

**Our ref:** Buttermarket Petition  
**Please ask for:** Growth & Economic Prosperity  
**Direct Dialing:** 01909 533 177  
**Email:** GrowthandEnterprise@bassetlaw.gov.uk

30 July 2, 2025

Dear

**Petition re: Retford Buttermarket**

I refer to the petition dated 12 June, which included a petition signed by 2,021 individuals regarding the renovation of the Buttermarket for which a formal recognition of receipt was sent on 30 June 2025. The petition stated,

We the undersigned are asking Bassetlaw District Council to reconsider the change of use of the Retford Buttermarket from crafts as it was intended to a food hall as we already have over 70 eateries in Retford.

May I first take the time to thank you for submitting the petition which it falls to me to respond to as it does not meet the threshold to be debated by Council.

In October 2023, the Council undertook a consultation with residents, Retford Market Traders, Crafters, and local businesses about our plans to invest in the Market Square and the Buttermarket. Crafters were included in this consultation and had an opportunity to respond.

The focus is to improve the long-term sustainability of the Market and the Buttermarket to broaden opportunities for traders, businesses, and residents. One of the key consultation points was the proposal to repurpose the Buttermarket to provide an additional indoor trading space.

The consultation results were as follows:

- 64.10% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal
- 20.67% either disagreed or strongly disagreed
- 15.24% were unsure.

These results were reported to Cabinet in February 2024, and Members approved the proposal in line with the consultation findings. Officers were then given approval to progress the project.

As part of this process the Council has engaged with crafters and provided a more than the required notice period under the standard hire Terms and Conditions.

We continue to work with crafters to seek suitable alternative venues in Retford in order that they may continue to trade locally, and I am aware that during the ongoing renovation works some Crafters have opted to trade from outdoor stalls, and this option remains open. Additionally, we have engaged with The Grove Church, which has expressed willingness to provide space.

I am also aware that we continue to engage with crafters during the ongoing works and the most recent update to the Crafters, sent on 13 May, extended the use of the Buttermarket to include the July Big Market Day.

The Council has and will continue to keep Crafters updated on the availability of the Buttermarket prior to the full renovation work commencing and as detailed above will work with them to find suitable alternative locations within Retford.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Armiger', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Armiger  
Chief Executive

**Copy to:** Cara Hopkinson, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager