

Denbighshire Street Markets Study

Denbighshire County Council

Brief

The main aim of the study was to assess the four traditional markets in Denbighshire run by the County Council in Denbigh, Ruthin, Corwen and Llangollen.

This included understanding their size, location, range of goods, management and future viability.



Activities

BE Group visited each market and consulted stallholders to ascertain their views.

Background research was carried out into sector trends and the importance of market charters, which was investigated for each market.

A best practice assessment of these markets against nearby competitors was carried out using data from the National Market Traders Federation and comparison with Mold Market.

Extensive consultations with the public sector, local stakeholders and business groups were also undertaken.



Outcome

The study discovered that the markets are now very small, in poor condition and in a spiral of decline. There is little scope for improvement, as generally stallholders have gravitated to a smaller number of key larger markets in the surrounding area.

Charters hold little relevance in the twenty first century as they only limit competition within a six and two third mile distance.

Based upon a cost:benefit analysis the main recommendation is that Denbighshire County Council relinquish their involvement in the markets and leave them to the private sector.