

Gillian Eagle-Cooper

Is the market hall still being maintained since it's closure ? If not why not ? As surely this would add to any additional costs of potential repairs!

I cannot attend the meeting and require my response via email please.

The Market Team have continued to maintain the Market Hall to ensure that the fabric of the building does not deteriorate whilst a long-term strategic plan is being developed.

The cost of the Market Hall maintenance is forecast to be £80k per year and is funded by the Market Revenue budget. It is important that safety is paramount, as practically possible, especially with a red flagged unsafe environment.

Jennifer Eagle-Cooper.

In October of 2023 you closed the market hall due to raac concrete what other problems has since been found that its potentially costing in excess of £6million to have the building repaired. Unfortunately I cannot attend and would like my response emailed back to me.

The Market Hall traders have been advised of the costs associated with £6m initial basic assessment to repair. Items included in the assessment were replacement roofs, replacement of the external elevations and glazing, internal fabric of the building, and mechanical and electrical. This did not include management fees.

Further work to determine more accurate costs was undertaken as was an options appraisal for a long-term permanent plan. In each instance, these costs associated with the proposed options were much higher than first realised and therefore further work must be carried out to ensure that the long-term plan meets the needs of the wider town centre and the market within the means of the resources available.

Following the options appraisal commissioned by the council, the true cost is significantly higher than the first appraisal. This is due to the initial appraisal looking at the basic need to make the building safe rather than assessing all possibilities for the market hall for the long-term future.