

## Community Services Committee

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Themed &amp; Street Food Markets</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>10 September 2024</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background for a decision regarding themed & Street Food markets in 2025.

### Background

2. This report is in preparation for the 2025 town centre event calendar. The once-a-year visit from the French Market, twice a year visit from the World Village Market and the third Friday in the month Street Food Markets (Apr-Sept) have been considered successful in attracting visitors to Thame and with making the town distinctive by promoting the market town image, increasing footfall, and contributing to the local business economy within the town centre.

### Proposal

3. It is proposed that a three-day French Market is held in October and the World Village Market three-day events held in spring and autumn are held and located around the Town Hall during 2025. Dates for visiting will be negotiated shortly and how many times throughout the year they can visit. In previous years dates for holding the markets will be confirmed to ensure dates do not clash or compromise with any other town event.
4. Each themed market would normally consist of 16 to 20 stalls arranged around the Town Hall. It should be noted that in 2023 the French Market were only able to bring over 5 stalls and will be actively looking for more stall holder's this year.
5. The 2024 Street Food Markets took place once a month, on a Friday evening from April to September. The weather was kind this year, each event was well attended by residents providing an alfresco atmosphere enabling families & friends to meet. Up to six food outlets, musical entertainment, and the ability to sit down at the provided tables and chairs enhanced the town centre vibe, promoting a social and cultural experience. The plan for 2025 is to keep to a third Friday of the Month from March to October subject to weather conditions (The September Food Market will be required to be a week earlier due to the fair).
6. The Themed & Street Food Markets will require a road closure to be taken out by the Town Council. All other arrangements will be managed by the companies organising the market, including the removal of all waste and parking requirements. The organizing of routine road closures was delegated to officers at the 31/10/2023 CLR committee meeting.

### Risk Assessment

7. A full risk assessment and event management plan will be produced at the time of requesting a road closure.
8. Environmental impact, electricity output from the town hall will be part of the fees charged, to assist with reducing the number of generators on site.

## Resource Appraisal

9. A fee comparable with the Tuesday market will be negotiated which will include the use of the external electricity points, with a slight reduction to cover three days continuous trading. Staff time and the road closure administration will be met through existing budget allocations. The estimated total income is £3,950, dependent on weather.

## Legal Powers:

- The Food Act 1984 part III

## Recommendation:

### *The Committee is asked:*

- i) To **approve** the Community Services Manager to organise the Themed & Street Food Markets in 2025.