**Item 3: STC Market Severe Weather Policy**

It is important to note that the market will operate in all weathers. Cancellation is a last resort and will apply when an assessment of risk suggests it is necessary to protect the health and safety of all users of the Market Square. Any cancellation will be done in accordance with advice from the Met Office ( [www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings) ). This mainly applies to high winds but could be applied to torrential rain, snow, fog etc.

Two different ‘Adverse Weather’ restrictions apply to STC markets:

“Permanent Stalls” and “Pop up Stalls”

**Permanent Stalls**

**Stage 1.**

Risk is that parts of the stall and covering can break free in high winds along with traded products and cause injury and / or damage. “ High winds” are regarded as those in excess of mean-35 and gusts- 45 mph and equate to a ’Yellow’ weather warning.

Controls:

1. Premarket and during market monitoring of weather forecast.
2. Consider cancellation of market.
3. Removal and / or tying down of empty stall boards
4. Allowance for traders to trade with stalls but no canopies.
5. Removal of street level A Boards and floor boxes/packaging which will impede public safety.

**Stage 2.**

A Yellow warning with gusts of more than 45 mph.

 Controls:

1. Premarket and during market monitoring of weather forecast.
2. Consider cancellation of market.
3. No market stalls but market traders with perishable goods will be allowed to bring vehicles on to the Market Square and trade from their vans

**Stage 3.**

Amber warnings for our area will result in a market closure.

Controls:

1. Premarket and during market monitoring of weather forecast.
2. Consider cancellation of market.
3. In the case of an Amber warning, it is expected that this will be highlighted by the Met Office at least 4 -5 days before the market.

**“Pop up” gazebo stalls**

**Stage 1**

 Risk is that parts of the stall and covering can break free in high winds along with traded products and cause injury and / or damage. “ High winds” are regarded as those in excess of mean-35 and gusts- 45 mph and would constitute a Met Office Yellow warning.

Controls:

1. Pre market and during market monitoring of weather forecast.
2. Removal and / or tying down of empty stall boards
3. Removal of canopies.

**Stages 2 and 3**

There will be a risk assessment for each pop up stallholder as the weather warning moves to stages 2 and 3. This may be the allowance of a restricted gazebo or trading from a vehicle as a last resort.

In the case of a cancellation due to an Amber warning:

Market traders to be informed by telephone and email. We would like market traders to confirm receipt of message and STC will continue to contact traders until this has happened.

Controls for the alteration of the stalls due to the above weather warnings will be decided on a Thursday.

Lyn Harris 20.4.21