

## **MEETING OF CABINET**

**4 MARCH 2014**

### **ITEM 3 – PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR M B WYATT TO COUNCILLOR T GILLARD**

“Prior to any expenditure being incurred out of the approved capital programme, I would like to ask if Cabinet would reconsider the options for works to the Coalville Market”.

Additional supporting information from Councillor Wyatt to be considered with the question.

“I wish to ask you to re-consider your budget proposal to spend £168,000 on the indoor Market in Coalville.

For many years the Market as failed to meet the aspirations of the Council and local residents. Many shoppers to the area feel the Market Hall is depressing, cold, unwelcoming and out of the way from the main shopping area.

I genuinely believe that this is the right time to seriously look again at the idea of an outdoor Market, which many local residents are eager to see in our Town.

In other Town's in the region having an outdoor Market brings extra trade, and if located in the right place can complement the all ready established traders.

Statistics show that income from both established shops and traders do increase, so making it more beneficial to have them trading in close proximity.

The siting of an open Market is one which will need some careful consideration but there are a number of sites.

Marlborough Square could be a prime site. A reduction in parking could be an issue, but if the old Market Hall was utilised for additional parking then this problem could easily be resolved and provide the Council with additional income.

The Precinct Owners have learned recently that having an open Market in the Precinct is a positive contribution to their established traders. After speaking to a representative of the Precinct they have acknowledged that the food and drinks festival was a huge success for their traders. Clearly another approach to the Precinct owners should be established to see if this site could also be considered.

Finally the Clock Tower. This site is a prime site and the heart of our Town.

Coalville needs a new start. Having an outdoor Market will help to regenerate our Town, remove the old Market Hall which is an eyesore, and finally give Coalville a future”.