

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

### Interviewee Details

Name: Shaun Collins

ID Number: CM\_036\_Collins

Place of Birth

Year / Date of Birth: 30/01/63

### Interview Details

Interviewer: Shannon

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

### Transcription

Time		
	Shannon	Right, I'm Shannon. Can I start by asking your name please?
	Shaun	Collins, Shaun Collins.
	Shannon	And your date of birth?
	Shaun	30. 1. 63
	Shannon	Thank you. I guess a good place to start is your earliest memory of the market.
	Shaun	As a child, before this market there was another market on the same site. I think it was a bit further off to that, that way. But I remember as I was a kid that was the one with the bear light bulbs hanging from wires and there were stalls and there used to be weighing scale that used to weigh jockeys for horse racing and you could ,if you paid money you could get weighed in it, it were like a seat and a big dial would go round like that, lots of people, as kids we used to get weighed and we were the same weight every time we went.
00:58	Shannon	Thank you. So, it sounds like you're from Sheffield.
	Shaun	Yeh.

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	Shannon	What part.
	Shaun	I'm from Arbourthorne, Arbourthorne Estate.
01:09	Shannon	So what brought you to the market today?
	Shaun	That fella there, he's a butcher called Dino, Buntings the name of the stall and its the best meat, always a good price, good quality and when I come here I buy a steak, I ask him which steak to have. I don't just pick one up I let him choose for me cos I know that he's going to give me good quality and he knows where the steaks been and how long its been hung.
	Shannon	So he's got the expertise, is that it?
	Shaun	Yeh he knows what he's doing, you can get these people on Morrisons adverts its just a fellow with a trilby on, he knows his stuff you see.
01:55	Shannon	Thank you. Is there any place else in the market that you tend to shop or do you just come for meat?
	Shaun	I come for meat and also, right behind you there's Stewarts' Fruit and Veg, really good prices and he specialises in the larger stuff that supermarkets reject. You haven't done your research, you know supermarkets they want all their apples the same, they want all their bananas to look same so if you get, if you go in wholesale market and there'll be bigger banana or bigger potatoes, that's where you get 'em from. So you're getting good quality but you're not getting that standardised size, that obviously comes from Europe or wherever and you get good quality and bigger stuff.
02:44	Shannon	It sounds like you're really passionate about the market so how do you feel about the fact that its closing.
	Shaun	Well its a mucky old building, its probably full of rats and its in the wrong area for most people, I think, this side of town could do with this moving and this area developing. The new market, would be nice if they could literally pick everybody up out of here, all these stallholders like the ones we've just mentioned and transplant them down in the new market. But from what I've heard that isn't going to happen because the new market, the rents are sky high and despite listening to Radio Sheffield on Toby Foster Show this morning about the mouthpiece that is in charge of the market saying that it's over subscribed. He then let it slip there's about ninety people want to open cafes so that's going to be oversubscribed isn't it. You're not going to get the same variety, you're only going to get the type of stall where they can afford to pay that rent and its not going to be the small personal traders that you've got now. They're not going to be able to

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		<p>here because they're not going to be able for afford that high rent so I think it's going to be a failure which is a shame, unless they do what, like most bureaucrats and planners, they will do a 'U' turn and they'll either subsidise certain people or they'll.., I mean look at these ethnic stalls, they're not going to be there there'll be no representation of them because they're such a small market, you know what I mean, who are they selling to? So I can't see it being a success, it'll just look like a version of Morrisons Market Traders as they call it. It's just going to be a version of that. All signs'll be the same. I'm from a sign background, that's what I do for a living and some of these signs are horrible but that's what makes it nice because some of them are spelt wrong, they've got daft names. They'll be none of that, there wont will there, there'll be none of that in the new market because it will all be standardised, there'll be no character there'll be none of that, there'll be no home made signs, there be none like this, it'll just be. It wont be the same. Sure this place is mucky like I say and everything but if they could just, it is its filthy, but if they could, because its run down and wore out, its not because you know, its like an old toothbrush if you like. But these people aren't, there not going to move. I've heard that today talking to a guy. He'd normally be going to the TT races but he's not going this year cos he knows next year there'll be no stall, sad isn't it.</p>
05:40	Shannon	<p>So it sounds like you aren't keen on trying out the new market once this one's gone.</p>
	Shaun	<p>Yeh, I'll try it but I can see, I know, you can smell it a mile off, you can tell that it's big business, it's took so long to get off ground, backhanders flying left, right and centre and there's going to be no, they're not really interested in traders, they're just interested in the project and what it will do for Sheffield and to be fair Sheffield's years behind most major cities in the North,, with the planning, the vision, they just, they're following on shirt tails of such as Leeds and Manchester. They've got people who have got inspiration, none of them in this town, shame isn' it.</p>
	Shannon	<p>It's quite <b>(someone else speaking but can't tell what they are saying)</b></p>
	Shaun	<p>Its true, you can see loads of areas like down on Canal Basin that haven't been developed. All they've got to do is get rid of that daft dual carriageway that crosses it. Well it might help when this is developed, it might spill over into the Canal Basin. But every major city uses the canals. Look at Manchester and Leeds, they see it as a plus, ours is rack and ruin. If it weren't for Hilton Hotel there'd be nowt down there as usual.</p>

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07:02	Shannon	Okay, so you mentoned you had a background in signs, can I ask you what's your favourite sign at Castle Market?
	Shaun	At Castle Market, I don't have a favourite but I just like to see the good ones and the bad ones, like Stuart he's invested in good signage and then the one next to him has just stuck a board on top of a board but there's nowt wrong with that it's.
07:24	Shannon	What do you think the best is and what do you think the worst is and which one do you like even if its not the best.
	Shaun	I'd like a homemade sign that somebody's made then at least they've made the effort rather than what we're going to get which will just be a .....they will have so much control over it, in its appearance, which is what they are worried about like everything else, that it will lose all its character. All the fridges will be the same. All the stalls will look the same, it will be like walking through an oversized supermarket and that's why I'm afraid because then it wont be a market anymore it will just be stalls. Cos market's people isn't it, that's what it is, its people whether they're customers or whether they're traders. And all that will disappear which is a shame.
	Shannon	Okay, well.
	Shaun	We'll see, we'll see who's right.
08:24	Shannon	We will. So I guess, if I could just wrap up by asking if there is anything you would like to add about the market, anything you think is important we know about, whether its past or its present.
	Shaun	No, I've, you can tell by design of it, it were a good building in its day, you can see they built it with good quality materials and the designs are good but its still, its wore out. I wouldn't think it would be worth renovating it, it really does want flattening but things move on but its just a shame that they're not going to take all these characters and all these people with it, that's what they're going to miss out on. They should be subsidising the original stall holders from generations. They should be subsidising and getting them in not who can afford it, it shouldn't be about money, it should be about maintaining what we've got and improving it but not flattening it and then .....
09:26	Shannon	Its [????] the Park flats, they moved whole streets
	Shaun	Parkhill Flats, yeh, they moved streets up into the sky and then nobody knew their neighbours, I lived on Parkhill for years. You didn't know your neighbour until you bumped into 'em and it weren't on flats because you didn't hang about and people upstairs would take their dog for a walk on landing below to do its business, landing below they'd

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		take their dog, dog mess everywhere, daft idea. But Parkhill were best of them. I lived in all tower blocks as a young bloke but Parkhill was the best of a bad idea.
	Shannon	Okay, thank you very much.