

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

### Interviewee Details

Name: J B Tools (preferred name)

ID Number: CM\_067\_JBTools

Place of Birth

Year / Date of Birth

### Interview Details

Interviewer: John Buston

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

### Transcription

Time		
	John	My name's REDACTED, I'm conducting an interview on behalf of Castle Market's Project. I'm speaking to, would you give your name please?
	JBTools	Mr REDACTED.
	John	REDACTED and would you explain what this stall or business sells, and just describe it generally speaking please?
	JBTools	Well its a hardware, DIY and gardening and household an we've been here for just over 26 years, I've been here 26 years. It was a business before that, I bought it off Joyce [?Bramma?] and as an existing business.
00:46	John	So the stall does belong to yourself and you bought it off someone else. Whilst you've been running the stall what changes have you noticed within the market in relation to the customer demand for the products. Has it remained stable, has it increased, has it decreased?
	JBTools	Obviously its decreased with the number of supermarkets that opened in the locality and the, not having a car park adjacent to the market as such.
01:18	John	So you believe that's restricted custom that there isn't sufficient support

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		externally to the market?
	JBTools	That along with other things, its been allowed, we've been talking about a new market now for sixteen years and its been allowed to run down this market while its got into really really bad state and that's not helped us as traders trying to attract new customers to come into the market.
	John	Yes, its been an ongoing battle for you.
	JBTools	Its all been this uncertainty about the new market. I've seen that many plans over the last sixteen year its unbelievable.
02:02	John	I see, so you've been in consultation regarding a new market. Is it your intention to move there in terms of your business.
	JBTools	I've applied for a business, for a stall yes, along with everybody else we've had to fill a business plan in and apply and then we will be considered. That's what they told us. Irrespective of how long we've been here and that we've paid us rent on time and been good tenants, they just told us we'll be considered along with anybody else, which, to me, I think that's a bit unfair, that's not the way to treat people. We've been here, we've suffered along for the last sixteen year, we've been trading at very very difficult times and they could allow other people to come into the brand new market that's never been here and I think that's a bit unfair, but that's only my personal take on it.
03:11	John	So you would had thought that those who've been here longer, in Castle Market and gone through the ups and downs of the business cycles, would be given some precedence in terms of the new market.
	JBTools	Provided they've not done anything wrong and they're up to date with their rent and if they meet them criterias I couldn't see why they shouldn't have been given the first precedent, to be honest
03:40	John	Yes,
	JBTools	But according to Andy Ward, he said he'd got to throw it open to everybody and everybody got same opportunities to come in.
	John	Yes
	JBTools	And Andy Ward is the Market Manager.
03:56	John	Right, so is the new market going to have a similar sort of scope that it has in Castle Market. Is it going to broaden out the scope as well? You said you've looked at the plans, is there any comment you can make in relation to that, what the new market will represent.

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	JBTools	I don't know what you mean.
	John	I believe its meant to appeal to a broader socio-economic range so do you think that's going to accommodate a business of this nature. Will you be able to be well established there?
	JBTools	Well that's up to me to try and make it work. Obviously if it doesn't work I'd leave along with anybody else but you know, I'd give it, if I'm selected to go in, I'll give it my 100% effort to make it work. You're not going in there to waste your time you're going in there to do business.
04:48	John	<p>So your products have got to appeal to a broader range of customers and therefore you feel that it would be appropriate for you to establish your business in that area. Yes, I understand what you mean.</p> <p>So could you just talk generally about the nature of your job now. What is it you like about your job and aspects of that nature?</p>
	JBTools	Well I like it, I came into this, I bought it twenty-six years ago because I wanted to run my own business and be my own boss and over the last years I've been very very successful, it's only this last ten year that the market in general has gone down and my business along with any other business has gone down because there's not as many people coming into the market. For whatever reasons, it could be change of shopping habits, lack of car parking, number of supermarkets that opened in the not too far away distance.
06:11	John	So hopefully if you are established in the new market and you may well be, there'd be students, office people, a broader range of customers available for your products. Well we'll leave it at that for now, Thank you.
	JBTools	Thank you.