

APPENDIX 3

RE: MARKET TRADING PITCHES IN SOUTHWARK

The Committee see no reason why this proposal to limit stall numbers to 150 should go ahead.

It is obvious that at present Southwark does not need to exercise its right to use the whole of the area for trading – but this will change if all our concerted efforts come to fruition.

We estimate that currently about 20% of the area is regularly used by the local businesses, so much so that they now regard it as a right and not a concession. As Chairman I have personally had to remonstrate with hotel Managers about the extent their furniture intrudes on to the Square on Friday mornings. The sight line into the Square from Abbey St is the only view of the Market which the public have. It cannot have been Southwark's intention to advertise local businesses at the expense of their own Market.

The antiques trade is, by its very nature, a luxury trade. The current world recession is affecting us, but it will be of no benefit to Southwark's future finances to cut down the possibility of growth.

At a time when there are serious efforts being made by traders and others, not least Market Management to increase both footfall and stall holders, it seems unwise and short-sighted to make any limit on stall capacity. Indeed it seems an open invitation to the local businesses to continue using the space for their own purposes. Who will personally confront them and demand back the use of that 20%, as and when it is needed and which is legally ours? We feel unspecified stall numbers would be a better approach to the affair. Then, when situations change, Market Management would be at liberty to control the matter in every way, from the siting of stalls to the numbers.

B.A.M.T.A
CHAIRMAN
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