

Wednesday 20 November 2019,

Motion for Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

“That Dublin City Council does not go ahead with the tendering process for the Fruit Market and that DCC takes control of managing the market in order to keep the market fully public”

This month DCC plans to go to tender to find one private company to renovate and to manage Dublin Fruit market. Time is of the essence here before the process starts in the middle of the month

I am putting this emergency motion forward today as the future of the fruit market is at stake during the month of November before the tendering process starts.

It is understood that some renovation need to take place to maintain the historical building in good shape and to upgrade the market to necessary standard to function as a safe and clean food market.

We are calling on DCC to keep full control of the operation of the market.

1. Best practice:

Like for any business plan, it is always useful and safe to look at best practice examples and to copy models. Throughout Europe indoor markets have been functioning for 100 years and more: for example France is well known for its numerous indoor and outdoor fruit market. These markets are fully public, they are operated by city councils. These markets attracts as many shoppers as ever, and there are often waiting list for vendors to rent a stall.

2. What attracts tourists :

It is well known in the economy of tourism that what attracts tourists are not site made for tourists. Authenticity, character, sense of local place is what attract tourist.

3. Health and duty to provide a service

We know we are in a health crisis when the Irish government has to publish adds to tell people to eat fruit and vegetables and to stay away from processed food. Obesity, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease are endemic we as consumers we eat out.

The HSE and the government in general are pushing for people to buy fresh local fruit and vegetable and to cook. Dublin City Council as a duty to provide a market to sell fresh food for city dwellers to eat 5-7 portions of fruit and vegetable a day, to buy fresh bread and to buy fresh meat, fish eggs cheese etc..

4. Protect local farmers

In times of uncertainty for farmers with Bruit, in times when family farms are struggling to stay in business, Dublin City Council has a duty to help create places for these local farmers to sell their produce. Market are the only real opportunity for small farmers to make a living: markets allows them to sell their produce directly to consumers with no middle man involved. It allows them the only selling cost that would let them make a living. Markets allow them to directly meet the consumers to know what they want, which is crucial for a healthy business model.

5. Security:

Just like people renting a home, local producers need the security that rent and fees will stay affordable and will not depend on the financial stock market's ups and downs. This is crucial for small producers to have a market management model that will secure them reasonable fees in order to keep food prices as low as possible for consumers. The whole idea of a food market is cut out the middle man as much as possible. Markets are the most sustainable business models to secure family farms to make a living and to provide fresh food to city dwellers

Cllr Sophie Nicoullaud