object by taking away some of those funds. It is also further paperwork to complete on top of the other paperwork required such as TEN's.</p> <p>Much clearer clarification is needed in the policy to identify the events that would come under street trading and those that are likely not to, and if 'controlled entrances' are required for non-paying events, what would you expect to see as a 'controlled entrance'; how would these be checked or enforced, what would be the penalties for example?</p> |
| 7. | Dursley Town Trust | <p>The footprint of the Market Place is owned by the Trust and is therefore not to be construed as public space. The people of Dursley have free access to this space but only in the way Sainsburys car park is open to the public while remaining private property. We do not believe SDC's writ applies to this space. The extracts of the Charter that are referenced in our records consider both Thursday and Saturday to be assigned Market Days.</p> <p>The market traders in Dursley operate on wafer-thin margins. Making their business unviable will lead them to close. The people of Dursley will lose an important amenity and impoverish the community. Another small market town centre will become deserted. Dursley Town Trust will lose an important rental income, become loss-making and ultimately wind up, passing the Town Hall back to the Town Council, at public charge. The SDC proposal is short-sighted and self-defeating.</p> <p>I would also make a plea for the street stalls during Dursley Festivals (summer and Christmas). These Festival events are well-planned and managed by Town Council staff and volunteers, including marshals with hi-vis vests, and so do not carry the public risk that your proposal seeks to prevent. The stall holders also pay a fee to the Festival funds so, again, your proposed fee would be a second charge and the straw to break the camel's back.</p> |

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| 8. | Dursley Famers Market | <p>I am the organiser of Dursley Farmers Market and I am writing to you in objection of your proposed Street Trading Policy 2019 with specific regards to this market.</p> <p>I was very surprised to learn that if your proposed changes go through that we will have to pay potentially £275 a year so that this local market can still go ahead. This is a fee that we as a market cannot afford, and neither can the Town Trust who we work with, as any monies raised from pitch fees goes directly to them to support the wonderful work that they do in looking after the historical Market Place where the market is held. Below are my reasons as to why these changes should not go ahead, not just for us, but for other small community events as well.</p> <p>We are a very small market compared to the likes of Stroud Farmers Market and we have to work very hard to keep it going. There is always an ongoing turntable of stalls, with regular ones who have trusted the townspeople of Dursley to make them having a stall there worthwhile as well as new ones always wanting to either start out on a new business venture or to develop further. There are very few markets of our small scale left now in the local area, due to the draw of the larger markets.</p> <p>All of the stallholders that come to Dursley Farmers Market are local and more importantly they are small businesses. Being able to come to markets like ours, they are able to get their product known to the local people and spread the word of their business by word of mouth. Many of our regular stallholders have been coming for many consecutive years that they have built up a secure regular customer footfall, which supports not only them but also the new stalls that join us as well. In a time when we are encouraging people to shop local, there is no better place than this small market in a historical market town. Local is best for a reason for these small businesses and more importantly the market.</p> <p>The first objective of the current policy, “recognise the important service that is provided by street traders and the contribution they make to the local economy” is true of Dursley Farmers Market. The effect that we have on the town is a positive one as it contributes to the fantastic work the local businesses already do in the highstreet. I am a very strong believer in the thinking of “Shopping Locally” and this is something I am always pressing for at the market, therefore not only are people coming to the market but it is bringing them into the highstreet as well, thus supporting the small shops and businesses there.</p> <p>All of the above are just a handful of reasons as to why the proposed changes should not go ahead. We are only a small market; and this current era has been running in Dursley longer than I have been alive and is just one of the last remaining small markets to still be going in the local area. To lose such a valuable asset of the town would be damaging not only for the stallholders who make the market what it is, but also for the town itself as well.</p> <p>This market is so much more than a business enterprise; it is a part of Dursley and a part of its history. But if the changes go ahead, the market will not be able to survive and who wins then? It won't be the small people; it will be the big people; for those that can't travel easily, they will miss out on the wonderful produce that is brought to them. What about “shopping locally is best”? This won't be able to happen as people will have to go further afield, therefore affecting our highstreet.</p> <p>I feel so strongly that these proposed changes will destroy the small towns and the work that is done there to look after them. The market is so important for the people of Dursley, the stallholders and to me, to lose it would be devastating.</p> |
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| 9. | Dursley Town Council | <p>Dursley Town Council strongly opposes changes to the Street Trading Policy and proposed charges that would result in an adverse impact on charitable/community events and markets in Dursley and in turn community cohesion, our local economy, heritage and sustainability.</p> <p>The town has a number of annual community events that not only support local charitable causes and the local economy, by raising much needed funds and encouraging trade and visits to the town, but they also allow the community to come together supporting community cohesion They have been built up over the years by dedicated community volunteers, with support from the Council. They are predominantly held in the street and rely heavily on volunteers and fundraising activities, already having to cover the cost of road closures and other safety precautions e.g. first aid cover. Additional consents and charges add to the financial burden for these events, frustrating the efforts of local volunteers to bring the community together for the benefit of the town, threatening future activities.</p> <p>The markets in Dursley are small scale and they complement Dursley's existing traders and offering as a town. The markets are a great advert for shopping locally as the stall holders are from the local area, selling local produce and, for some, it has been a way to test or start out on a new business venture, nurturing small business and enterprise.</p> <p>The market traders that operate in Dursley today do so on wafer-thin margins and requiring them to apply for street trading consent would make their business unviable, forcing them to close. If this happened, the people and town of Dursley would lose an important amenity, which has for so long been part of the town's rich history. The pro-active work that has gone on locally to build the community and town up to be an attractive destination for residents, visitors and shoppers, would take a huge step backwards. Not only would it adversely impact market traders, but also town centre trade in general, the 'shop local' message and the environmental benefits of encouraging this, as well as community cohesion and local heritage.</p> <p>Today Dursley Market Place is owned by the Dursley Town Trust, so therefore technically the land is privately owned and although the people of Dursley have free access to the space it remains private property and the Trust could, if they chose to, restrict access. The space should be exempt from consent charges. Street trading consent charges would have a huge adverse impact on the Town Trust itself as it would result in the loss of an important rental income from the market traders, forcing the trust into a loss-making position and ultimately preventing them from being able to continue. The Trust has been able to keep both the Market Place and Jacob's House, two beautiful key heritage assets, in use today, as well as the Heritage Centre, which is of great value to the town and surrounding area, and this threatens their ability to do so in the future.</p> <p>For the reasons explained above we believe that street trading consent and charges should not be required by Stroud District Council for charitable/community events and small town markets, such as Dursley's.</p> <p>The impacts of the proposed changes to the Street Trading Policy appear to be at odds with the District Council's policies and the overall objectives and priorities for making the District a better place to live, work and visit for everyone. The proposed changes are short-sighted and unsupportive of small market towns and small local businesses.</p> |
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| | | <p>This comes at a time when Stroud District Council's tourism officer posts and funded TIC have also recently been lost, requiring towns to step in and take local action to prevent their economies suffering, when nationally there is a renewed focus on tourism and economic growth. It also comes at a time when there is renewed focus on the environment and the District taking steps to become carbon neutral in the near future, the 'shop locally' message and activities that support it, should be an important part of this.</p> |
| 10 | Nailsworth Town Council | <p>At the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 16th July my Council expressed deep concern about the changes and the following points were raised:</p> <p>A charge could suppress local enterprise, discouraging Nailsworth's Farmer's Market from expanding. A charge discourages local food outlets, running against a Climate Emergency declaration. This goes against the Market Town Initiative to improve market towns. The charge is disproportionate for the size of Nailsworth's Farmer's Market; Stroud and Nailsworth are not comparable. Could there be a 'peppercorn' charge? My Council were concerned that a fixed fee for weekly or monthly markets would not give flexibility for a smaller market to expand and felt that if any fee were to be introduced it should be 'pro rata' according to the number of market stalls and not the frequency.</p> <p>Further to these comments it's unclear how a charge would affect the weekly Friday Market held in the Mortimer Room which expands outside the library to include a plant stall. The outside stall attracts customers to this small, busy indoor market, full of local producers.</p> |
| 11 | Councillor Steve Robinson | <p>I certainly feel that there should be a pro-rata cost for the number of stalls eg in the Market Towns there are probably less than 20 stalls at any time and they are run on a voluntary basis. Stroud Market, as we know, is a business and has many more stalls to divide the license by.</p> <p>1 – 20 stalls 20 – 40 stalls 40 + stalls</p> <p>This would mean that markets with less than 20 stalls would pay far less than the £275 per annum which is proposed.</p> |
| 12 | Cllr John Jones | <p>Regarding fund raising community events such as, in Severn Ward, that are held on a village green, where the general public has right of access, which cannot be controlled by gated means, will this be exempt from a License, or is it covered under para 10.1.9 of the consultation document? Will the organisers of such an event as above, eg, a garden plant sale in aid of church funds, need to notify the Head of Health and Wellbeing that the event is taking place?</p> <p>Where do Funfairs stand in this Policy, as they sell food at such events, and usually take place where it is not possible to have a chargeable gated access?</p> <p>How much extra work will this upgrade of the Policy entail for the Licensing Section? Will the cost of the extra work, if applicable, be met from increased revenue? Will extra staff be needed in the Section to deal with increased workload?</p> |
| 13 | Stroud Farmers Market | <p>Paragraph 2.4.1 states 'Indoor Market Areas - The Council considers areas that are covered/partially covered and have an entrance/exit do not fit in the definition of an area the public have access to as they can be closed to the public and the operator refused entry'. The Cornhill Market may not fit in this definition as the public have access through Cornhill market area to the bus stop on Cornhill. Can</p> |

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| | | <p>the definition be amended so that the Cornhill Market area continues to not need street trading consent?</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4.1 states – ‘Waste – A street trading consent holder is responsible for the disposal of refuse and must not use Council, Highway or other public waste bins.’ The Farmers Market has an arrangement with Stroud District Council to use their waste bins’. Can this paragraph be amended to add ‘unless there is an arrangement in place with the relevant Council to use their public waste bins’.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.5.2 states – ‘Trading Hours - The Consent Holder will be permitted 30 minutes preparation time prior to the start of their trading hours in order to set up the trading vehicle and there will be 30 minutes to close down and pack up’. The Farmer’s Market needs a longer period of time for set up and close. Can this be amended to give a longer period of time for Market Consents for example 90 minutes.</p> |
| 14 | Abdullah Kologlu – Street Trader | <p>Assistants –The Policy states anyone assisting on the unit for more than 14 days a year needs a basic criminal check and photo. I think the policy should allow a period of up to 3 months before the consent holder needs to notify the Council and providing criminal check and photo of an assistant. Reason is that often staff members do not stay and so need a trial period before having the cost of a criminal check.</p> <p>Also I would like during periods like school holidays to have staff on for 4 hours a day without needing to do ‘DBS checks. They would be supervised</p> |
| 15 | Daniel J Tiffney Highways | <p>I would like to offer the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific to Section 4 Choosing a Trading Pitch Other factors to consider when identifying a pitch include prioritising locating it outside vacant property if possible and making sure that the wares or services provided by the street trader does not conflict with that of the shops nearby. • Other conditions include, if a gazebo is being used then the side must be open so that visibility through the stall is possible. <p>One matter that we have considered is whether SDC and GCC should draw up a plan showing the preferred sites where street trading can take place, is this something that would help with issuing trading licenses?</p> |