

Dear Editor,

I note that you have a letter in your recent publication about market rents.

Market rents are charged at £1.50 per foot of plot taken up by the frontage. This was an increase of 11.11% from £1.35 per foot which came into effect in April 2020. All stall holders are charged on this basis.

This sits favourably with other markets locally such as Oundle who charge fractionally more than OTC when their 3x3 m rate is converted into feet.

Concern was expressed for the viability of the market in Olney.

Speaking with traders including the cheese stall, they are also concerned, not because of the rents but because the market is not as well supported by shoppers as it has been in the past. There are regular shoppers of whom I guess your correspondent is one. However, for traders to remain on our market many more of residents need to shop there.

The cheese stallholder made us aware that he was trying out a market closer to his home base in the hope that he would get better sales. He has not yet come back to us to let us know how he has got on. He may well return.

If not, we will look to source an alternative cheese seller.

The fresh produce is amazingly good, fresh bread, cheese, fish, cooked meats, eggs, butchery goods, fruit and veg. The plants and cut flowers are always top notch as is the selection of paper goods, sweets and household items and clothing, not to forget the impeccable range of hats, gloves and facemasks and watches, keys and belts.

Olney Town Council is determined to support the market which is why we consult regularly with the traders and ask all your readers to take a look at the great offers available on the market.

Regards,

Andrea Vincent  
Olney Town Clerk  
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