

THRAPSTON LIVESTOCK CENTRE

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Cattle Markets

With the New Year upon us, I would like to update all of our clients and users of our market of our plans for the future

Thrapston

We are acutely aware of the inadequacies of the present market, laid out in 1871 and revamped by my father in the early 1960s. There is not enough room for proper vehicle movement by modern lorries and trailers, no where to park and the office and canteen facilities leave something to be desired. The approach to the market down Market Road is in conflict with the school and causes a nuisance to the long suffering local householders.

The Local Authority have agreed that they would wish the market to move, but remain in the area, and for the existing site used to enhance the town centre.

We have identified a site in Thrapston upon which we are prepared to relocate. There are all of the planning hurdles to be gone through but we hope to submit a planning application for the new market together with the application for the redevelopment of the existing site by 31st March. If all goes well we would be on the new site by Fat Stock Show 2011.

Stratford

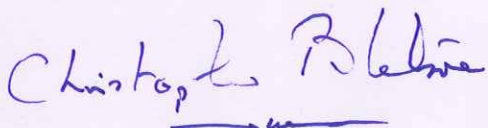
Some of you may be aware that Stratford Market, some 6 miles south of Stratford upon Avon, is looking for an auction firm to take it over following the death of Mr Gerald Stafford. The market is only 15 miles from Brian Pile's home and does not in any way interfere with the service we can give from Thrapston. There is an overlap of buyers, but not of vendors. Indeed, it will give an opportunity for vendors who feel we are a little too far east to use Thrapston Market. We have therefore come to an arrangement with the Cook family who own the market, to take over the sales commencing on Tuesday 12th. January next. There is a substantial sheep market and facilities for up to 200 cattle. Those of you out towards Rugby and the M40 might like to call in and see what goes on.

Northampton

The saga of Northampton still continues. We have public expressions of support from West Northampton Development Corporation and Northampton Borough Council. The declared policy of both bodies is to seek the reopening of the market and we all remain totally committed to the Farmers' Consortium's fight for the reopening of Northampton Market as a farmer's market at Northampton

Finally may I wish you on behalf of my colleagues a prosperous New Year, easy lambing, good grazing and firm prices.

Yours sincerely


Christopher Bletsoe