



What is The Market Garden?

The Market Garden is a space for Swansea Market customers to enjoy when they visit us. Customers can pick up something to eat or drink at one of the variety of cafes and food stalls, then sit and enjoy them in the Market Garden. The space is also flexible so it can be used for events, pop-up markets and cookery demonstrations.

We are in the process of putting together an events programme, launching with an exciting St David's event on Saturday 26 February 2022.

What are the opening hours of The Market Garden?

The Market Garden is open from 8am to 4.30pm daily. When the Market is open on Sundays during the Christmas period it is open from 10am to 4pm on those days.

Why is the Market getting this?

Times change and peoples' needs evolve, now more so than ever with Covid; the Market needs to keep pace. The Market continues to have more than 100 permanent traditional stalls selling a wide range of produce, goods and services – and The Market Garden will make it even more attractive to a modern audience. We're confident that it will attract new customers and will encourage existing customers to stay a little longer – resulting in more trade for our stallholders.

This development will also help our cafes and take-way stalls some of whom only have limited space at their stalls for seating. Their customers will now be able to enjoy The Market Garden.

Why is it called The Market Garden?

The Market Garden is located in an area which was historically home to the flower market. We asked for your feedback on the plans when the project was first proposed and The Market Garden came out tops. With planting, a graceful pergola and garden style seating, the area aims to bring the outside in and provide a relaxing space for socialising and for events.

What about casual traders?

A new bespoke casual trading facility has been built close to the ever-popular cockle rotunda. The new modular unit is a flexible space catering for a variety of uses. There is power, water and storage (including lockable units) and it has a recessed counter for wheelchair access. Casual traders will also have the opportunity to use their own signs and branding.

Our longer term casual trader has been accommodated with another stall. The Market continues to welcome casual traders – old and new!

How will the area be managed for things like hygiene and cleanliness, the behaviour of dogs, antisocial behaviour and those not using the area in the spirit with which it's being introduced?

- A Market Attendant will be designated to the area to ensure it's kept as clean and tidy as possible. We ask customers to clear up after themselves and to use the recycling and waste station to deposit their rubbish appropriately. The Market will continue to reflect up-to-date Welsh Government guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- We have a set of 'doggy rules' that clearly set out the responsibilities of dog owners. These include a need for all dogs to be on a lead, that water bowl spills are cleaned up, waste is swiftly cleaned up, dogs stay off the furniture and away from the children's play table.
- Regarding anti-social behaviour and misuse of the area, the Market has a security guard who already deals with such issues - this will now include the Market Garden. A Market Attendant will also be on hand – and CCTV continues to operate in the Market. We will monitor activity and review processes on a regular basis. Stallholders reserve the right to decline service and Market Management reserve the right to refuse or end access to the Market Garden or the wider Market.

Why are dogs being allowed in the Market now?

One of the most exciting changes for the Market is that well-behaved dogs are now welcome. This is in response to significant demand; we are taking daily queries from potential customers, particularly holidaymakers, who are seeking to visit the Market with their dog and this interest has grown with the increase in dog ownership since the start of the pandemic.

Our research also shows that big retail brands such as Starbucks, Waterstones, John Lewis, Liberty, House of Fraser, Cath Kidston, Selfridges, White Stuff, Lush and The Apple Store all now allow dogs. In addition, there are examples of numerous markets across the country that have or are planning to go in a similar direction.

What about hygiene and safety concerns with dogs being in the Market?

We have consulted with our Food Hygiene team who are happy as dogs won't be near any food preparation areas.

Dog owners will also have to follow our 'doggy rules' which means that dogs will need to be leashed at all times and any accidents cleared up.

Our staff will be patrolling the aisles and will deal with any issues.

Will I be able to take food into The Market Garden from outside the Market?

No, this facility is to support our traders. This means only food and drink purchased

in the Market itself will be able to be consumed at The Market Garden.

What facilities are there for children?

The Market Garden has been designed to cater for families. For example, there are special bottle and food warming facilities, high chairs and a toddler play table to keep little ones entertained. For older children gadgets can be charged on site and there will be free public Wi-Fi (coming soon!) We'll also be hosting fun family events and activities when The Market Garden opens.

What about disabled access?

The Swansea Disability Liaison Group have helped shaped the design of The Market Garden to ensure it is accessible. For example, the planters that will be installed at floor level will not only help demarcate the space but also help those who are blind or visually impair to navigate the space.

How will the Council maintain all the plants?

Special care has been given to the plants that have been selected. These are evergreen, low maintenance specimens that are suited to the environment and they will be subject to regular watering and maintenance.

Is The Market Garden be environmentally friendly? The environment is something we care deeply about at Swansea Market! We've recently upgraded the Market's lighting to a more energy efficient LED format and installed solar panels on the roof. In 2021 the Market was awarded an A rating in terms of its energy efficiency.

We've endeavoured to keep that spirit when planning The Market Garden. Sustainable choices have also been made wherever possible in terms of the selection of materials chosen. The new space also features a recycling station with multiple receptacles for different types of waste as well as a station to refill water bottles and the area will be lit by atmospheric and efficient LED lighting. As the area is to support the cafes and takeaway stalls already in operation, we are not introducing any new takeaway facilities as part of the development which may generate more waste.

