

The Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society (“The Society”)
53A The Close
Salisbury, Wiltshire
SP1 2EL

30th July 2018

AN UPDATE FOR MEMBERS - THE PROPOSAL FOR A CHRISTMAS MARKET IN THE CATHEDRAL CLOSE IN 2018 AND OTHER MATTERS

Dear Members

The Christmas Market

The Society contacted you in May to tell you that planning application no. 18/03096/FUL had been submitted by Salisbury BID (‘BID’) (Business Improvement District) for a change of use of the Cathedral’s precinct to enable a commercial Christmas Market in The Close during November and December 2018 only as a pilot project. BID was only able to do this by virtue of having the agreement of the Cathedral Dean and Chapter (‘the Cathedral’). We acknowledged then that whilst some members might be in favour of the proposal, the Trustees of the Society intended to object. We explained some of the objections the Trustees were advancing. The Trustees are grateful to members who took the time to respond to the application.

The original decision target date for representations, 4th June, was moved to 4th July. The County Council Planning Department Case Officer’s Report recommending that the application be approved with conditions and the final decision were published on the Wiltshire Council’s Planning Website (the ‘Planning Website’) on 5th July. There are 12 conditions attached, mainly recommended to the Case Officer by her colleagues: the Council’s Tree Officer; Conservation Officer; Highways Officer and Public Protection Officer. The conditions address only some of the many concerns expressed by objectors.

The most important development regarding the Christmas Market is that, a couple of days **before** the decision was published, the Cathedral announced that the 2018 market would NOT be going ahead. BID had informed the Cathedral that it could not proceed in 2018 as there was not enough time to organise it. There can be no guarantee that BID might not ask the Cathedral to agree to it submitting a fresh application for 2019 or a future year. The Society watches all planning applications affecting The Close and will let members know if a future application is submitted, though we hope that on such an occasion the Cathedral would inform us and Close residents before entering any agreement. The Trustees hope that the Cathedral will take cognizance of the high level and nature of objections to this year’s application. Given the nature of the objections this time, high levels of objections to any future proposals are likely.

A key fact that did emerge was this was not an application ‘to extend part of the Salisbury Christmas market into the Cathedral Close in 2018’ (quoting the Cathedral Chapter Clerk’s letter of 16th April published on the ‘Planning Website and supporting the application). The three organisations which supported the application, including the Managing Agents for the Maltings, gave support to an ‘expansion’ of the market in 2018. BID stated that “Final details on total stall numbers will not be known until October 2018’, so no indication was given as to the size of the ‘extension’. It was only confirmed in a document published after the public consultation was over that there would be up to 50 stalls in the Cathedral Close, with only

about 20 remaining in the Guildhall Square. In other words, the overall market would be the same size as last year. This was, in effect, to be a **move** of the major part (i.e.50 out of 70 chalets) of the Market to The Close, away from the commercial heart of the City. The Society considers that this should have been made public in the application so that it could be commented on.

All the Society's submissions regarding the application are available on our website, <http://www.salisburyclosepreservation.org/SCCPS%20News.htm>. For the convenience of members receiving this by email, set out below is a link to the Planning Website, which shows all the documentation relating to the application:

<https://unidoc.wiltshire.gov.uk/UniDoc/Document/Search/DSA,886632>

The Society's Annual Lecture

As I am writing to all members, can I take this opportunity to mention that the annual lecture will take place on the evening of Tuesday 20th November at Salisbury Museum. It will be given by Heather Sebire, of Historic England. Please put it in your diaries now. We will remind you and give further information closer to the date.

The Cathedral's commitment to Ecochurch

Over the past year or so, the Cathedral has been working towards accreditations from 'ecochurch' - <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk> . The Cathedral has already obtained bronze and silver awards and would like to achieve gold. At a meeting some time back, where the Society was represented, ideas and suggestions were requested by the Cathedral. Some were for more bird boxes, perhaps an orchard or land for allotments, and one was for a sensory garden, particularly important for those with disabilities or learning difficulties.

Some of the aims of ecochurch do not fall within the Society's objects of the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the features of historic or public interest in the Cathedral Close. However, the scheme covers management of church buildings and land. That is relevant to our objects. As the Society sits on the Cathedral's Landscape Committee, we would seek to involve the Society in relevant aspects of the Cathedral's ecochurch initiative. I hope that the above will be of interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me direct if you have any questions or suggestions in relation to any of these areas.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Olsen - Chairman