

Committee(s) Markets Committee	Dated: 25 th November 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken: Smithfield Market Concessionary Parking	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Support a thriving economy
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Antoinette Duhaney, Committee & Members Services	

Summary

The Town Clerk has considered a request from the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association for concessionary parking and a temporary reduction in car park tariffs for Market users from 10pm on Sunday 1st November 2020 until further notice. The request was made in order to ease parking stress and traffic congestion around the Market caused by the closure of East Poultry Avenue on the 15th August 2020 and subsequently on the 26th October 2020, the closure of the south elevation of the West Market due to the collapse of overhead glass canopies.

Recommendation(s)

That the action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Markets Committee Chairman and Deputy Chairman as set out in paragraph 4 of this report be noted.

Main Report

Background

1. On 15th August 2020, a concrete gutter collapsed in East Poultry Avenue (EPA) which necessitated the immediate Health & Safety closure of the road and surrounding pavements. The closure of EPA has had a significant impact on trade at the Market. This has been further exacerbated by an overhead glass canopy collapse on 5th of October 2020, and two subsequent canopy collapses over the two following weeks to the south elevation of the West Market (all glass panels were located in the same Market elevation). There were no injuries to any Market workers or members of the public.

2. After the third glass panel collapse, following consultation with the Corporate Health & Safety Team and City Surveyors Departments, the Market Superintendent took the decision to close the south west Market delivery bays, parking bays and pavements on 26th October 2020 until further notice. However, the closure of EPA and the south elevation of the West Market has created major operational challenges to the Market in respect of parking and traffic flow/management.
3. The closure of 3 trading elevations of the Market has suspended the operation and use of 8 loading bays in close proximity. This is in addition to 7 further loading bays in West Smithfield suspended long-term to facilitate project works for the Museum of London and the Poultry Market domed roof. This has consequentially dispersed vehicles that would normally use these bays to the remaining Market bays, thereby generating immense parking and traffic congestion.

Action taken

4. In consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Markets Committee, the Town Clerk has approved a reduction in the current car park tariff to provide free parking for all visitors to the rotunda car park between 2200 hrs and 0800hrs on Market trading days from 1st - 30th November 202, or until both the south elevation of the West Market and East Poultry Avenue, whichever is sooner. This action will
 - provide for concessionary rates for the Market's busiest hours,
 - help alleviate significant and disruptive traffic congestion and operational pressures the Market is currently suffering
 - reduce health and safety risks as a result of the west Market pavement and loading bays being suspended.

Report author

Antoinette Duhaney
antoinette.duhaney@cityoflondon.gov.uk
020 7332 1408