

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>GENERAL LICENSING SUB - COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>REQUEST TO CHANGE PORTHMADOG MARKET DAY FROM FRIDAY TO THURSDAY</b>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>HEAD OF THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT</b>

## **BACKGROUND**

The Public Protection Service is responsible for the running of the Council's markets, as follows:-

**PWLLHELI** every Wednesday throughout the year and every Sunday from May to September.

**PORTHMADOG** every Friday from Easter until December

**CAERNARFON** every Saturday throughout the year and every Monday from June to September.

In accordance with the current conditions for Gwynedd Council's open air markets, Porthmadog market operates at Heol y Parc car park every Friday from 8.30am to 5pm. The market operates from the first Friday in April or from the first Friday before Good Friday, whichever is the earliest, and operates until the last Friday in December each year.

## **REQUEST TO CHANGE THE DAY OF THE MARKET**

The Service has received a recent request from a Porthmadog market representative to change the market day from a Friday to a Thursday.

Following consultation, please find below the main reasons submitted in favour of changing the market day to a Thursday together with the reasons provided for retaining the market on a Friday:-

<b>Main reasons in favour of changing the day to a Thursday</b>	<b>Main reasons for retaining the market on a Friday</b>
7 current traders have provided written confirmation that they are in favour of changing the day to a Thursday. 1 trader is happy with either day.	9 current traders have provided written confirmation that they favour retaining the market on a Friday (as previously mentioned 1 is happy with either day). 2 of the traders have stated they will not be able to work at the market on a Thursday at all.
The number of regular traders attending the market throughout last season was low (3 or 4). The Service continues to provide opportunities to traders to work at Gwynedd markets however due to the current social and economic climate the	More existing/historic traders supporting the Friday.  Since the request for changing the day was made, there has been an increase in the number of traders attending the market on a Friday. Of course, it is

number of traders attending markets are reducing generally each year.	possible that the increase could also be due to the time of year/weather etc.
Possibility of attracting new traders on a Thursday. The individual who made the request has intimated the possibility of new traders showing an interest in attending on a Thursday and is intending to fill the car park.	The public are used to the market being on a Friday and there is a possibility that existing traders will lose regular customers and the business which they have worked hard to build up over years of attending the Friday market.
When the market was first established in Porthmadog there was no market in Bangor. Since then, Bangor have an established market that also operates on a Friday.	It has been mentioned that Flint market, which also operates on a Friday, will be closing during the summer. If so, there may be a possibility of attracting more new traders on a Friday.
Although the timetable varies depending on the time of year, the Welsh Highland Railway generally run more trains on a Thursday than on a Friday, as Fridays are changeover days for groups and accommodation so fewer passengers tend to travel on a Friday compared to midweek.	Changing the market to a Thursday places the market in direct competition with Barmouth market that is also on a Thursday.
	Some traders travel long distances to work at the market. They often don't arrive until Thursday evening as they then stay in the area over the weekend period in order work other markets in the vicinity.
	Some visitors may only visit the Town for the weekend period only and may not arrive until late Thursday evening/Friday morning.
	By limiting the market to the existing 10 - 12 traders who regularly attend on a Friday, a percentage of the car park continues to be available for shoppers to visit the market or the town.

**Further responses received following consultation:-**

- E-mails from several traders in support of changing the day to a Thursday.
- E-mails from other traders (including pictures) stating that they want the market to remain on a Friday and outlining their concerns for the proposed change.

The Service has also consulted with the Council's highways Department who is responsible for the car park and with Porthmadog Town Council and they have no objections either way, as long as any signage is bilingual.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The committee is requested to consider the above report and make a decision whether or not to allow the request to change Porthmadog market day from a Friday to a Thursday