



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Item No:- ME24/25

Committee:-	Markets and Events Committee
Date:-	27 th November 2025
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Midsummer market – voluntary sector market
Wards Affected:-	William Knibb

1. Purpose of Report

To report back on discussion with the sector around the provision of the voluntary sector market held in midsummer.

2. Recommendations

Members views are requested.

3. Information

- 3.1. The committee at its last meeting asked officers to consider how the voluntary sector market, currently held in mid or late June to coincide with volunteer week, might be re-provided to encourage greater attendance by the public. .
- 3.2. The market was revised in 2023 to provide a place where the voluntary sector could showcase their work and recruit volunteers or supporters. It has proved popular with the sector and their workers, and it has been full with organisations booking stalls each year. Some entertainment is provided by the Council as well as free use of our market stalls. It was held mid week in 2022 and on a Saturday in 2023. Attendance by the public has remained low however, so it has not met its primary goal.
- 3.3. Following that last meeting, officers talked to the Voluntary Sector Network co-ordinator and then with the Northamptonshire Community Foundation and one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenants. Last year, as part of a national event sponsored by the Palace, NCF and the Lord Lieutenancy organised a series of events called the Big Help Out to also co-incide with Volunteer week.
- 3.4. The feedback from both conversations was

- To keep the event in volunteer week, which was an important focus for the sector and trying to move the event to another time of year would be harmful to the sector's participation but also not likely to improve public attendance
- The benefits of linking our event to a wider county wide set of events such as The Big Help out in 2024. Whilst it is not yet clear if this is going to be repeated, if it is, then there are benefits from a profile point of view of including our event in the programme for it.

3.5. The other aspect of the debate last meeting was whether it would be better to have the event indoors. An event organised by the library service in Corby (in the Cube) took place earlier this year and was generally held to be successful, as a means of getting volunteering opportunities advertised and volunteers signed up. They had 90 visitors in total.

3.6. The only possible venue of any size in the town centre would be the Corn Market Hall – out of town both Wicksteed Park and KCC are suitable. All would entail some cost in booking them. There would be no need for market stall set up, so costs might balance out. The conversations with Groundwork, NCF and the Lord Lieutenancy did not generate any strong views about the event being indoors or out of doors.

4. Consultation and Engagement

This report sets out the consultation which has been carried out.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

The Council usually sets aside £1000 for this event.

6. Climate change implications

None especially.

7. Policy Implications

The Council's policy is to support the economic vitality of the town centre and to support the voluntary sector in its work and in the recruitment of volunteers.

Background Papers

Note from Corby Library service
Notes of conversations with consultees.