

News Release

Market Trading in Central Bletchley – Prices are the same or lower

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council has not increased pitch prices for market traders and they have recently been reduced for some traders. The last price increase was in April 2013 over seven years ago and prices have not increased since then.

Traders have always had a choice of paying a "casual" rate or a discounted "regular" rate if they attended for 6 consecutive weeks and continued to attend for 48 weeks of the year.

On 16 June 2020 the Council decided to require all traders to pay for their pitches online. The reason for this was to promote social distancing and prevent unnecessary cash handling. The Council also took the opportunity to simplify the charges (by charging the same rate on every day of the week) and reduced all charges to the lowest previous daily rate.

Regular traders are now required to pay monthly in advance but it was agreed that there would be no charges in January and a 50% discount in December. This does not represent an increase in rents over the year for anyone and for some traders this will result in savings. Casual traders are required to pay by 12 noon on the day before trading.

Nationally market trading has declined steadily over recent years and unfortunately Bletchley is no exception to this trend. This is why the rents have not been increased for 7 years. All our market charges are publicly available on our website.

For further information, please visit the <u>Bletchley Market webpage</u> on our website.

You can also contact us by email <u>info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk</u> or by phone on 01908 649 469.

8.7.2020