

Tell us a bit about Arbroath Market!

The market is a volunteer project to help rejuvenate Arbroath town centre. It started up in August 2017 and has, at times, seen footfall of over 14,000 in one day. It's a high-quality farmers' market; most of the stall holders attend all the other local markets in Forfar, Dundee and Montrose. However, a small number of our stallholders are unique and having their first market experience with us in Arbroath.

You were awarded Connect Local regional food funding in 2018. What have you used this funding for and how has it helped the development of the market?

We are still working on aspects of Refreshing Arbroath project prior to kicking off. We intend to install all-weather electric provision for the stallholders on Arbroath High Street. This will allow us to bring in more stalls providing hot food and drinks in all weather conditions. We're delighted we'll be able to provide more variety and interest to shoppers with local produce at our market. As soon as we receive permission we'll be good to go.

What role does the market play in the growth of the region's food and drink economy and culture? How important is it as a platform for local suppliers to sell and promote their products?

The market has provided a real boost to our traders, allowing them to reach more local people than before, and grow their business. There are also talks taking place between various agencies around the possibility of establishing a permanent outlet for the stallholders produce on Arbroath High Street. We are situated in one of the best areas in the UK for strawberries but cannot access

them freshly-picked in the local shops. Our traders tell us that Arbroath Market is one of the strongest markets around, possibly due to the town being the largest in Angus as well as the extent of the effort we're putting in to making it a success.

Any stand-out success stories of producers who have launched and developed their business via the market?

Most of our traders are well-established, but some are new and taking part in as many local markets as they can. [Parkhill Produce](#), who provide rare breed pork from their farm near Arbroath, weren't finding it easy to get a foothold at other local markets but have been hugely successful with their regular stall with us. Whilst not food-related, we love [Red Rock Music](#), unique to the market, offer music tuition which is difficult to find elsewhere, and this is a draw for the public too.

What are your goals and plans for 2019?

At the end of 2018, we successfully obtained 6 new stalls and 2 gazebos which will give us a further 8 pitches to let out at the market. In 2019 we plan to install all-weather electric points with the Connect Local funding. We also plan to obtain a public entertainment licence to allow us to provide music and various enactments at the markets. We also plan to tie in with the [Arbroath 2020](#) celebrations for the 700th anniversary of the 'Declaration of Arbroath' perhaps by siting some stalls at the abbey and having walking tours on the day to [Arbroath Abbey](#) via the market. The abbey was first established in 1178, at which time a market was set up, and we hope to make the most of the coincidence with our recently established market today.

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REFRESHING ARBROATH
Connect Local talks to Morag Lindsay,
Arbroath Market

How can others support what you do, and ensure the market continues to thrive?

It has been incredibly helpful for us to be able to secure funding to improve and grow our market and to have access to the additional support and advice available from Connect Local. We

variety to keep the public interested in the market. Any help to achieve our goal of rejuvenation would be very welcome indeed!

For further info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/428425741023898/>



hope in turn to help the stallholders benefit their businesses from the practices we're adopting. We have had good footfall figures in Arbroath but aim to continue offering great quality produce and

Connect Local is delivered by a team of experts from SAC, SAOS, Scotland Food & Drink and Seafood Scotland and funded by Scottish Government and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

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