

Functional Skills English Reading Level 2 Sample Paper 5

Local Markets Source Documents

Sample Assessment

Functional Skills English

Reading Level 2

Local Markets

Source Documents

Do not write your answers in this booklet as this will not be marked.
All answers should be written in the space provided on the question paper.

Read both documents.

Use **Document 1** to answer questions 1 to 8.

Use **Document 2** to answer questions 9 to 13.

Use **both** documents to answer questions 14 and 15.

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Kennetside Gazette

Stunned stall traders battle to stay as mayor slams sell-out by market owners

A campaign has begun to halt the closure of Rodman Road Indoor Market after the intervention of Kennetside's mayor Phillipa Taylor and more than 1,500 supporters. Mayor Taylor became involved in the dispute after the Gazette revealed last week that the market owners had given stallholders six weeks' notice to leave.

Anti-social behaviour

The owners, Parkside Properties, implied the police left them no alternative but to close the market after the issue of a Community Safety Notice (CSN)¹. They also claimed police and the council had been discussing a closure order due to anti-social behaviour for some time.

But Mayor Taylor is pointing the finger squarely at Parkside Properties themselves. She has stated that the CSN simply meant that the indoor market needed additional security measures such as CCTV to be installed, not that it should be closed permanently.

However, Parkside Properties had already earmarked the indoor market for redevelopment, and stallholders had been told to leave by the end of December², even though no planning permission has yet been given.

Stallholder Jeff White said: “We never see the owners; it’s like we’re not important enough to talk to. Nobody knew there was a problem with the police until they said it was why they were going to chuck us out. The council hasn’t helped either.”

Mayor critical of plans

Mayor Taylor is “appalled” by Parkside Properties’ actions. “The letter they have sent the stallholders is misleading and a betrayal of hard-working local businesses,” she said.

“They have chosen to use a CSN as an excuse to close the indoor market, when they could have solved this by working more closely with the local police. Every time I’ve visited the market recently, shoppers tell me how important it is to them. The stallholders have been given six weeks’ notice³ to leave. This clearly isn’t enough.”

Kennetside Council has offered the traders stalls on another nearby outdoor market. Mayor Taylor said applications would be fast-tracked and the first six months would be half price. However, only two stallholders have taken up the offer so far.

New proposals

Planning proposals⁴ from the owners for the development of the site include flats with shops underneath. They state: “The existing building is in very poor condition and suffers from design defects that encourage anti-social behaviour. The new development will address these issues.”

Jenny Bishop, a spokesperson for Parkside Properties, told us: “The proposals offer a fantastic opportunity to reinvigorate this key local building. It will provide a mixture of luxury flats that will bring money into the area and some much-needed affordable housing for local people. The plan offers a great opportunity for investors while contributing to the long-overdue regeneration of the wider area.”

That statement seems to differ from Kennetside council’s own vision for the area, as detailed in the recently published draft local plan⁵. It states: ‘The council will protect and promote the street markets of Rodman Road and Kingsway. Development which would result in the permanent loss of markets will be refused unless an appropriate alternative site is provided. We also hope to restart the market on Hope Street which was suspended last year and are looking into starting a new market on Wordsworth Road.’

Stallholder Jeff White responded: “The council have published their plans but I’m not sure I agree with them. Kingsway is no good to us! It’s about two miles outside of town. No one would be prepared to travel there.”

Key dates

¹27 February

²29 December

³14 November

⁴23 October

⁵20 November

Council Proposals Paint Picture of Market Mayhem

I worked on a fruit and veg stall on Rodman Road for many years in my youth, so I'm all in favour of starting a new market in Kennetside. As long as it isn't based on the terrible Kingsway Market! I'd much rather it was like the Rodman Road Market. It offers excellent value with its fruit and veg stalls selling produce from around the world, stalls selling schmutter* and electrical equipment stalls. I've been a Kennetside resident for 60 years; I should know what people want.

Kingsway Market doesn't sell things that local folk either want, need, or can afford. It's all 'artisan' stalls selling 'handcrafted' loaves of bread for ten pounds or other overpriced rubbish that's as much use as a chocolate teapot! Who wants to shop somewhere that's just for the well off? Ordinary people, living ordinary lives, wanting to buy ordinary goods seem to be overlooked and pushed out. Put simply, it is killing all that used to be good about the area.

The mayor has failed in her duty to help businesses. She is not creating a fair and equal town. She doesn't support the local markets that people need. Unlike her, I get out and about and talk to local people. It's high time we had a new market which could create the opportunity for young people in Kennetside to gain employment and learn about street market trading. It would pull in the much-needed revenue for the council from licensed pitches which then could be put into other developments we desperately need such as affordable housing. We can't wait any longer!

All eyes (my eyes, anyway) will be on the town hall to see what happens next.

Patrick Hamilton

* Editor's Note: Patrick is using an old word literally meaning 'rags', which market traders use to refer to clothes.