

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title:	Themed & Street Food Markets
Date:	31 October 2023
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background for a decision regarding themed & Street Food markets in 2024.

Background

2. This report is in preparation for the 2024 town centre event calendar. The once-a-year visit from the French Market, twice a year visit from the World Village Market and the third Friday in the month Street Food Markets (Apr-Sept) have been considered successful in attracting visitors to Thame and with making the town distinctive by promoting the market town image, increasing footfall, and contributing to the local business economy within the town centre.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that a three-day French Market is held in October and the World Village Market three-day events held in spring and autumn are held and located around the Town Hall during 2024. Dates for visiting will be negotiated shortly and how many times throughout the year they can visit. In previous years dates for holding the markets will be confirmed to ensure dates do not clash or compromise with any other town event.
4. Each themed market would normally consist of 16 to 20 stalls arranged around the Town Hall. It should be noted that this year the French Market were only able to bring over 5 stalls and will be actively looking for more stall holders next year.
5. The 2023 Street Food Markets took place once a month, on a Friday evening from July to September. The weather was kind this year, each event was well attended by residents providing an alfresco atmosphere enabling families & friends to meet. Up to six food outlets, musical entertainment, and the ability to sit down at the provided tables and chairs enhanced the town centre vibe, promoting a social and cultural experience. The plan for 2024 is to keep to a third Friday of the Month from April to September (September will need to be a week earlier due to the fair).
6. The Themed & Street Food Markets will require a road closure to be taken out by the Town Council. All other arrangements will be managed by the companies organising the market, including the removal of all waste and parking requirements.

Risk Assessment

7. A full risk assessment and event management plan will be produced at the time of requesting a road closure.
8. Environmental impact, electricity output from the town hall will be part of the fees charged, to assist with reducing the number of generators on site.

Resource Appraisal

9. A fee comparable with the Tuesday market will be negotiated which will include the use of the external electricity points, with a slight reduction to cover three days continuous trading. Staff time and the road closure administration will be met through existing budget allocations. The estimated total income is £3,420, dependent on weather.

Legal Powers:

- The Food Act 1984 part III

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To **authorize** that the Community Services Manager to organise the Themed & Street Food Markets in 2024.
- ii) To **delegate** authority to Officers to arrange routine road closures associated with town events.