



Deal Saturday Market

Your Questions Answered

Is the market staying like this forever? No, Deal Town Council has implemented the changes in line with government COVID 19 guidelines. Deal Town Council has sole responsibility whilst the market is open to look after anyone who attends. When the crisis is over all COVID restrictions will be removed.

Why are the restrictions required if the market is in the open air? The government COVID 19 guidance puts markets in the same category as shops. Therefore, Deal Town Council must follow these guidelines.

Why is there one-way system? This is to help the public adhere to the social distancing guidelines that are in place across the whole country.

Why is there “security” on the gates? Deal Town Council employs marshals to help aid with social distancing and to discourage gatherings of people not in the same household or “bubble”. Our marshals are trained and licensed.

Why is has the market got fewer stalls than before? Before lockdown we were averaging 25 stalls a week. We are currently running at 25 stalls and 26 traders. Thus, we are back to our numbers before lockdown. Stalls are more spaced out and there are no vehicles on the site. This makes it look like there are fewer.

Why are chairs and tables not allowed? Deal Town Council decided to make food and drink stalls takeaway only when the market was reopened. This is to ensure a smooth flow of people through the market and to discourage groups from congregating thus causing blockages around the site. We will be looking into reinstating seating areas as and when it is safe to do so.

Are you trying to make the market fail as you get more money from car parking? Deal Town Council gets no income from parking. Dover District Council is in charge of the car parks in Deal. Deal Town Council rents the space and gives a percentage of any profit made from the market to Dover District Council.

Is the market moving to the high street? No this has never been discussed by Deal Town Council.

Why are vehicles not allowed on anymore? The market rules have always said that vehicles are not allowed on site during trading hours. This has been reinforced to aid in social distancing and to provide more space to accommodate more stalls. It is understood that out of the 22 open air markets in Kent only 4 allow vehicles on site.

Why have you cut down the trading times? The trading times have been reduced by 2 hrs. They used to be 8am-3pm, they are now 9am-2pm. The later start is to ensure safe set up and take down times for the traders. It increases the safety of the public by not allowing them on site whilst vehicles are moving around. Most customers attend in the morning. Even before lockdown, after 2pm was a slow time for traders.

Why is the sea front so busy and yet the market is restricted? Dover District Council oversees the High Street and the seafront. Deal Town Council works closely with Dover District Council to help ensure the safety of all Deal residents and visitors, but it cannot control what happens on the sea front.

Why is there no atmosphere any more at the market? It may be that the way people shop has changed due to the pandemic. Over time hopefully this will change. Deal Town Council will be looking into ways to improve the market's appeal and overall atmosphere once we are back to normal.

When will it return to the way things were? Nobody knows the answer to this. Our priority right now is to make the market as safe as possible, within Government guidelines, and to encourage as many people as possible to shop at our excellent selection of stalls.

For more information see: www.deal.gov.uk/Deal-TC/coronavirus_updates-13564.aspx

The Kent Farmers Market Association: https://www.kfma.org.uk/Covid_Information

NABMA: <https://nabma.com/covid-19-coronavirus/>

Please send comments to: deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk