

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE	10 SEPTEMBER 2020	AGENDA ITEM: 13
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

POTENTIAL PROVISION OF UNDERNEATH MARKET HOUSE AS OUTDOOR SEATED AREA

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Members of the Economic Development & Planning Committee to give consideration to the area underneath the Market House being available as an outdoor seated area for use by local food outlets on non-market days.

Detailed Information

Covid-19 has meant that the local cafés, pubs, and restaurants have had to make adjustments within, which in turn has meant a reduction in their seating capacity.

It has been suggested that the Council could consider making the underneath of the Market House available for use by local food outlets in the vicinity to provide them with additional seating for customers and help with the economic recovery of businesses within the town.

The initial proposals from Herefordshire Council in respect of Covid 19 walking & cycling measures included the closure of Church Street, which would have provided the perfect opportunity to create a safe outdoor seating area under the Market House. However, the withdrawal of this measure meant that if this area were to be used for outdoor seating consideration as to how this would be managed was needed. The safest way to manage such a facility would be to make a request to Herefordshire Council for the temporary closure of Church Street from the High Street, however the Clerk has spoken with the owner of the Market House Café who has expressed an interest in the area being available for seating, and who has advised that they would be interested in utilising the space without the road closure and feels confident that with the right risk assessments in place the issue of traffic flow between the café and the Market House would not be an issue.

The Market House Café owner has also asked whether the space could be made available in the evenings when they are open as a Gin Bar. The Clerk advised that this would be dependent on them being able to obtain an amendment to their licence.

The owner of the Café would also be willing to discuss the possibility of the provision of outdoor heaters for the area which the Council may wish to consider purchasing jointly.

Recommendation

1. That Members of the Economic Development & Planning Committee give consideration to the above and agree to making the underneath of the Market House available for outdoor seating, on non-market days, subject to any necessary licencing being obtained.
2. That an application for a road closure to facilitate the outdoor seating are be made to Herefordshire Council.
3. That if the outdoor seating area is agreed, Council work with the Market House Café to jointly purchase outdoor heaters.
4. That the area be made available for use by the Market House Café in the evenings, subject to the Café being granted an amendment to their licence to serve alcohol outside of their premises.