



The Red House,
1 Duncombe Place,
York, YO1 7ED
info@theyorkbid.com
01904 809970

FAO CYC Executive Team
City of York Council
West Offices
Station Rise
York
YO1 6GA

8th April 2026

Dear Executive,

York Christmas Market Operating Hours and Economic Impact

I have read the Executive papers and the recommendation to close the York Christmas Market in 2026 for 1 x day per week, with the suggestion of Tuesday. Due to timings, I have not been able to talk with the BID Board to get a view, but I have spoken with representative bodies in the city including Hospitality Association York, Pub Watch, Tourism Advisory Board and Make it York among others. From conversations, a number of consistent observations are made about this proposal;

- the negative impact on business trade and those small traders involved in the market;
- the difficulty in communication to residents and visitors from further afield;
- the wider ramifications of lost revenues for Make it York and City of York Council.

It is not clear which members of the community are going to benefit from this recommendation? In regard to Blue Badge holders, when I have been involved in partner discussions, representatives from the Access Forum have talked more about permanent enhanced access to the city, rather than one day when the Christmas Market is closed? I trust that the example of Chester and it's well defined access strategy, incorporating events will still be researched and explored as a long term solution?

In regard to residents, many own or work in businesses that benefit from the Christmas markets. Further to this, a Tuesday closing of the markets will not necessarily reduce city footfall to 'a typical winters day' i.e. it is open to question as to whether residents who do not like crowds will interpret this as good time to visit?

If the Executive do vote in favour of this recommendation, I hope a full evaluation is done to understand the economic impact and whether blue badge holders and residents think it has actually been of any benefit?

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Lowson', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval outline.

Andrew Lowson
Executive Director