

From: Chris Punt
Sent: 16 May 2011 10:12
To: Ross Corbyn
Subject: RE: Beccles TRO Review Cabinet Paper June 2011

Ross, good morning

New Market:-

Beccles is one of the 4 key market towns of Waveney District.

For many years it had a livestock and produce market but since its closure has struggled to show any indication of being a market town. Currently all that takes place is a limited Friday market, with on average 6 stalls in New Market, whilst the road remains open for one way through traffic. There is a demand from more market stall holders to have a pitch on the Friday market but due to space this is limited.

The proposal, as recommended by Beccles Town Council, is for New Market to be closed for Traffic on Fridays so that an expanded market can take place.

This will have the advantages of bringing in more visitors to the town and the subsequent economics, be a boast for Tourism, improve the safety of the market customers and stall holders.

The traffic re-routing and replacement of car parking should have a minimum effect on this part of Beccles.

I support the road closure of New Market for through traffic on a Friday.

Denmark Road:-

Denmark Road is a narrow one way road boarded by approx 70 houses on each side. This is the old part of Beccles and when build the roads were not very wide due to the limited number and size of cars.

Times have moved on and with most families now owning one or two cars car parking is at a premium to the effect that both sides of the road are used for parking, it was this that led to the road becoming one way.

The surrounding streets and roads are also of a similar width and there is no capacity for the car parking to be moved.

I was made aware by Tim Bray of the Suffolk Fire Service that the Fire engine can no longer get down Denmark road due to access width required by the engine and that a section of houses would be unable to receive a service in the event of a fire. As safety is the number one priority I cannot let this situation continue and the proposal to allow car parking on the footpath on one side for a section of Denmark road is the most practical solution to resolve the issue.

I support the parking on the footpath for a section of Denmark Road.

Regards

Chris

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Claire Boyne, Town Clerk
Mrs Julia Janney, Deputy Town Clerk

16-5-11



ross
WITH COMPLIMENTS

*John Pavitt is my assistant on market matters and
write on behalf of the traders.*

Julia

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16th May 2011

Mrs Jula Janney
Beccles Town Hall
The Walk
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NR34 9AJ

Ref. Market Place road closure

Dear Mrs Janney

Having consulted with all of the permanent Beccles market traders it is quite clear the proposed road closure plan would become an asset to the town and greatly improve the structure of the current market.

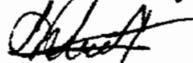
At present the market is too small for the population size of this town and its surrounding villages, similar sized towns in Suffolk and Norfolk have 20 plus stalls per market day, we currently have between 5/6 per market day.

The road closure would enable the market to be reconfigured to enable better customer access in a safe vehicle free environment and also allow a larger number of varying market stalls and traders.

The current shop keepers within the market area would also have an improved pedestrian access for their customers and would become an important integral part of the reconfigured market space area instead of being hidden away behind the current stalls in their present location.

The current market traders give their full support for the proposed road closure and reconfigured market place.

Yours sincerely



John S Pavitt

BECCLES AND DISTRICT REGENERATION LTD

Registered Charity No. 1107104
Company No. 5024541



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May 16, 2011

Dear Ross

RE - PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE IN NEW MARKET FROM JUNCTION WITH BALLYGATE TO JUNCTION WITH THE WALK

Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd (B&DR) took over the running of the Beccles Market at the request of Beccles Town Council. Since 1974 the Market had been in the hands of Waveney District Council and it took 4 long years of negotiation before it was returned to Beccles Town Council in 2008. As the Beccles Regeneration Ltd has charitable status and would be able to source funding, (which the Town Council could not) the Council felt it was in the best interests of the market to lease it to B&DR for five years. This would enable the market to be regenerated as it had not been handled in the correct manner by WDC over the years it had control.

Some 20 years previous, part of New Market was pedestrianised with the view of taking in all of the town centre. This, due to various issues never materialised, but for the general ambience of the town centre, it could have been the best way forward for both market traders and business premises. The main plight of the shopper is the lack of car parking spaces, but with Tesco being built on the old Clowes Printing site, it opened up more parking for shoppers and has been a bonus for Beccles.

Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd would like to hand back a vibrant and successful market to Beccles Town Council at the end of their five year lease and to do this the market would need to grow both in size and content. The Directors of the Company endorse the closing of New Market on Fridays in order for this to be realised, without it they fear that the market might die, although staff work hard to keep it full to capacity it is restricted by the size and near-stifling closeness to the existing shops. They understand that the businesses, although overall supportive of the market, are frustrated that the market is not what it could be if made larger and more diverse. If it was allowed to expand, more shoppers would be attracted to the town on Fridays and advertising would ring truer with the words 'Beccles, a Market Town'.

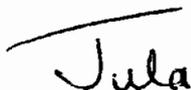
B&DR are aware that objections might be raised, but when a larger market is held, the compliments received from visitors and residents far outweigh the negative comments from one or two objectors. The town seems to come alive on a larger market day and it is hoped that, once it has been given permanent pedestrian status on Fridays, other attractions such as street theatre, music and other entertainment, can be introduced.

As times get harder and harder for both shoppers, market traders and shopkeepers alike, any encouragement to get people into town centres is imperative. Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd feel passionately about this 'project' for them as a way to keep Beccles a viable and sustainable Market Town for a long time to come and this closure of New Market is long overdue.

If you have any problems or queries relating to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia".

Mrs Julia Janney
Market Manager
Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd