

KARMIEL FARMERS' MARKET

Karmiel lately held its second monthly Farmers' Market event in the municipal marketplace located at the junction of HaYetzorim and HaKabai Streets. A recent initiative of the municipality, it seeks to increase the commercial footfall in this area. The site is only a stone's throw from the very popular *Gan Ha'Ir* shopping and entertainment complex and the now somewhat dingy and down-at-heel Old Kanyon shopping area.

The initial event in December received some criticism as there were not many farmers' stalls at all. A farmers' market is supposed to be a physical retail marketplace intended to sell foods produced by farmers directly to consumers, bypassing the wholesaler and the retailer.

Instead it featured a myriad of small vendors selling all sorts of goods and paraphernalia, much of it unconnected with comestibles, more like a flea market. However, there were many coffee, beer and wine vendors present including the Karmiel-based Gibor Brewery and live music playing.

The second market in January featured more farmers' produce stalls and fewer stalls selling arts and crafts, so perhaps this is still very much work in progress and finding out what works and what doesn't. On offer this time was a large variety of artisan breads, cheeses, spices, fruit and vegetables, olive oil, pickles, preserves and much more.

Of course, there were again an abundance of retailers of finger food, beers, wines, coffee and tea, and even candy floss for the children!



Anyhow, well done to the municipality under Mayor Koninsky, with support from the Ministry for the Development of the Negev and Galilee, for introducing more events and attractions to our city and not resting on their laurels, for that way lies stagnation.



The third such market is scheduled for 17 March (there is no mention in the advance publicity of one in February) at the same location, so if you haven't tried it yet.....give it a go!



Mayor Moshe Koninsky and his wife, Suzy, tucking-in at the January Farmers' Market.