



[www.emsworthfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.emsworthfoodfestival.co.uk)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Contact: Amanda Fallbrown on 07985 062401

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### **Emsworth Food Festival Deferred until 2009**

The directors of Emsworth Food Festival have announced that the 2008 festival will not take place. The decision has been taken after consideration about a variety of issues, including those expressed by local residents and businesses over the size and effects of the festival on the village. The directors are keen to take the time to talk to all parties, to ensure that the event continues to represent the best interests of the community. Through 2008, a structured planning process will take place, as will the continued running of community initiatives and the Young Chefs' Competition.

Over the seven years since its inception the Emsworth Food Festival has grown from several small stalls in the town centre, to over 130 producers and 55,000 visitors. The 2007 festival was the biggest yet, launching a new food village in North Street and welcoming celebrity TV chef, Lesley Waters. However the size of the Emsworth Food Festival has meant that the whole village is effectively 'closed' for more than the three days, and as such relies on the goodwill and co-operation of the people living and working within Emsworth.

"After much soul searching and deliberation we have decided to defer the next food festival," said Lulu Bowerman, Chairman of Emsworth Food Festival. "The event was originally set up to help support the businesses within Emsworth, and I am confident this has been achieved in the last 7 years, as shops, restaurants and pubs are thriving and providing excellent services and products to the local community.

“However, you cannot become complacent about an event that not only dominates the lives of Emsworth people during a week in September but has also become one of the top four food festivals in the country. We are therefore keen to take on board views across the village, to ensure that the next event represents the general consensus of the Emsworth residents and businesses.”

Tony Lee, Havant Borough Council’s Business Development Manager says “Havant Borough Council recognises the tremendous effect the Emsworth Food Festival has on the local economy and is keen to continue to provide relevant support for future festivals. An event of this scale, which is organised by volunteers, is an enormous challenge and the council fully understands the need for a year off.

The Emsworth Food Festival is organised by a committee of volunteers that starts planning for the Emsworth Food Festival some ten months ahead. Extensive working with the local authorities and emergency services takes place to ensure the smooth running of the festival.

For further information on the press release, please contact Amanda Fallbrown at Orchis Marketing on 07985 062401.

#### Editor Notes

Please note that the directors will be available for interview. Please contact Amanda Fallbrown on 07985 062401 to arrange.

If you require any further assistance from Havant Borough Council please contact Jo Humphreys, Communications Manager on 023 9244 6491.

The Emsworth Festival is the biggest food event in the South. Beginning in 2001, the event now accommodates over 120 stalls and 55,000 visitors over the three days. Uniquely for an event of this size, the festival is organised and managed by volunteers within the village.

Sited across the historic old fishing village, the event show cases producers, restaurants and pubs. Visitors can sample the freshest of local produce and seafood as well as cuisine from the different continents of the planet.

Festival details will be regularly updated on the website, [www.emsworthfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.emsworthfoodfestival.co.uk)

