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Date: 30 November 2020 at 20:14:55 GMT

To: andrew grant

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Subject: Market Matters. The need for better protection.

Dear Sir,

Please can I bring your attention to the following :-

I am greatly alarmed by an adverse trend that is sweeping our markets away nationally. I am concerned for the long term vulnerability of our own precious market within this trend and wish to advert any harm that should come to it.

(I have ccd in the city's councillors since the market belongs to and services the whole city.)

FYI

The daily functioning of markets up and down this country have been turned into an unholy horror story. These markets all have one thing in common. They are managed by private market management companies. You will be recognising the names in some of these articles perhaps.

This is what the markets are promised by

<http://www.marketassetmanagement.com/trading-republic/>

... and by their subsidiary companies as well....

<u>QUARTERBRIDGE PROJECT MANAGEMENT LIMITED</u>	Active	Director
<u>MARKET ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD</u>	Active	Director
<u>MARKET ASSET MANAGEMENT (DARLINGTON) LTD</u>	Active	Director
<u>MARKET ASSET MANAGEMENT (DONCASTER) LIMITED</u>	Active	Director
<u>NOSH MARKETS LIMITED</u>	Active	Director
<u>QUARTERBRIDGE LETTINGS LTD</u>	Active	Director

BUT... This is the reality of what happens on the ground, according to those present and those having a mind and heart to care....

DONCASTER

<https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/doncaster-market-traders-fear-planned-transformation-may-be-too-late-halt-decline-55198>

SEVEN SISTERS MARKET, LONDON

<https://london.eater.com/2020/1/27/21083290/latin-village-haringey-seven-sisters-eviction-grainger-quarterbridge>

MANCHESTER

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/its-2019-not-1905-rochdale-15791478>

COLCHESTER

<http://www.benlocker.org.uk/2015/09/15/colchester-market-the-story-behind-the-consultation/>

ROTHERHAM

https://www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk/news/view,mexborough-councillors-fresh-concerns-over-firm-lined-up-for-25year-market-_31004.htm

ENFIELD

<https://www.enfieldindependent.co.uk/news/17871948.haringey-market-traders-facing-steep-rent-hikes/>

UP AND DOWN THIS LAND

http://tradmarketresearch.weebly.com/uploads/4/5/6/7/45677825/campaigning_on_traditional_markets-_a_short_guide.pdf

UP AND DOWN THIS LAND

<https://corporatewatch.org/quarterbridge-and-market-asset-managements-fing-war-on-local-markets/>

MORE DISTRESSING REPORTS

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/jul/25/squares-angry-privatisation-public-space>

HARINGAY, LONDON

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/feb/05/labour-haringey-council-north-london>

NO END TO IT!

<https://corporatewatch.org/quarterbridge-and-market-asset-managements-fing-war-on-local-markets/>

There is also an account of a beleaguered man from Watford Market, giving his first hand account of what happened there, which is repeating the national pattern of markets that are in private management. He was barred from trading in Watford Market, by the company that manages it, for trying to look after the other traders there.

My report on what happened at Watford Market and Quarterbridge.

I had a pet stall at Watford Market. Going very well indeed and then the Council decided to redevelop the market and Harlequin Shopping Centre. So, the council in their infinite wisdom had a grand plan to revitalise the market and have the stall in old shipping containers and moved the market from the centre of the town, where it was a busy market to the outskirts of town right by the flyover. It was not popular move but we had no say in the matter.

At first the market was good and popular but after 2 months it started to go downhill. Then more work by the council had made access to the market inaccessible from the High Street. This made trade really hard and several traders left. The council then got a company in to help run the market for them, as we believe the council knew they made a mistake and decided to wash their hands of it. Town & Country which has been dissolved as a company. Town & Country used to run a lot of markets all over the country, but by July 2018 they started to lose their markets one by one, wither by the council taking it back or they were closed. It was run by this company badly, no help, no advertising, little contact with the market. We paid everything to this company.

Things got so dire, myself and my friend and stall holder founded the Watford Market Traders Association to make ourselves by heard by the council and Town and Country. We helped traders with issues as best as we could and solved disputes. We invited the Mayor of Watford to the market to see us and discuss several issues. The visit went very well indeed, but Town & Country did not like it one bit and threatened myself and my co-chair.

The week after the visit, Town and Country got the boot from the market, leaving us without our deposits and several traders including myself out of pocket. They didn't pay the electric bill for the market, which is something we get billed for and all pay. Leaving Watford Council to pay £12,000 to the electric company. The Trader's Association helped the council run the market in the intervening period. I ended up being a janitor, market manager as well as a trader. We managed to get it working and also the council sent us 2 lifeguards from the local pool to assist us. It was shambolic to say the least. Because the council got rid of their market officer when Town and Country took over, they had no knowledge of running a market. They told us that we will not take rents until it was resolved. We asked why can't we not pay like we did, they said no leaving some people with a bill for over £3,000. With some traders taking less than £5 a day it was a ridiculous situation.

So, they put it out to tender and Quarterbridge/MAM came to the fore. They promised the earth and never delivered on anything and they also gave the running of the market to another company to handle the day to day running of thing. If you tried to contact MAM nothing happened. They promised the word new redevelopment, but that would mean higher rates and they would want to get rid of traders that did not fit their match. The market got run down and more food stalls which went outside onto the High Street so what little footfall there was went on to the High Street and not into the market. In addition, the restaurants complained to the council as they couldn't be seen due to the stalls and lost trade. Quarterbridge came up with a plan to revitalise the market. New front, better lighting, while the traders thought this was a good idea, and the something the council should have taken up on a long time ago, however it was the rent rise and Quaterbridge/MAM selecting who would be trading. They didn't want certain stalls in their market. Most of the traders left the market because it was dead. From once a thriving popular market to it being on its last legs.

He wants to remain anonymous. He has been heavily affected by this underhanded experience and needs to feel safe.

Please can we find a way to never let this happen here in Cambridge?

We need a statute put in place to protect our Cambridge market from this national pattern being able to take a hold here.

Some protection of the market is in the local plan, but its rather vague in what this actually means, what its actually going to protect and how it is going to go about actually doing this.

In policy 11 of the local plan it says,

'The daily market in the Market Square and the arts and crafts markets on All Saints Garden will be protected, and proposals to enhance these markets, where appropriate, create new markets will be supported.'

None of which will actually save the market from becoming victim to this national trend of privatised management.

Further, there is no mention of the market being of any significant asset to be worthy of a mention in this local document, despite it being a registered open space:-
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2467/open-space-and-recreation-strategy-2011.pdf>

I think this issue of protection needs bringing up to date with some attention to detail defining the market as a valuable fully functioning open space, given the climate of great change we are living through in Cambridge.

For many years now I have had the sinking feeling, as the market became, year on year, more and more neglected with its shabby, dirty awnings and badly maintained precious cobbles, that we were gradually being run into disrepair consciously. Because if not, it only remains that we are a huge blind spot that everyone of any importance in this city would choose to walk around as the elephant at the centre of the city.

I cheered up no end when I heard

Daniel Zeichner say to us traders .. "The Market is the Jewel in the Crown of Cambridge".

I agree wholeheartedly with him. And as such, I think it needs protecting properly asap.

Thank you kindly for going through this litany of national horror and I hope you can find in your heart the will to do your best for our market, the traders, the businesses and all those thousands of happy shoppers from all over the globe, to not let this terrible national trend happen here. We can stop it happening here. We are a proud, caring city and I think I can safely say we don't want this sort of disaster at the heart of our great city.

With great concern,

Glenys Self

Friends of Cambridge Market

CMTA rep

NMTF lo