

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th March 2012
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Patrick O'Herlihy, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson, Bob Wilson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Park Benches

Replacement of bench near to the Bowling Green (No. 2 on survey)

The Kay family bench has now been installed and is looking very good - the group thanked Adrian and the Parks Team for making an excellent job of fitting it.

SMBC have issued an invoice for £813 and a cheque was signed at the meeting.

Mark has advised the Kay family that it is completed and feedback from them is awaited when they have had chance to visit the park.

(Post meeting note: the Kay family visited the park on Sunday 18 March and have said that they are very pleased with the bench and the views from it. They have asked for their thanks to be passed on to everyone involved.)

Refurbishment of bench SE of Bowling Green (No. 6 on survey)

The bench sponsored by Marple Business Forum has been completed and returned to the park. Terry and his team at the David Lewis Centre have made a very good job of restoring the bench and it looks fantastic back in the park.

Terry will invoice £250 for the David Lewis Centre costs, which include the supply of the new hardwood and all materials. The plaque cost £40.80, taking the total cost to £290.80. This is amazing value as we now have a bench that would cost in the region of £1,500 + VAT new for £300 donated by the Business Forum.

The other good news is that this success has inspired Marple Senior Citizens Association to sponsor the refurbishment of the other two Bowling Green benches and they have pledged £800 to cover this. *(Post meeting note: cheque now received.)*

Terry has taken a second bench for strip-down when he delivered the first one back to the park and will obtain prices for the necessary hardwood.

Sensory Garden Bench

Patrick and David Myers did a great job of stripping, sanding and treating this bench during the February task day using David's belt sander. Daffodils are in bloom now and the Sensory Garden is looking particularly good after new gravel and a lot of work on the plants and shrubs by the group.

Refurbishment of seat and benches on driveway into the Park

Terry and Mark helped Alan Proctor to install the new bench seat onto the old concrete stumps on the driveway into the park on Sunday 11 March 2012.

Alan has made a very good job of this seat using the piece of Ash timber donated by Myers Tree Care and he is now thinking about refurbishment of the Co-Op benches.

The cost of this new seat was £35.55 for the plaque acknowledging Alan and Myers Tree Care's contribution plus £4.65 that Alan spent on screws and fittings.

General Refurbishment of Benches

The success of using David's belt sander on the Sensory Garden bench was discussed. These are available for between £45 - £75 and it was agreed to purchase one for the group to use for refurbishment of other benches in the park.

It is planned to make a start doing other benches in the park once the lighter evenings are here as well as tackling them on task days.

3.2 Picnic Bench made by the David Lewis Centre

It had been agreed to postpone installation of this until the spring. Adrian advised that he hoped to complete this within the next two weeks or so now that spring is here.

3.3 Diamond Jubilee Project

Costs

Costs remain as identified last month:

Phase 1 – work to complete by the Jubilee Bank Holiday in June: £5,775.

This includes Landscape works, sculpture, plants and notice board refurbishment.

Phase 2 – a display panel explaining the project by end of 2012: £880.

Additional Option – a bespoke metal bench depicting achievements and technological changes during 60 years of the Queen's reign: £1,650.

Costs include 10% contingency allowance.

Funding Status

Cheques have been received from Marple Civic Society and the College.

Funding available remains at £4,175:

Friends of the Park:	£1,000	Received
The Marple Website:	£1,000	Received
Macnair Trust:	£600	Received
Marple Civic Society:	£500	Received
Marple Local History Society:	£500	Received
Marple College:	£300	Received
Quiz night prize:	£250	Received
Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A:	£25	Received

Funding needed:

To secure Phase 1:	£1,600
Phase 2:	£880
Phase 1 and Phase 2:	£2,480
Including optional bench:	£4,130

Mark has provided Marple Business Forum with the additional details that they requested so that they can consider if they wish to make a contribution to the project.

A grant application has been submitted to Marple Area Committee for flexibility funding to be considered at the March Area Committee meeting.

A grant application will also be made to Stockport Homes during next week.

Mark met with Adrian Taylor of Marple Senior Citizens Association recently to discuss this and other projects in the park and, as mentioned already, they have made a very generous donation for refurbishment of the Bowling Green benches.

Progress

Jonathan Long was asked to place an order for plants costing £963 on behalf of the group on 24 February. Confirmation of order and delivery date is awaited.

There are 3 types of plants not available from the supplier being used by Jonathan that will have to be sourced from elsewhere, so it is likely that most of the £1,200 budget allocated for plants will be needed.

A method statement and sketch of foundation details is awaited from the landscape contractor Bramhall Paving Services for Jonathan's approval.

An article about the project has appeared in the Marple Review.

Jonathan has confirmed with the council's planning people that planning permission is required for the project, and has provided contact details. Patrick is familiar with the planning process and agreed to act on behalf of the group for this. Mark will send electronic copies of available drawings and documents to Patrick to help him put the application together as quickly as possible.

Refurbishment of Notice Board

Terry managed to source a replacement backing board for the notice board free of charge and fitted it during the last task day, so it is now ready for use.

Mark will compile information to go in it. *(Post meeting note: action completed.)*

Associated Tasks

The toilet bed has been cleared of the straggly Hebes and plants from the library bed have been transplanted. It is looking much better already but further planting and improvements will be made during the spring.

The square bed to the side of the library is prepared ready for planting.

Jonathan has advised that the group should ask Adrian to spray the weeds in between the paving slabs in front of the library, so the group requested this at the meeting.

Some plants have been added to the gravelled strip alongside the car park. These are starting to grow but quite a few more are needed if the problem caused by the gravel being kicked all over the path is to be resolved. Gill still needs to speak to Les and Jean White about obtaining more plants for this from the Chelford auctions.

The existing benches are also in poor condition and could possibly be refurbished. Terry and Patrick will take a look at these after the meeting.

Some of the cobbles (Duck Pebbles) alongside the library wall are loose and will need attention. Adrian will temporarily remove the loose ones.

Mural on library wall

Mark has written to the library about the idea of adding a mural to the library wall to see if this is a project that they would consider. It is not proposed to include this as part of the Jubilee Project but it could become a new one in the future if the library is amenable to the idea. A reply is awaited. *(Post meeting note: The library have advised that they would consider a mural on the wall subject to their reviewing and agreeing full details of any proposal that may be put forward.)*

3.4 Infants Play Area Fence

Mark advised that a couple of opportunities have arisen that may help to progress the painting of the Infants Area Fence, which all acknowledge is a big task.

"Community Outreach" has been in touch about joining in with our task day on 14 April. They have said that they could bring two teams of 5 or 6 young people to help in the park and Mark would like to engage them on sanding and preparing the fence.

Also, Marple Business Forum is planning a Marple-wide volunteer event for one Sunday in May called "Marple Spring Clean". There is potential for a significant number of volunteers from groups like the Lions to be available for this and if possible Mark would like to have a large team on painting the fence. There is a meeting about this on Monday 19 March with MBF and others at the Ring o' Bells.

A lot of planning will be needed to make this work, especially for the painting element. We would need plenty of brushes and paint containers and will obviously need the paint too. Adrian advised that he does not have the money left to buy paint this financial year and is uncertain about next year at present.

It was agreed that plastic milk cartons could be collected to use as paint containers and cheap paint brushes could be purchased in bulk.

Patrick has given the dimensions of the fence to Alan the Painter on Market Street and he is going to work out the quantity and cost of the paint needed.

Mark and Patrick will attend the meeting for "Marple Spring Clean".

(Post meeting note: The Marple Spring Clean has been scheduled for Sunday 20 May. The idea of painting the Infants Play Area Fence was well received and it was agreed that Mark will approach Gareth Davies of Playground Maintenance for his approval of the tasks proposed and for his support with supply of the paint, plus help with risk assessments and method statements. Mark emailed Gareth on 20 March and hopes to meet with him soon to discuss the details.)

3.5 Treatment of Sculptures

Treatment of wooden features in the park will start once the weather is suitable.

Terry will take a look at the tree sculpture to see if it needs jet washing before being treated, as it is looking very green.

Adrian said that the Parks Team have not re-fixed the beechnut sculpture that came loose a few weeks ago yet but would do this as soon as they could.

3.6 Wildflowers for Breathing Places Area

County Lane mix and an Annual Selection of seeds have been purchased from the Landlife seed catalogue at a cost of £26. There are enough seeds for the Reading Circle and the square bed next to the library.

Joyce has also been growing on wildflower seeds at home and these are developing well. It was agreed that the 31 March task day would be a good time to sow the seeds and plant the plugs and Joyce will take the lead on this project.

3.7 Skate Park

Mark and Graham Clarke from Marple Civic Society met with SMBC Funding Manager Andy Bleden on 17 February. Andy made a number of suggestions that still need to be followed up but there is currently no single obvious source of funds to refurbish and improve the skate park, so raising the money needed is going to be a challenge.

£3,397 is currently available in commuted sums. £75k is needed.

There will be a community consultation led by Skater Lewis Abbott and Community Parks Officer Richard Booker in Marple Library on Thursday 22 March from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Richard and Lewis will talk to skate park users about the two designs.

3.8 Park Cottage

There has been no news since last month from Marple Bands.

The "Grand Trolley Dash" Raffle will be drawn on 1 April 2012.

3.9 Toilets in the Park

Memorial Park Toilets will not be closed and will now be opened 7 Days a week, including Sundays. This was confirmed at Marple Area Committee 15 February 2012.

This is a victory for common sense and the community campaign to keep them open.

3.10 Task Days

Previous Task Days

Saturday 25 February 2012

A good turnout again with toilet beds replanted, plants from library bed moved, library display case refurbished, Sensory Garden bench refurbished, Reading Circle bed and square library bed prepared for planting and council offices bed weeded and tidied.

Next Task Day – 31 March 2012

Subject to weather and number of volunteers, it is hoped to sand and treat benches, treat sculptures, sow wildflower seeds and begin maintenance of the ornamental flowerbeds.

Mark will send out the parking request for specified vehicles and the task day email.

Next Task Day – 14 April 2012

It is hoped to focus on the preparation of the Infants Play Area Fence.

Future Task Day Dates for 2012

31 March; 14 April; 28 April; 12 May; 20 May (Marple Spring Clean) 26 May; 9 June; 30 June; 14 July; 28 July; 11 August; 25 August; 8 September; 29 September; 27 October; 24 November; 29 December.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Current bank balance is £7,459. Income since the last meeting includes £500 from Marple Local History Society, £500 from Marple Civic Society, £300 from the College, £35 from Probus (presentation fee donated by Myers Tree Care) and £50 from Equity Housing (for use of an image from the Marple Website Virtual Tour).

Expenditure in the same period includes £12.08 and £25.99 for wildflower seeds, £40.80 for the plaque on the MBF bench and £4.44 for ground kneelers.

Committed funds are £5,288, including £4,175 allocated to the Jubilee Project, £813 for the Kay family bench (cheque signed today) and £260 from MBF for refurbishment of a Bowling Green bench. This leaves an uncommitted working balance of £2,212.

Accounts for 2011 have been audited by the McInnes Partnership ready for the AGM.

Income for 2012 to date is £1,645 and expenditure is £173.73.

Income total to date is £34,461 and total expenditure to date £27,002.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Puddle at main entrance

Adrian has advised that remedial works is expected to begin very soon.

5.2 Creative Support

Creative Support, an organisation who work with people having learning difficulties or some mental health issues, have been in touch by email about getting involved on our task days. The group thought this would be good idea. Mark has already asked for more details and suggested that a representative should come to a meeting with the group and Adrian to discuss things further.

5.3 Notice Board

Mark has advised that the display section of the new park entrance notice board has been getting wet inside and he has asked the supplier to come and have a look at it.

5.4 Marple Festival / Food and Drink Day

Joyce advised that there will not be a Marple Festival this year but there will be a Food and Drink Day. It was agreed to target the Tombola for the Food and Drink Day, as it has always been the most profitable event.

5.5 Scout Hut

Micaela suggested that we should speak to the scouts about them painting their hut.

6.0 Date of next Meeting (AGM)

Monday 16 April 2012 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates booked in 2012: 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 12 November, 10 December.