

Report



meeting

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date

19 January 2005

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS SERVICES **LOCATION FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS MARKET**

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide feedback following Administration Committee's approval for a change of location of the County Council Christmas Market.

Background

- 1.1 The first Christmas market took place in November 1999 as part of a programme of events to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of County Hall. The market continued in a similar vein for five years, conceived primarily as a means of bringing the public at large into County Hall to help forge links with the local communities and make the County Council seem less remote. In addition, it provided an opportunity to raise funds for the Chairman of the County Council's chosen charity.

The popularity of the market proved an onerous task for stallholders and the general public who experienced increasing problems with access to the Assembly Hall, especially for visitors using wheelchairs. Additionally the location of the building meant that the majority of visitors were from the South of the County and the City.

At its meeting on 11th May 2004, Administration Committee approved a change in the venue for the Christmas Market and the event took place over the weekend of the 4th and 5th December with 43 stalls set up with festoon lighting in the Courtyard at Rufford. This gave an open air traditional market style.

The organisation of the event was carried out by the Civic Office and was welcomed by the Marketing Division and Head of Country Parks at Rufford. On Sunday, 5th December, 1000 cars filled the car park boosting the Country Parks revenue by £1,500 and the Coach House and the Savile Restaurant were fully booked for the full weekend.

£2,000 was raised for the Chairman of the County Council's charities.

The majority of stallholders were extremely happy with the change of venue and booked stalls for the two days. 2005 it is the intention to raise the number of stalls to 50 and the Civic Office have already received other requests for stalls for 2005.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

**PATRICIA HOLT- MURPHY
HEAD OF MEMBERS SERVICES**

Statutory and Policy Implications

Use of Rufford for an event of this nature is a matter for officers acting under delegated powers.

Head of Legal Services' Comments (KK)

This report is for noting only

Director of Resources Financial Comments (MB)

None