

Dorchester Market – Operator’s Report
For the period 1st April 2023 to 30th November 2023

Income and Expenditure – Wednesday Market

The gross income for 1st April 2023 to 30th November 2023 totalled £63,960 compared with a figure of £68,709 for the same period in 2022. (i.e. 6.92% decrease)

Income and Expenditure – Sunday Car Boot Sale

The gross income for 1st April 2023 to 30th November 2023 totalled £25,251 compared with a figure of £28,580 for the same period in 2022. (i.e. 11.64% decrease)

Tolls

The current market toll structure at the present time is:

Covered Market £14 per trestle table
 £15 per wall trestle table

Outside Market £25 per pitch

Covered Outdoor Area £25 per pitch

South Linnies £25 per pitch

The current car boot toll structure at the present time is:

Covered Market £ 7 per trestle table
 £ 8 per wall trestle table

Outside Market £ 8 cars
 £14 vans

Covered Outdoor Area £ 8 per pitch

General

Trading from 1st April 2023 to 30th November 2023 has been generally difficult in uncertain times when recent high inflation and interest rates have resulted in the public having less money to spend. Trading has also been affected by weather conditions resulting in the number of traders and public attending the market and car boot sales when the weather has been bad.

There has also been a noticeable increase in internet shopping. However, the total income for the eight-month period has only slightly decreased and the expenses are down due to a drop of approximately £10,000 in the amount paid out for rates.

Overall, we are reasonably optimistic for the year ahead, hoping that inflation and interest rates will continue to fall and income tax is slightly reduced.

With the council's decision to invite open market tenders from other operators when our current lease runs out in 2026, our usual plea for capital investment and improvements is no longer relevant now but we would like to put on record that we have been pointing out for the last 10 years that times have changed and alterations and capital investment are needed.

We would also like the panel to know that although we only have two years to run on our lease, we intend to make every effort to run the market as efficiently and progressively as we can. To help us achieve this, we have brought an experienced retail manager into the Ensor's team with a special brief to help run the Dorchester market and our show ground at Wimborne.

We have already started to carry out a review of the market and are keen to develop a close relationship between ourselves as the operators, the traders, and the Joint Market Panel.

For and on behalf of
T Ensors & Son Ltd