

Markets and Abattoir Accounts 1970 – 1971

Report year end 31st of March 1971

Rents have remained stable since 1959. New rents proposed in 1971 were fairly substantial but accepted. Also considered was the rent levels required in the new Sheaf Market. Despite new rent levels the charges in Sheffield Markets will remain one of the lowest in the country.

After years of planning and re-planning we are able to state that work has started on the building of the new Sheaf Market. Should be completed in financial year 1971-1972 as this will mark the centenary of the original Sheaf Market which was extended in 1912 and 1961 to its existing size. In 1912 the prospective tenants built their own shop premises on the understanding the new market was not to be built for five years.

After lengthy and costly site preparations the main contractor for the new building THE Public Works Department commenced operations in May 1970. The site formerly The Castlefolds Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market has presented problems in that the 40 feet wide River Sheaf runs diagonally across it. The decision to build a mini-market outside the main building was motivated by several factors. The need for extra stalls, obtain further revenue, the desire to use for commercial purposes what would have been an open space and to provide the final touch of atmosphere to what has been for so many years the traditional markets area of the city. Retail markets have continued to flourish with long waiting lists for stalls. Popularity with the public has not diminished despite severance of the natural connection between the Sheaf and Castle Markets when Castlefolds was closed to allow building of the new market. The numbers using the alternative link – the temporary staircase at the rear of the Norfolk Building have produced evidence of the strong association between the two markets.