

**COUNCIL 10 MARCH 2010****1. Farmers' Markets**

- 1.1 Members have indicated that they wished to consider the possibility of establishing a Farmers' or other local market in Newbiggin by-the-Sea and some initial investigation has taken place including discussions with a representative of Alnwick Markets and North East England Farmers' Markets (NEEFM).
- 1.2 Such a venture would not only provide a service to local people but could also attract visitors to the town from a wider area and assist in regeneration particularly if linked with other events and venues.
- 1.3 The town needs to improve what is commonly referred to as "dwell time" to assist local businesses to prosper and this means having visitors stay in the town for a longer period and not simply drive through. Apart from making local purchases an opportunity would exist to talk to the actual producers and find out about the local products.
- 1.4 NEEFM has experience in encouraging and publicising the development of an increasing network of markets for local produce as shown in the attached appendix of existing markets.
- 1.5 A key to the success of such markets is ensuring genuinely local produce is available by the producer or someone involved in the production actually selling at the market and that all goods on sale are grown, reared or processed by the stallholders and this can be assisted by certification FARMA the National Farmers' Retail & Markets Association.
- 1.6 It is possible for produce to be sold by local allotment holders to increase the availability of local produce throughout the seasons.
- 1.7 Combining market produce with local craft stalls to coincide with specific events to provide a Seaside Market on a few specific weekends might be the best way to test whether there is sufficient interest to make the venture viable. IT is likely to need ongoing financial support from the Town Council to get established.
- 1.8 Issues including location; power supply; terms and conditions and stall provision would need to be addressed before detailed arrangements could be put in place.
- 1.9 If such a venture is to be established or indeed tested this year then there is clearly much to be done and this will be challenging. It is necessary to attract sufficient traders to make a market successful and to fix dates that they can attend well in advance so that it is part of the traders' calendar as fresh produce has to be provided.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council considers whether it wishes to support and arrange a trial local market in Newbiggin.

## NORTH EAST ENGLAND FARMERS' MARKETS

	<b>Location</b>	<b>When Held</b>	<b>Times</b>
1	Alnwick	Last Friday of month	9am – 2pm
2	Barnard Castle	First Saturday of month	10am – 3pm
3	Berwick	Last Sunday of month	10am – 1.30pm
4	Chester-le-Street	Second Friday of month	
5	Darlington	Third Friday of month	9am – 4pm
6	Durham City	Third Thursday of month	9am – 3.30pm
7	Greenhead	Second Sunday of month	10am – 2pm
8	Gibside	Third Saturday of month	10am – 3pm
9	Hartlepool	Second Saturday of month	
10	Hexham	Second & Fourth Saturday	9am – 1.30pm
11	Middlesbrough	Last Sunday of month	
12	Middleton/Tees	Last Sunday of month	10am – 3pm
13	Morpeth	First Saturday of month	9am – 2pm
14	Newcastle	First Friday of month	9.30am – 2.30pm
15	Ponteland	Fourth Saturday of month	9am – 12pm
16	Saltburn	Second Saturday of month	9am – 3pm
17	Stanhope	Fourth Saturday of month	
18	Sedgefield	Second Saturday of month	
19	Stockton	Last Saturday of month (4)	9am – 2pm
20	Thornaby	Last Sunday of month	
21	Tynemouth	Third Saturday of month	9am – 4pm