

Acomb Alive submission:

As the Secretary of Acomb Alive!, I have been delighted to see the growth of the Market in the last few months. We have seen a consistent rise in interest from residents and a rise in participation by traders, and the local area is benefitting in terms of footfall and economy activity.

I am pleased that the Council is now considering giving its backing to our Market by putting us on a permanent footing. This means we can plan ahead and continue helping the Market to grow and improve.

There is one point I want to make about the report today. Paragraph 19 means that Acomb Alive! would have to pay the Council £100 for every Market. I want to raise my concerns about the impact that this could have on the ability of Acomb Alive! to support our local economy.

We would be in a much better position if this could be amended or removed so that this burden does not fall on Acomb Alive! or is reduced to a token or 'peppercorn' rent. Acomb Alive! will not expect the help of the Council in organising the Market, so we do not feel that the charge is justified.

I would ask the Executive Member to consider this important point before approving the overall report.

Sally Fooks, Secretary of Acomb Alive!