

Dear Friends ,

Because I have been slow to send out this letter of victory, it now contains the news of two news letters. I am sorry it is so long but I need to cover many issues.

As has been widely publicised, our wonderful market has been rightfully reopened for the use of the city to safely shop in the open air once more during this biting pandemic.

The resounding voice of this city, and beyond, cried out to the irrational that led to this decision through the breathtaking petition raised by Robert Bloor and friends, which reached over 7300 signatories in just over two weeks.

The Friends are grateful for your leadership in this time of adversity, Robert.

On Facebook the posts collectively were reaching over 11,000 people within 24 hours. That is pretty viral for us. We had people helping us on many levels from a legal footing to many a cross letter to the council.

On all fronts, traders, shoppers and general public were united in their call of disapproval at the markets closure. This was supported by the media. It was a story to be told and heard.

But now, through a huge effort by many individual council workers, the market has been able to re-open to 18 essential stalls..... but not the Hot Food stalls safely as yet. And since all the takaway cafes are still trading around the Market Square the traders all feel that this is an unfair decision for our hot food traders.

Going down to market during this time on my mandatory walks, and seeing the high wire fencing blocking entry to our community space sent a chill down my spine and I realised then the fragility of democracy generally. I saw how it can too easily be subjected to bad management and too much top down power.

Now no sooner we have put down our banners of victory for people power than a new battle has popped up on the horizon.

The Market Square Redevelopment Project Concept design has now been released prior to its presentation to the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee for approval and clearance to go onto a public consultation period of six weeks.. This is the meeting on the 28th Jan .At this meeting we are allowed to ask questions pertaining to this document.

The Friends of Cambridge Market will be asking a number of questions about what we see as worrying disparities in this document.

If you can read through this document (a big ask I know!) and see anything that needs asking about

- the future of the commercial security of the market, and its safe and sound functioning;
- the loss of the iconic heritage of the traditional open air English Country Market,
- or the deterioration of aesthetic standards ;
- discrepancies and disparities of information and concepts

Please write to me about this and we will do our best to include your points in our questions.

The document is included in this link.

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=3787&x=1>

- >scroll down to Market Sq Redevelopment Project
- >go to Appendix A
- >go to part 2 for the illustrations of the new market

If you would like to take an active role in this campaign and join the friends of Cambridge Market 'Save the Market Team' please write to me. You will be welcome.

With warm wishes in these dark days,

Glenys