

Castle Markets Project - Oral History

Interview Transcript

Interviewee Details

Name: Helen Newsome

ID Number: CM_012_Newsome

Place of Birth: Doncaster

Year / Date of Birth: 30 Dec 1990

Interview Details

Interviewer: Anna Parkinson

Date / Time: 12/12/12 15:07

Place: Castle Market

Audio File Nos: CM_012_Newsome

Summary

Time	Description
0.30	First time in the market was during first year of uni to buy some material to make a cave girl costume
0.48	Sewing things and material the kind of thing usually bought at the market – haberdashery quite cheap and not always easy to get elsewhere
1.00	Choice of products isn't great, like Doncaster market the market has gone downhill
1.23	Been into food section once to buy some bananas
1.30	Market is rambling and confusing and difficult to know what's where, so
1.47	leaves quickly

2.11	Market is run down, doesn't enjoy being there. Comes here for a purpose and doesn't spend time here in cafes and so on.
2.45	Market has its regulars but she would rather go to a supermarket because they are cleaner and more organised – a lot easier although there's not the personal touch.
3.15	Market doesn't have the facilities and specialities that she would like, would have come more often otherwise.
3.50	The food section seems small, wonders whether she has found it all. Doncaster food market is really good, likes that it's organised and finds Sheffield market confusing and disorganised.
4.04	Gets lost every time she comes in, Tesco's is easier.
4.36	In some ways it's a shame that the market is closing because it's been here a long time, but thinks building a new market will be rejuvenating and attract new people.
4.50	Location of current market is not central, have to go out of your way to get there.
5.33	Will use the new market if it's more accessible, if the fruit and veg improves. Location of new market is on her way home from work so can pop in more easily.
5.39	Stallholder wouldn't let her buy half a bunch of bananas.
6.17	An old lady wanted to buy three bananas and she wasn't allowed to, she had to buy a full bunch.
6.49	Market is a bit 'scabby'. Reminds her of Doncaster market, which was once really good but no longer has the stalls that people want. Can buy DVDs or cigarettes but not regular thing like shoelaces or material or a fishmonger.

	Market has lost its identity, hopefully the new one will be a bit better.
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Transcript

Anna: Ok, so it's recording now, so if you could tell me your name, and your date of birth, and today's date.

Helen: Ok, my name's Helen Newsome, I was born on the thirtieth of December 1990 and it's the twelfth of the twelfth twenty twelve.

Anna: Thank you. So I'm just going to ask you some general questions about the market, anything – anything that comes to mind really about the market. So, can you tell me the first time you came here?

Helen: I came here during my first year at uni with my friend to buy some material to make a cave girl costume.

Anna: So, was that the kind of stuff that you'd usually buy here?

Helen: Yeah, like material or like sewing things really, because everything else you can get in kind of high street whereas like haberdashery is quite difficult to get hold of and it's generally quite cheap the market, but like the selection isn't amazing to be honest, which – I guess that's just of all places. Like Doncaster market used to be amazing for like dress making and stuff and it's just gone down the pan as well, it's just there's lots of curtain material, netting, so not – I mean it was ok, but – not the greatest selection.

Anna: Do you ever – have you ever been into the food section, have you ever bought – bought anything there?

Helen: Once and I bought some bananas. I bought a big bunch of bananas. But I think 'cause it's just so rambling you get a bit confused as to what's where, it's quite – I always kind of come in and get a bit overwhelmed and think oh goodness, it's really disorganised and just leave quickly!

Anna: So when you came into the market, how do you – how does it make you feel when you come here?

Helen: It's just run down, it just feels – just run down, do you know? It's not a happy place, and I don't find it happy, I come and it's like, just feels – just neglected. I wouldn't say it's an enjoyable place to be, I wouldn't – I'd come here for a purpose and I wouldn't spend time here, I wouldn't like come to cafes here or anything like that. I think it's kind of like - it's got its regulars, the people who've come here for years and years, and I think that there's a certain type of person who comes to the market as well, you know, which – I'd just want to go to somewhere like a bigger superstore, somewhere like that, it's just it's cleaner, organised, I feel [unintelligible] in it and you don't get the same kind of personal – kind of personal touch but it's a lot easier.

Anna: Yeah, yeah, so you come here for a purpose

Helen: Yeah, and not very often. It's not got the facilities, that like - a lot of the stuff that you buy here it's not got the same kind of specialisms it would, do you know what I mean? Like if it had had a massive material stall and stuff like that I probably would have come a lot more often, but as it doesn't then it's pointless me coming, it doesn't like have what I want, which is a shame really but

Anna: Yeah, not everyone who comes to the market, like, wants the same thing or expects the same thing

Helen: No exactly. And like, I dunno like the food bit just seems quite small. I don't know if I've just not - found certain parts of it or something but it just seems really small whereas Doncaster food market's really good and it's - it's got an indoor market and an outdoor market, you know where everything is, and it's quite - I like the fact that it's organised and you know where everything is because if you haven't been coming here for years it's quite confusing really, it's not the easiest place to navigate is it?

Anna: No, no, that's true, that's true [unintelligible] to someone who's not familiar with it.

Helen: That's it, like just coming in here I got lost, so every time I've been in I'm just - I get so confused as to where I am. I just think oh no I'm going to leave now [laugh] Tesco's is easier!

Anna: How do you feel about the fact that the market's going to be closing?

Helen: I think it's a shame, in some ways, because you know it's been here for you know however many years, but I think - I think if they're going to make - build - I think the fact that they're building a new market, and if that's going to - just rejuvenate, I think it's much more positive than this being here and it's not growing and it's not - you just feel like it's dying in some ways whereas at least if it's moving hopefully that will give it a lease of new life, new people will come in - and you know like it will just like be more appealing to people and its location in town is not that - it's not central town is it, you have to go out of your way to come here you don't kind of just stumble upon it. So fingers crossed it will be better in the other place.

Anna: Do you think you would use the new market?

Helen: Yeah, if it's more accessible and stuff, and I know where everything is, then yeah definitely. If the fruit and veg and stuff improves, you know if there's more selection and stuff then I'd definitely go there. 'Cause it's on my way home from work, so I'd probably pop in whereas here it's just not really.

Anna: I know you say you haven't been here very often, but I just wondered if you had any kind of random memories, anything that springs to mind, like anything kind of - memorable that's happened while you've been here?

Helen: A woman offered me discount on some material. A guy wouldn't let me buy half a bunch of bananas. Ah no I have got a memorable memory! One woman, an old lady, wanted to buy like three bananas and he was like, well no sorry love you can't, you can only buy a full bunch. So that was quite funny, the fact that she couldn't - she was like, oh I can't carry it, and I was like you've got a

wheelie trolley, you can clearly carry it. So that's what I remember, a woman being funny about some bananas. That's funny. Sorry.

Anna: No! Um, I'm not sure what to say now. Um, have you got anything, any like final - thoughts to add to this little interview?

Helen: It's a bit scabby [laughs] Oh that sounds horrible, but it just – it's just it reminds me of being in Doncaster, it reminds me of that market. It's kind of, it was once really good, and now it's just a bit – like, the stalls, you don't get the stall that you want, do you know what I mean. It's all things like oh you can buy DVDs or you can buy cigarettes, or something like that, rather than, you know, having the regulars that you always go to like someone who sells shoelaces and someone who sells material and the fishmonger. It's just like lost its kind of identity and character, so hopefully it'll – the new one might be a bit better.

Anna: Ok so I think that will do, thank you for your time, thanks for coming down here.

Helen: You're welcome.

Anna: I'll turn it off now.