**Notes from a video meeting of the Market Working Group 22 February 2021**

In attendance: Cllrs Neil Coleby and Graham Parker. Andrew Beale and Harry Stewart.

Also in attendance: Shona Bendix (Clerk) and Sian Maguire (Events and Communications Officer)

It was noted that Cllr Andy Pearce was unable to attend due to attending another meeting on behalf of the Town Council.

The Events and Communications Officer noted the progress of the possible Spring Market, with suppliers and traders with a fair mixture of trades, branching from plants and bulbs, to specialised trades that may be interested in taking part. Noted that the government restrictions and regulations will depend on the quantity of stalls permitted by law, and awaiting further instruction from parliament. The possibilities that themed markets that occur once a month may be the path to success, developing themes such as a Flea Market, Farmers Market, Antiques Market and more.

There was a discussion of Wootens Nursery in Wenhaston may be worthwhile getting in contact with, as well as local butcheries, bakeries and staple produce establishments that can build the diversity of the market traders for possible future weekly markets and themed markets. There was a suggestion that there is a possible busking competition with local entertainment and/or musicians to perform, encouraging performance in a diverse cultural part of town and gaining footfall for the markets.

The Working Group would like to get in contact with Oulton Parish Council with a potential collaboration of organised markets in Oulton Broad and Lowestoft, for example, one week a market is held in Oulton Broad and the following week it is held in Lowestoft and so forth. Further to this, getting in contact with organisations and charities that may be interested in holding ‘table-top sales’, after the pandemic greatly affecting these opportunities for them throughout 2020.

A meeting of the Working Group and stakeholders will be arranged in the near future, once government restrictions and rulings are disclosed. The Events and Communications Officer will develop a map, establish an idea of what is possible for solid plans of a Spring Market and future markets during Heritage Open Days and seasonal and annual events.