

Farmers' Market in Main Street

There are five Farmer's Markets within 15 miles of Garforth:

Horsforth: 1st Saturday of the month

Headingley: 2nd Saturday of the month

Oakwood: 3rd Saturday of the month

Wetherby: 2nd Sunday of the month

Chapel Allerton: last Sunday of the month

and two food and craft markets:

Leeds: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

Oakwood: 1st Saturday of the month

If Garforth were to hold a Farmers' Market then it would have to be on either the 4th Saturday or 4th Sunday of the month to be able to attract the number and variety of stall holders to make it viable; it is mainly the same sellers that attend each market. There has to be a certain number of stalls to make it worthwhile the sellers attending.

Venue: there are two options: on Main Street or in Main Street or Barleyhill Road car park. The first option would entail closing Main Street to traffic; this would mean amongst other things, re-routing the buses. If the second option, then this would reduce the number of parking spaces for shoppers.

Possible effect on existing shops:

- Increased custom for local shops as people who do not usually visit Main Street come to the Farmers' Market.
- Farmer's markets usually have meat and veg stalls which could take custom away from Garforth's local butcher and greengrocer. Other shops could be similarly affected.
- Difficulty with parking and/or driving to Main Street could deter shoppers from going to Main Street on Market Day.

For more information see <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leedsmarkets/Pages/farmers-markets.aspx>. The Oakwood market seems to be doing well and there is a very informative video about it on this site. This video also shows what a lot of work is needed from the community to make a vibrant Farmers' Market.

Sue Lomas

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