

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

### Interviewee Details

Name: JBTools (by request)

ID Number: CM\_068\_JBTools

Place of Birth

Year / Date of Birth

### Interview Details

Interviewer: Richita

Date / Time:

Place: Castle Market

### Transcription

Time		
	Richita	So how long have you been in the Castle Market?
	JBTools	I've been here twenty-six years.
	Richita	Twenty-six.
	JBTools	Twenty six years aye in the Castle Market. We've seen various changes over them times, and we've been promised a new market for the last sixteen year and they've kept, the plans have kept failing and failing so we've just kept hanging on there but as you can see its been left into decline so a lot of traders have left already through people not coming into the market obviously and then its been left into a run down state.
00:52	Richita	So do you really want a new market to come up or would you prefer this market to be renovated or
	JBTools	Well its a bit irrelevant that question now, if you'd asked me that six years ago you know it could have had some bearing but at the moment its irrelevant because the new market has been built. I would have preferred to stay here. The customers would have preferred to stay here, but not as it is, being revamped. If it had been revamped and you know spend probably half of the money what they're spending on building the new market, this would have, it would have, a lot better position I think and if we'd have had a car park as well because we've

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

		had four car parks over the last years and every ones been took off us for development with be it flats or empty offices so we've got no car park as such.
02:02	Richita	And what was your experiences through out the market the years you've been here. What do you feel, how do you feel leaving it now after so many years.
	JBTools	Well its yeh its a bit of a bind, I mean twenty-six years of your life I've come in here but I've seen it like going into decline over them years at one minute, time, I had three shops and I employed three staff. Now I've got one shop and I just myself work here. That's how much its gone down through lack of investment in this place. The Council didn't have any, they didn't really want to stay here so they didn't want to invest or put this market back as it should be. So its been left to go into decline and people leave, the shops outside become empty because of the uncertainty of the market move. They're not going to sign a new five or ten year lease if the market moves so just the area has been allowed to go into decline. Its changing habits of the shoppers, we've got to face facts that there's not as many people use the markets, not just in Sheffield, in any town or city that you go in, the markets have got to compete with the supermarkets but we've sat back and let the supermarkets take over. If we would have fought back we'd a lot more to offer than what the supermarkets have insofar as we could have give that personal service where in a supermarket its a little bit informal, you get your goods and go but as I said that, every supermarket that's ever built, they've all got a car park. We're trading with one arm tied behind us back with no car park. So we're trying to compete with the supermarkets, not so much Meadowhall. Meadowhall's a different shopping experience but having said that, they again have a car park. Crystal Peaks has a car park, all the Tesco supermarkets, Asda, whether its B&Q or Morrisons, they've all got car parks. I mean for whatever reason the City, the Council didn't want the cars coming into the City but they've got to let the people have that choice.
04:54	Richita	So do you feel that twenty –six years ago supermarkets were not as important? Due to the growing importance of the supermarkets the Castle Market just fell down.
	JBTools	That's one of the reasons, yes. There wasn't twenty-six year ago, in that twenty-six year there's about twelve supermarkets opened within a five mile radius of the Castle Market. So twenty-six year ago there were hardly any supermarkets so this were the place where people had to come for their shopping.
05:33	Richita	Did you, before you opened a shop here did you ever come to shop

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

		yourself.
	JBTools	Yes I did, yeh, not so much in this one they had a market across the road what they've pulled down, Sheaf, they called that the Sheaf, going back sixteen year that's what they said they had traders in there , they said take them traders out and bring them in here and then the plans were to put a new roof on and move everybody back in there. That never ever happened. So they got everybody out and pulled it down and built offices on it.
06:12	Richita	So do you ever talk to your shoppers, or your customers about the growing changes in the markets or have they ever said anything to you about it?
	JBTools	They've just said with all this publicity over the up and coming years they would have liked this place to have been revamped and to stay here but the Council in their infinite wisdom, they want to move it down the Moor because they want to have all the shopping down there so what can we do?
06:45	Richita	Are you going to move down to the Moor yourself?
	JBTools	Yes I am yeh. I've just been notified that we've got a place and which place it is, so yes I'm going in.
07:00	Richita	But its sort of like a new experience, do you think that the new market on the Moor will be [?????] different than from the market here?
	JBTools	Well it will be different. This has got a market feel to it you know, what they're doing must not be allowed to have anything outside the shop, it'll be a bit basic really, you know, to me, provided you're not coming out too much it gives as proper market feel to it, you know, that's what shoppers like to, and if its too glitzy and glamoury they'll be thinking you know the prices are having to go up you know whereas first and foremost you come to a market for a bargain. That's what you come, you come for good service and a bargain. If its not cheap or if its not cheaper that you can get in the other shops, it can be as cheap but if its as cheap you're going to get somebody that's selling you a product and they can explain what to do with it and how to use it. Whereas you can't get that in a shop and you can't put a seventeen year old shop assistant with same amount of knowledge as what I've got if she's selling something.
08:34	Richita	Fair enough, is there anything else you'd like to add to the entire experience.
	JBTools	No, I've enjoyed my time in the Castle Market, during that time. I would have liked. like I said earlier I would have like his to be revamped but

# Castle Markets Project - Oral History

## Interview Transcription

		for some reasons the Council don't want to so we've got to, everything changes, and we've got to look forward and welcome the new market.
--	--	---