

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007**  
**Marple Library**

**Present:** Adrian Ellis (Acting Chair), Chris Armitt, Rebecca Nedeljkovic, Peter Bardsley, Micaela Wood, Jay Havoleana, Robert Wilson, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Dave Burrows, Bill Ardern, Brian Pendlebury.

**2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**3.0 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area**

The Friends have received confirmation of the Big Lottery / BBC Breathing Places grant of £6,460 and the money is now in the group's account.

The Big Lottery Fund published a Northwest area press release on 31<sup>st</sup> May that included Jay's quote about how pleased the Friends were to learn of the good news. There were 80 grants awarded across the Northwest region and ours was one of only two projects mentioned in the main text of the release.

A copy of the award letter and the grant terms and conditions were distributed to each of the group's committee members, who were asked to ensure they have read and understood them.

Some of the key points of the terms and conditions are:

- We must start within 6 months
- We must finish by 12 June 2008 and submit a completion report.
- The budgets must be strictly controlled within tight limits and the BLF notified of deviations outside those limits.
- No payments will be made without appropriate invoices or receipts.

A copy of the Breathing Places Publicity Guidelines were tabled and it was agreed that the web site will be updated with details of the grant in accordance with these and we would prepare our own press releases as the project progresses.

Branding merchandise available free of charge from the BLF / Breathing Places scheme includes two designs of wooden plaque. The group will consider which of these is most suitable for incorporation into the Reading Area and possibly into the sculpture.

Mark advised that the Green Space Development Grant application submitted last month to cover the £485 of match funding committed to the project by the Friends has been successful. Mark will notify the BLF of this in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Breathing Places grant.

Rebecca provided an update on the works as follows:

### **Tree Work**

The council's arb team will carry out the tree work within the next two months and are currently preparing the paperwork. The tree work will need to be completed before the landscape work can start.

### **Landscape Work**

The bill of quantities has been prepared and issued to 3 contractors to tender against. Prices should be received within a week or so and Rebecca will forward these on to the group.

The BoQ includes the planting requirements. Jay pointed out that the Friends need to be involved in the planting as part of their task days and asked Rebecca to consider this when making arrangements with the contractors.

Jay also pointed out that photographs of the work in progress would be need to be taken to help report back to the BLF.

### **Sculpture**

Ideas for the sculpture were discussed. It was agreed that the design should incorporate bird feeders as originally planned, or the ability to hang bird feeders from it. It was also felt that the design should compliment the Nature and Knowledge Tree Sculpture being started soon by Andrew Frost near the bowling green.

It was agreed that the sculpture should be positioned a distance into the woodland from the circular reading area, rather than within the circle, and an exact position needs to be decided on site.

Rebecca will discuss designs with Andrew Frost while he is in the park working during the next week or two, including sourcing of the raw material for it. It may also be possible to incorporate the wooden plaque into the sculpture design and this should be discussed with Andrew too.

### **Bird & Bat Boxes**

Some designs and information for bat boxes have been obtained from the Bat Conservation Trust web site. Micaela will check if the David Lewis Centre can make some of these for us. Alternatively they could be ordered

from the Bat Trust and just the bird boxes be made by the David Lewis Centre. There is approximately £100 in the budget to cover both.

Jay will get in touch with the Bat Conservation Trust and the RSPB High Peak Group Leader Peter Griffiths to see if they would be able come to a meeting to give advice on how best to encourage bats and birds to use the woodland area.

### **Hedge Packs from the Woodland Trust**

Mark advised that the Scouts could order Hedge Packs from the Woodland Trust 'Tree for All' scheme to create a hedgerow on two sides of the woodland area. These are available free of charge to celebrate 100 years of Scouting and would be a good way to involve the Scouts in the project. Mark has had provisional discussions with Scout Leader Alan Walker, who has expressed an interest.

It was agreed that we should pursue this idea both for the reading area and also the perimeter fence at the rear of the cinema. Dr. Manton should be consulted to ensure that he is happy with this proposal alongside his perimeter wall.

### **Interpretation Board**

It was agreed that the Reading Area interpretation board should match the style of the two recently added to the park and that it will describe the flora and fauna to be seen in the woodland. It would therefore be best if this were produced towards the end of the project. It can also include an acknowledgement of the Marple Scouts' centenary and their involvement and will need to incorporate the BLF/BBC Breathing Places logos.

The height of the board will need to accommodate small children and wheelchair users and could possibly include a step for children to stand on. These aspects need to be investigated with Jacky Budd, who arranged for the locks and war memorial boards.

## **3.2 Task Days**

### **3.2.1 Last Task Day**

The last task day on Saturday 26 May was well attended. New soil was placed around the Memorial rockery and some of the flowerbeds were cleared ready for fresh planting.

### **3.2.2 Future Task Days**

The next Task Day is on Saturday 30 June, when the Youth Offending Team will be in attendance. Mark asked Adrian and Bob to ensure that there was enough work to keep the team properly occupied. There are two flowerbeds

that can be weeded and planted up and several other possible tasks, subject to the weather.

Brian Pendlebury has asked if the August task day could be brought forward a week because the YOT do not attend events over bank holiday weekends. This was considered but it was agreed not to change it as it was set in everyone's diaries. Mark will advise Brian of the decision.

### **3.2.3 Advertising of Task Days**

Richard Booker has provided the usual A4 laminated posters. Micaela and Jay will distribute.

Mark has sent designs for two A2 sized posters to Dave Burrows, who had agreed to arrange for two copies of each to be printed and laminated for use in the A frames. The Friends passed on their thanks to Dave for this.

### **3.3 Teen Rotator**

Adrian advised that the installation of the Teen Rotator is on schedule to be completed before the Summer Holidays.

### **3.4 Basketball Court Improvements**

Rebecca has prepared a fencing scheme that can use weld-mesh fencing, which is relatively cheap, or the more attractive (and expensive) chunky metal fencing. The estimated costs for the individual elements are:

Resurfacing / Steps:	£13,354
Chunky Fencing:	£8,574
Weld-mesh Fencing:	£2,340
Steps (if done on own):	£1,000 - £1,500

The first hurdle is that the fencing will require planning permission, so it was agreed that Rebecca would submit an application. The application fee will have to be added to the future cost of the work.

Mark has received a partial response from Richard Booker regarding possible sources of funding but nothing from Des Oakley. Adrian agreed to chase this up via Dave.

Once planning permission is received the group will try to formulate a strategy to fund the work. It is likely that it may have to be done in stages.

### **3.5 Beech Tree Sculpture**

The consultation has been an outstanding success with a fantastic response from local children and schools. The children have submitted 475 drawings and designs for the tree sculptures and 360 votes have been cast for 148

different names for the central owl character. The winning name was "Midnight" with 51 votes.

Nearly 1,000 votes were cast for the children's favourite animals to feature in the sculpture. The top five were squirrel (213), hedgehog (184), badger (92), fox (91) and birds (82).

It is hoped that the library will put on a display of the drawings while the work is going on and also that they will keep them at the library in the longer term.

Andrew Frost was due to start work on the sculpture today or tomorrow but unfortunately his previous project has been delayed by the severe weather and he is now unlikely to start until later in the week. *(Post meeting note: the weather has continued to cause delays but Andrew has confirmed that he will start during the Locks Festival on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, again subject to the weather conditions).*

### **3.6 "Lock 17" Flowerbed**

Planning Officer Mark Jordan made a site visit last week and the planning application is being processed. It is hoped to have a result by mid July.

Mark has contacted Wayne Chaisty and advised him that the project is going ahead and an order for the replica lock gates will be placed with him once planning permission is received.

### **3.7 Infants Play Area**

A sub-group meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> June at which the Friends were pleased to welcome Cllr. Martin Candler. The brochures were reviewed and the Playdale and SMP Playgrounds equipment was felt to be particularly suitable.

As Playdale offer a comprehensive consultancy service free of charge it was decided to take advantage of this and a meeting with their Area Sales Manager has been arranged for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00 pm on site.

Mark and Rebecca will be attending and other members of the group were invited to join them. Mark asked Adrian if he could attend too.

Following the consultation and prices from Playdale sources of funding will have to be looked at more closely. In the meantime Rebecca will investigate further the commuted sums available and also possible funding for filling in the old paddling pool / bark pit, which will be a substantial portion of the total cost.

### **3.8 Woodland Trust "Tree for All"**

Jacky Budd has now provided Bob with a schedule of "feathers" and "whips" within the price range specified by the Tree for All scheme.

It was agreed that a suitable area within the park was available to plant the trees during an event this winter and the October 2007 Task Day was set as a date for this.

Mark will submit an application to the Woodland Trust before the next deadline of 31 July 2007.

### **3.9 Carnival / Locks Festival**

The group congratulated Micaela on her efforts to persuade local shopkeepers to donate prizes for the Friends' Tombola on Carnival Day. Around 95% of the shops approached responded positively and some really good contributions were received. The stall was run by Micaela, Terry and Gill and raised an excellent £257.30 in funds for the Friends. Mark will acknowledge the shops' contributions on the Friends' web site.

It was agreed to use some of the funds raised for new prizes so that a similar stall can be run at the Locks Festival on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

There was a misunderstanding about the display boards for the Carnival but Richard Booker will arrange for some that can be used at the Festival.

### **3.10 Notice Boards**

Prices are awaited from Playground Maintenance for refurbishment of the existing notice board near the main entrance to the park and for a new board to go near the entrance to the park at Lock 10.

### **3.11 Park Cottage**

There is no more news regarding the interest in the cottage from the early learning group.

Dave has been unable to obtain confirmation of when the flat roof of the cottage will be repaired. This has been an ongoing issue since the damage was incurred in January and is placing the building at risk from entry and vandalism as well as water ingress. Mark will write a letter of complaint from the group to David Brayshay, head of Parks & Recreation.

### **3.12 Risk Assessment Training**

A training session has been organised for Wednesday evening, 27 June, at the Town Hall. Peter Bardsley will attend but Jay and Chris have a prior engagement. *(Post meeting note: the training session has been cancelled at short notice due non-availability of the lecturer and will be rescheduled).*

### **3.13 Child Protection Policy / CRB Checks**

Dave has not yet been able to provide an update or further information.

Mark has obtained copies of the child protection policy and associated documents used by Friends of Ladybrook Valley from their representative Lynn Good but these are extremely complex and involved. Before attempting to utilise them we will seek more advice from the council.

### **3.13 Status of Funds**

With the grant from BBC Breathing Places being received we now have a very healthy bank balance of £10,943. Most of this is already committed to ongoing projects:

Tree Sculpture:	£3,000
Reading Area:	£6,945
Total:	£9,945

Working balance: £998

Up to £500 of the working balance is earmarked for the replica stone for the Bowling Green pavilion or heritage interpretation, however, it does not include the new Green Space Dev. grant or the tombola proceeds.

### **4.0 Monthly Park Report**

Bob reported that planting of bedding plants is ongoing and there are many other tasks to complete in the park. There was also lots of work to get ready for the Locks Festival on Sunday.

### **5.0 Any Other Business**

#### **5.1 Green Space Forum**

The Green Space forum scheduled for 9 June was cancelled due to poor response. It is hoped that it will be rearranged if there is enough interest from local groups. The Friends have expressed their desire to attend.

#### **5.2 Brass Plaque for the Stocks**

Mark advised that Cllr. Bispham had contacted him about a letter from Andrew Stunnell MP. The MP had passed on a request from a member of Tony Heginbotham's family asking if a plaque could be fitted to the stocks to acknowledge Tony's involvement in their restoration.

A brass plaque purchased by the Friends at a cost of £25.80 was passed around the attendees. It will be fitted to the stocks in the near future.

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

A request has been received to change the upcoming quiz night dates for the Friends at the Ring o' Bells in order to fit in one for the Marple Food and Drink Festival on 19th September. This has been agreed and the new dates for the Friends' quizzes are 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### **5.4 Bins near Bowling Green**

Mark advised that he had been approached by Jack Turnbull, a member of the Bowling Club, with a complaint that the bins were always full over the weekend and there was no where for them to put the rubbish that they had to clear from the green in order to play on Sunday mornings.

Adrian explained that outside of normal working hours a Parks & Recreation Team Leader is on call to attend to emergencies, including emptying bins if required. All the bowlers need to do is call 474 5555 to report the problem and it would be attended to by the Team Leader on duty.

Mark will pass this information back to the bowlers and try to ensure other users of the park are more aware of it.

### **5.5 Green Flag**

Adrian advised that the results of the Green Flag inspection were expected soon.

### **5.6 T Shirts / Sweatshirts**

Micaela has suggested that the Friends look into purchasing T-shirts or sweatshirt with their logo on, similar to those worn by the Carnival Committee. Bill Ardern was going to bring the contact details to the meeting but could not attend so this needs to be followed up with Bill.

### **6.0 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd July 2007 at 6:30 in Marple Library.