

To: Mr Brady,



Date: 24 February 2023

Dear Mr Brady,

Re: Petition regarding Ramsgate Market

Thank you for your petition which the Council received on 17 November 2022 with contained the following petition prayer:

“We the undersigned believe Ramsgate in general Ramsgate town centre in particular will benefit greatly by the re-introduction of our weekly market in the high street. We believe that the market to be vital for the recovery of the local economy and was a much valued meeting place for friends and family. We strongly urge RTC/TDC to bring the market back as soon as possible.”

I can confirm that we received your petition which contained 539 valid signatures.

In accordance with the Council’s petition policy, this letter will explain the next steps for the petition.

“Those petitions signed by 50 or more petitioners but fewer than 1500 will be presented to a senior Officer of the Council who, after consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, will respond. Then a report on that Petition noting what action has been taken will be referred to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council for their information.”

Your petition was passed to the estates department and their response is outlined below:

As you are aware, a market had been run on a weekly basis (Fridays and Saturdays) in Ramsgate town centre by an external operator appointed by Thanet District Council (TDC) since 2004.

Following the Covid lockdown restrictions of March 2020, the market was run on a trial basis in Staffordshire Street Car Park in August and September 2020 due to the difficulties of complying with social distancing requirements in its High Street location.

The car park proved unpopular with both traders and residents alike, and in October 2020, our Cabinet agreed that the market wasn’t working in its current form and should therefore cease.

The market has seen a steady decline in revenue since 2010, but has nevertheless remained popular with residents.

As previously reported on October 2022 <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/update>, we have started the process to relaunch the market by approaching possible operators and Kent County Council with a view to advertising the opportunity and inviting Expressions of Interest (EoI). Our goal is to find a new operator who will bring a fresh and financially viable vision for the market to life and we are actively consulting with Ramsgate Town Council to achieve this end.

We are optimistic about the outcome of this process and will keep you informed of any developments as they happen. Thank you again for your support and we appreciate your patience as we work towards bringing the market back to Ramsgate.

A report as described earlier in the letter will be made to the next Council Meeting on 30 March outlining the Council's response.

If you have any queries regarding the petition or the process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Nick Hughes
Committee Services Manager
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