

TORBAY COUNCIL

Report No: **68/2006**

Title: **Brixham Harbourside Market**

To: Harbour Committee

on 21 March 2006

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek advice from the Committee on the concept of a of a community proposal to run an arts and crafts market under the Old Fish Market at Brixham every Saturday throughout the forthcoming 2006 season.

2. Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 Implementing a successful arts and crafts market at Brixham could contribute towards the Council's priorities of Developing Torbay's Culture, Creating Sustainable Communities and Improving Torbay's Economy.

3. Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 That the Harbour Committee expresses its views on the proposal to hold a weekly market at the Old Fish Market, Brixham.

If the Harbour Committee supports the proposal:

- 3.2 That the Director of Marine Services be requested to exercise his delegated powers to allow a weekly market at the Old Fish Market, Brixham, to be held on Saturdays, for a trial period during 2006. The market to be run by the Brixham Chamber of Commerce with all monies that they might earn being reserved for community based projects.
- 3.3 That the Director of Marine Services be requested to exercise his delegated powers to prepare a contract between the Council and the Brixham Chamber of Commerce accordingly.

4. Reason for Recommendation(s)

- 4.1 To seek advice from the Harbour Committee with regards to future markets to be held on the Old Fish Market site at Brixham.

5. Alternative Options (if any)

- 5.1 Members do not express their views on the proposed market at the Old Fish Market, Brixham this coming season and the Director of Marine Services determines the matter under delegated authority.
- 5.2 The day to day operation of the market is put out to competitive tender with a view to maximising any income to the harbour account. This alternative could attract the wrong type of market and operator and would require significant management by Marine Services.

6. Background

- 6.1 During 2004, two markets were held at Brixham under the Old Fish Market in the summer season and were facilitated by Marine Services. They were run by a company which was made up of a number of market stalls (about twenty) under the banner of the "French

Market". These markets sold only French related goods and were perceived to be a success in terms of creating an ambience around the harbour and in attracting visitors to the area.

- 6.2 In 2005 the Brixham Town Team took the view that a weekly market at Brixham throughout the season would be of benefit to the town. A number of meetings were held with the Chamber of Commerce, the Head of Tourism, the Senior Events Officer, the Harbour Master and an interested market operator.
- 6.3 Markets were then subsequently held throughout the 2005 Summer Season on a Sunday and occasionally in addition so was the French market.
- 6.4 The markets were judged by some to be a success and the market research seems to support this (see appendix 1 attached to this report).
- 6.5 The profits raised by the market organisers went to the market organiser with a fixed percentage going to the Harbour account (£1500). The harbour income was used to offset the use of the Old Fish Market area and storage of the market stalls during the week between markets.
- 6.6 Although the Council received a modest income for the use of the Old Fish Market last year, this in no way reflects the number of hours of officers' time dedicated to the running of the market.
- 6.7 The market organisers operated the market in agreement with the Council and were responsible for putting up and taking down stalls, booking stallholders, insurance, keeping the site in good order, clean and tidy.
- 6.8 The original concept developed by the Brixham Town Team and in agreement with local traders was for an arts and craft market. However, on numerous occasions difficulties were experienced between the market operators and the local tradespeople as to what constituted arts and craft. Local traders were of the opinion that on a number of occasions the market stalls were acting in direct competition to their own businesses in the town.
- 6.9 These concerns were expressed at a meeting between Council Officers, the town's trade's people and the market operators. Thereafter it was agreed that for the remainder of the season the Harbour Master, the Head of Tourism and a town traders' representative would be responsible for vetting the content of stalls and the standard of stallholders at the weekly market. This resulted in an improvement of the quality in the offer.
- 6.10 During the winter months the Harbour Master, the Head of Tourism, representatives of the Brixham Chamber of Trade and the town's traders have been in discussions over the future of the weekly market. The Brixham Chamber of Trade are proposing that a weekly market be run and operated under their auspices with all profits going to the chamber of trade to be used for community based projects/events. However, the Director of Marine Services believes that the money should be held centrally in the harbour account with a clear and transparent audit trail prior to the redirection of funds for community use.
- 6.11 Advantages of running a market under the auspices of the Chamber of trade would be that they are freed from the constraints of making profit and would avoid the need for competitive tendering. They could therefore concentrate on supporting local artists, artisans and craft makers. However, in pure financial terms this option does not clearly demonstrate value for money, but may well represent the best way forward in both practical and economic terms.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Members are requested to express their views on the proposal. If members were minded to support the proposed market, it is proposed that the Director of Marine Services allows the

market to run for a trial period during 2006 and prepare a contract between the Council and the Brixham Chamber of Trade.

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