



**Sandbach
Town
Council**

28th March, 2012

Dear Sirs,

Sandbach Town Council wishes to submit an application to join the Portas Review Pilot Scheme.

Sandbach is a traditional, medium sized, Cheshire market town with a population of 17,630. Formerly the home of ERF and Fodens' Trucks, the town had a well-renowned and busy market. The demise of the truck industry and decline in the popularity of markets has greatly affected the town. Sandbach's major assets now are its excellent schools, which attract professionals who work in Manchester and rarely shop locally.

The Town Council will shortly take over the ownership and management of its Indoor and Outdoor Markets, which desperately need investment and the breath of life. The market is the heart of Sandbach; the council intends to ensure its survival.

Many of the factors drawn out within the Portas Review reflect this council's thinking: During the last two years we have managed to avoid the imposition of parking charges by the Unitary authority; We consider it essential that the Town Council has a greater input into planning applications and gains; We are frustrated by our lack of influence over the mix of shops within our high street; We consider our market essential to the life blood of our town.

The Town Council currently works with many organisations for the benefit of the town and will continue to do so as part of the Portas Pilot.

We wish you well with all your pilots and hope to be included in them.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Dennis Robinson
Mayor of Sandbach

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