



Princes Risborough Town Council



MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS IN SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Aim

This policy aims to protect public safety, the safety of staff and the safety of traders in the event of severe weather affecting any open-air market operated by Princes Risborough Town Council.

Implementation

The Council shall implement this policy.

Arrangements

The following arrangements shall be implemented:

- 1) Weather Forecast Information.

The Council shall obtain advance warning of severe weather from the following sources:

BBC weather website

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2639888>

A severe weather warning in itself is not a reason to cancel the market. The Council shall use their own judgement of the prevailing weather to decide if the Market, or parts of the Market, can be erected safely. The Council will however take the forecast into account: for the following reasons:

- a) To determine the feasibility of waiting for severe weather to abate before authorising gazebos to be erected. (A decision to cancel the market in advance of stalls being set up must be taken by 1.00 p.m. the previous day at the latest.)
- b) To ensure that sufficient manpower is on call to dismantle stalls quickly should the weather deteriorate during the day. If severe weather is predicted and this service



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cannot be guaranteed, the Council will consider cancelling the market. The Council shall make a decision on erecting stalls on the basis of all available information

2) Manpower.

Two members of staff is the minimum number of trained staff required to erect and dismantle the Market in severe weather, under the direction of the Council.

If Markets are held when a severe weather warning is in force, a representative from the Council shall remain on site

Design of market gazebos.

The market gazebos have been designed to allow for rapid dismantling. The gazebo once dismantled may be laid down on the market floor or loaded directly onto the flatbed trailer dependant on the weather situation at the time of dismantling.

3) Cancellation of markets

The following actions will be taken to minimise disruption to traders:

- A decision to cancel the Market without erecting any stalls will be taken by 1.00 p.m. the previous day at the latest.
- The Chairman of the Council or the Chairman of the Finance Committee shall make a decision on whether the market is to be cancelled.
- The Council will communicate by phone or text message to advise traders of the Market cancellation.
- If, for reasons of safety, the weather conditions prevent a trader from using a gazebo, the Council has discretion to permit traders to trade from their vehicles.
- The Council has discretion to waive or reduce fees and charges where weather conditions have resulted in part or all of the market being cancelled.



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THIS POLICY SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL REGULAR MARKET TRADERS

Definition of Severe Weather

Severe Gales	Gusts of 25 m.p.h. or more.
Severe Gales/storms	Gusts of 80 m.p.h. or more.
Heavy Snow	Snow falling at a rate of approx. 2 cm/hour or more expected for at least two hours.
Blizzards/drifting snow	Moderate or heavy snow accompanied by winds of 30 m.p.h. or more with visibility reduced to 200 m or less, or drifting snow giving rise to similar conditions.
Very heavy snowfall, blizzards or drifting snow	Expected to give depths of 15 cm or more potentially resulting in widespread dislocation of communications. Blizzards are severe when visibility is reduced to near zero.
Heavy rain	Expected to persist for at least two hours and to give at least 15 mm within a three-hour period, or a period of rainfall of sufficient intensity to cause flooding on already saturated ground (includes snow-melt), i.e. around 25 mm/day.
Dense Fog	Visibility generally less than 50 m.
Freezing rain/widespread icy roads	Generally occurs when rain freezes on contact with road surfaces.

This policy shall apply whenever severe weather warnings are published.



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However, it is recognised that severe disruption to the market can be caused by weather that falls short of these extreme conditions. **This policy shall therefore also apply whenever, in the opinion of the Council, public safety may be put at risk due to adverse weather conditions affecting the market.**

A weather diary should be kept to build up an informed picture of the conditions that can seriously disrupt the market: a decision to cancel or proceed can thus be justified on the basis of historical evidence.