

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Mick Thompson, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Bernard Kelly, Malcolm Allan, Mark Whittaker.  
Part Time: Patrick O'Herlihy, Mark Emery.

**1.0 Apologies:** Joyce Reed, Lorraine Thompson.

**Introductions:**

Mark Emery from Stockport Homes introduced himself and explained that he works for the Stockport Target Prevention Alliance (TPA) Team. He is employed as a Community Connector allocated to the Marple and Werneth area. This role involves working alongside voluntary and community groups in the local area, supporting people living in the community and encouraging people to become more involved in activities local to them. This is also linked to the work being done by Sheila Whittle from SMBC who visited us in November last year.

Mark E gave some examples of the kind work he gets involved and how this might link in with our own group. At the end of the discussion Mark W took the opportunity to pass on our thanks to Stockport Homes for the brilliant support that they have given our group over the last few years, which has included Community Count Grants for saving the flowerbeds, tree sculpture preservation and the Skatepark Project.

**2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.

**3.0 Matters Arising**

**3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour**

**SAVY Youth Group**

SAVY will run a youth group out of the Senior Citizens' Hall for 10 sessions between January and March this year on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 8pm.

The first one is tomorrow night. The cost of £1,900 has been funded by the East INPT (Integrated Neighbourhood Policing Team). Marple Area Committee has also approved funding of £537 for a showcase event in April 2016.

**Teen Shelter Removal**

Removal of the Teen Shelter from the park at the earliest opportunity was approved by Marple Area Committee on 16 December 2015. We await news of when this will take place and Mark will contact the **Greenspace Team** to chase up.

**Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion**

No change: installation is generally complete but concerns have been expressed to the council about the misalignment of levels between railings and gates, numerous sharp edges left exposed and damage done to some areas of the railings during grinding. The council has been asked not to authorise payment until these issues are resolved.

The proposed artwork project has still to get underway.

The Bowling Club has mentioned a couple of times that they would like a new noticeboard to be fitted to the front of their hut because they can no longer access the old one under the canopy when the gates are locked. Mark has suggested to them

that they should submit a grant application to Marple Area Committee for the funding of this and offered to help them put the application together if they need it.

A response from the club is awaited and Bernard, who is a member, will mention this to Secretary Ken Else when he next sees him.

### **Covenants and By-laws**

A report was submitted by Greenspace to Marple AC on 16 December asking for approval of changes to allow an improved informal and open access football provision to be built in the park, probably on the existing basketball court. Of course this is subject to funding, currently we are simply trying to establish if it is permissible.

Changes were not approved and an action was placed on on the council to consult with residents, park users and stakeholders and then report back to AC.

From our perspective it is not actually clear what needs to be changed or why, so it is a very confusing situation. Our interpretation is that providing such a facility is open to all then it would comply with the covenants and by-laws on the park.

This matter has been ongoing between us, Greenspace and Legal for over 12 months (since November 2014) and it still doesn't look any closer to resolution.

Mark will contact **Greenspace** to ascertain the next steps in the dance.

### **3.2 Play Areas and Play Equipment**

We were notified that the Rocking Horse in the Junior Play Area was to be removed to have new bearings fitted. The roundabout / spinner has also been removed recently, presumably for the same reason but we were not notified about this.

Mark will enquire with **Greenspace** when the equipment is to be refitted.

### **3.3 Proposal to remove full time staffing**

As explained in the post meeting note from the minutes of the last meeting, Rob the park attendant was reassigned to another park at short notice in November last year. The group were very disappointed not to be informed about these changes in advance. A complaint was made to Greenspace and local councillors, who keep telling us that we are key stakeholders in the park but often do not treat us as such.

We've also been campaigning against council/SSK proposals to remove the full time attendant from the park and have been asking people to respond to the consultation.

The results were overwhelmingly against the proposed cuts. 654 people responded to the consultation, six times more than the next biggest consultation topic. 73% of people were against the cuts. Comments from the public focused on the detrimental effect on parks, in particular Memorial Park and Etherow.

We're pleased to learn that the outcome of the consultation is that the proposals have been withdrawn, presumably meaning that the park will keep its full time attendant.

We have also recently learned that Rob is currently back in the park three mornings a week at the moment. Although we have not been advised of any further details by **Greenspace**, it's our assumption that he will return to full-time attendance as the workload in the park starts to increase in the spring.

We also hope to be better informed of what is going on in the future.

### **3.4 Park Benches**

#### **General Bench Maintenance**

Treatment of park benches will recommence in the spring when things start to dry out. Patrick would like to monitor the benches at Hawk Green, which have recently been treated with Danish Oil. We will wait and see how the HG benches far and may then try this out in our park too when the weather improves.

#### **Town Centre Benches**

Mark still needs to visit the Chiropractor on Derby Way, Kay Dee Hair & Beauty, Helen Winterson, Marple Business Forum and Wilsons to firm up details.

Marple Civic Society has agreed to sponsor a bench too. Patrick has also been speaking to Mr Haq at the chemist on the Hollins who is also interested.

The Harmony Decor plaque still needs to be fitted once the weather improves.

### **3.5 Commemorative Plaques**

No change: We've been waiting since September 2014 for the Greenspace Team to draft a report on the commemorative plaques for submission to Area Committee. They have advised, "This will be done when they have capacity within the team".

Jane Bardsley has been promoted to the role previously held by Jonathan Long. Wayne Bardsley has replaced Jane as the Greenspace Project Officer for our area. Mark will ask if this means they now have capacity in the team.

### **3.6 Park Buildings**

The 2 windows boarded up on the Bowling Pavilion following forced entry to the Mess Room several months ago have still not had a permanent repair. On the Bowlers Hut the the metal security screen still needs to be properly re-fixed.

Mark will chase these up with the **Greenspace** Team.

### **3.7 Skatepark Development Project**

#### **Latest Skatepark Project News**

In 2014 Forever Manchester CDL Fund awarded us £2,500 toward the project on the understanding they would retain it until we had raised the balance of the money we needed. This offer expired in May 2015. When the L-T application was unsuccessful the offer was kindly extended until December 2015 but we decide to stop including the sum in our totals as we did not expect to be able to satisfy the extended date.

In November Mark wrote to Forever Manchester to explain the current situation, that the money would be worth £5,000 to us now and asked if it would be possible to extend the deadline any further. FM / CDL has agreed to release the funds to us now providing we agree to return it if we do not manage to raise the balance of funds needed. This gives us a fantastic boost as we can now start including it in totals again.

Arcon Housing has rejected our recent grant application.

Local Estate Agent Julian Wadden has expressed an interest in doing the Treasure Hunt again. This was a great success in May 2015 and we hope they will do so.

It was noted from local news that the Edgeley Skatepark has been awarded £50,000 from Life Leisure and £50,000 from commuted sums. The project does not appear to have raised any funds themselves and only started in 2013, 2 years after us.

## **Grow Your Tenner**

Money is still coming in and we now have received £1,178 in donations, match-funding and Gift Aid. The total is expected to reach £1,470 by the end of January.

## **Marple Skatefest Music Night**

This was a fantastic success, raising £983 in total, thanks mainly to the support of Lazlo Baby, All Things Nice and Hawk Green Cricket Club. Hopefully it can be repeated with other similar musical events in the coming year.

## **Christmas Collections with Rotary at Asda**

A total of £901 was raised for the Skatepark Project. We will probably have a meal with the Rotary Club in February or March to catch up and thank them.

## **Hamper and Guess the Sweets in Asda**

Due to the cancellation of the Christmas Cracker we had a hamper and large jar of sweets that we were unsure what to do with. Asda's Community Life Champion was contacted and kindly arranged for us to run the raffle and competition in the store on Saturday 19 December. It went very well indeed and £458 was raised.

## **Asda Chosen by You, Given by Us**

We've been advised that we won the voting up to the end of December and have been notified that a cheque for £200 is on its way. We were also nominated again and have been included in the next round of voting too.

We are still hopeful that the Asda Foundation may also be able to support us further.

## **Nationwide Community Count**

The results of the Nationwide Building Society Community Count scheme should be available soon. We did very well in the Marple branch voting but there are two other branches to be taken into account too. *(Post Meeting Note: we have been advised that we did not win the overall vote but can expect a runner-up prize of £100 soon.)*

## **Bag Packing at Asda Saturday 23 January**

Marple Hall School has agreed to help recruit students to help us with this. If successful we will also need several adults to supervise.

## **Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights**

A further £231 has been raised at 5 Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights since the last meeting.

## **Hatters Halloween Night & Hatters / All Things Nice Movember**

The Hatters Pub organised a £1 a shot donation to the Skatepark during their Halloween night last year raising £155. The Hatters also joined with Rick at All Things Nice for Movember and raised a further £264 for the project. Fantastic community support from these local businesses!

## **Skatepark Funding Update:**

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£31,140	(growth of £5,260 since the last meeting).
With match funding:	£62,280	
Balance needed:	£37,720	(reduced by £10,520 since last meeting).
We need to raise:	£18,860	(50% of balance).

### **3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

#### **Timeline Commemoration**

Things have been quiet since the addition of Frank Bradwell on 14 November. George Brocklehurst on 14 February is the first of many 1916 casualties to go on this year.

### **3.9 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Days – 28 November 2015**

During the last task day of 2015 we trimmed the rose bushes in the Bandroom garden and had a general good tidy-up of flowerbeds and shrub beds.

A lady donated £50 to the group but insisted that it is spent on volunteers as a thank you, not directly on the park itself. We could possibly spend this at the next social event but some feel uncomfortable about this and would want to donate it back. *(PMN: Mark has discussed this again with Gill, who spoke to the lady about her wishes when she donated it. At the next meeting we will discuss a proposal to use the money to pay for task day refreshments, which we think will be a more appropriate use.)*

#### **Next Task Days – 30 January, 27 February 2016**

Free parking has been requested.

Mark will send out the task day emails around a week in advance.

#### **Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2016**

**Approved:** 30 January, 27 February, 19 March, 16 & 30 April, 14 May.

**To register:** 28 May, 11 & 25 June, 11 & 25 June, 16 & 30 July, 13 & 27 August, 10 & 24 September, 29 October and 26 November.

#### **Ad-hoc Daily Task Days**

Daily Task Days are approved on the council's system until 30 June 2016.

Town Centre Benches are covered until 30 April 2016.

#### **Risk Assessments / Training**

Chris Nielson has now attended the Team Leader Training, taking the number of volunteers who have done the new training to 7. 11 volunteers had attended the previous risk assessment training too, so we are in good shape.

We are still waiting for suitable dates for Lorraine and Micaela to do the Team Leader training and for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

#### **Power Tools**

Nothing new.

### **3.10 Equity Housing Grant for Tools**

We've now received our grant of £500 towards tools from Equity Housing.

We've spend £30 so far on two small tool trolley-buckets. Next things we need are good quality shears and brackets for storing power-tools. We need to put some effort into identifying good quality shears as those we've had so far have been poor. Adrian suggested we look at Felco, which he uses himself. Micaela asked for smaller shears and also some more leaf grabbers to be considered too.

## **4.0 Funding - Status of Funds**

The balance on latest bank statement dated 22 December is £31,610.97.

### **Income since last meeting includes:**

£250.00	Marple Locks Heritage Society.
£1,178.00	Local Giving Grow Your Tenner.
£42.50	St Mary's RC primary School.
£983.00	Marple Skatefest.
£129.00	Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights.
£25.00	Bowling Club.
£500.00	Equity Housing.
£458.00	Hamper / Guess the Sweets in Asda.

Still to pay in are £102 from Quiz Nights, £419 from the Hatters & All Things Nice.

### **Expenditure since last meeting includes:**

None

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £27,578, Pavilion Fencing £3,150, Tools £500, Flowerbeds £43 and WWI Display £127, leaving a working balance of £630. This needs to cover £17.10 for bench and gutter repairs, a cheque to reimburse Patrick for this was signed at the meeting.

## **Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Stockport Hydro Environmental Challenge**

Stockport Hydro are running a scheme that will share £1,000 between up to 10 projects in the Stockport area. Unfortunately no one has time to focus on this to put together a small project / bid before the end of January deadline.

### **5.2 Tesco Community Grant Scheme**

This was initially looked at for the Skatepark Project but it didn't meet the criteria.

Instead a provisional application was submitted for between £8k - £12k of fitness equipment. This has passed the first hurdle and Groundworks, who are operating the scheme for Tesco, have asked for more information. This was supplied in December and we now wait to learn if we will make the final selection. If we do, the project will be displayed in local Tesco stores with others and subject to a public vote.

### **5.3 "Christmas" Meal**

Mark and Gill are now looking at a meal at Angkor Soul, the new Cambodian restaurant next to the cinema. More details will be sent out by email.

### **5.3 Peter Griffiths**

Bernard reported that regular volunteer Peter has broken his ankle and will not be able to join us for task days until he has recovered. We will send him a get-well card and wish Peter a speedy recovery.

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

Monday 8 February 2016 at 6pm in Marple Library.

### **Future meeting dates scheduled for 2016 (library booked):**

8 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November & 12 December 2016.