

## Woolly hats left street trader with a £700 bill

A STREET trader who illegally offered his wares for sale in Manchester city centre has been fined hundreds of pounds.

John Alesbury was ordered to pay £700 after a town hall official spotted him selling woolly hats and scarves from a cart on Market Street.

Alesbury, 44, of Ingleton Road, Edgeley, Stockport, was fined £435 and ordered to pay £250 costs and a £15 victim surcharge after being found guilty of illegal street trading in his absence at Manchester magistrates' court.

CCTV footage was collected over a two-hour period showing Alesbury and another man pushing the trolley along the high street and trying to sell goods from it in January, Manchester council said.

The men held a peddlers' certificate issued by the police. However under the terms of the paper, traders must effectively remain constantly on the move.

### Serious

Manchester's deputy leader Jim Battle said: "Illegal street traders often sell shoddy products, undermine legitimate traders who are struggling now more than ever before, and cause obstructions on busy streets."

Town hall bosses who want to crackdown on illegal trading are currently pushing through parliament the Manchester City Council Bill which would remove a protection traditionally awarded to street traders and allow police to seize their goods and serve them with fixed penalty notices.

If passed as law the bill, which has received cross-party support from MPs, will reduce the amount of time officers have to observe illegal traders to gather evidence of an offence taking place.

23 September 2009 **Manchester Evening News** Article

### Woolly Battle on Market Street

Not happy with defeat over peddling the Manchester City Council Bill through Parliament, deputy leader Jim Battle fails to understand the implications of the recent Select Committee Hearing.

The Bill is DEAD and has been a profound waste of local charge-payers' money.

Not content with this outcome, Jim Battle continues to mislead media about the law and law-abiding citizens. He fails to acknowledge that Certified Pedlars are lawful and are not all illegal rogues as inferred. They too are struggling in this recession but as in Nazi Germany it is the weakest and most vulnerable that fall prey to pure leadership prejudice.

Pedlars are not illegal; they purchase their goods from the same wholesalers as shops; like licensed traders they are legitimate; unlike fixed traders they cannot cause obstruction because they are mobile, and when Durham University carried out a survey of public opinion in Market Street, Manchester they revealed 100% endorsement of bona fide pedlars and their activities.

So what's Jim Battle's battle all about? He may think he has won, but Mr Aylesbury has only got to go to appeal using the Council's own evidence and he will win his right to be a pedlar "pushing the trolley along the high street". Battle had to pay Clarkson of Sharpe Pritchard £100,000+ to argue that a pedlar whilst trading had to remain in "perpetual motion" but in Parliament's Select Committee this was found to be misleading nonsense and dismissed. The entire bill has been sent packing for a rewrite.

Battle is wrong about pedlars are "illegal trading" because despite him "pushing through" to "remove a protection" which is "traditionally awarded to street traders" his own Council's street-trading regime gives pedlars exemption from having to have a fixed pitch.

Isn't it time that this woolly propagandist is thrown out or sent back to school to learn the law – it would save a very comfortable salary for Manchester City Council to better spend on defence of all law-abiding citizens in these hard times.

[pedlars.admin@gmail.com](mailto:pedlars.admin@gmail.com)

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