

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 11th November 2013
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson, Mark Whittaker, Patrick O’Herlihy (part-time).

1.0 Apologies: Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Joyce Reed, Anne Frazer.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project

Vandalism

Following the vandalism that occurred on 28 September there have been protracted email exchanges with the Council’s Community Safety Unit. It has been discussed at a Joint Action Group and a number of positive measures have been advised to us:

- A Deployable CCTV camera is to be installed to monitor the area.
- A list of individuals behaving inappropriately around the area recently has been passed to Stockport Homes and the option of tenancy warnings will now be considered for those residing in SH properties.
- The Dog Warden team have been alerted and have agreed to increase patrols in the area and check the Dog Fouling signage in the area is adequate.
- A litter patrol is currently being arranged by one of our Public Realm Enforcement Officers.
- Neighbourhood Police Officers are aware of the issues and will give some attention to the area at key times.
- Dog fouling notices will be issued by Police and other partners.

The Deployable CCTV is not yet installed and unfortunately the request for a study to be done on the practicalities of extending the library CCTV system has turned into a protracted debate with council officers, who seem determined to resist the idea.

Mark has recently responded to clarify again that we are only asking for a report on the options and costs of doing this so that interested parties can properly consider it; we are not at this stage seeking to get it done. Councillors have responded positively and it is hoped that there will be some progress made on this in the near future.

In the meantime the stone coping is now loose due to ongoing use as a grinding block by skaters / bikers and a number of actions were discussed to address the issues:

The cost of skate-stops has been investigated and the best option is to purchase them from a firm called Rockart Europe Ltd at a price of £162.60 for a quantity of 7no. Additional costs for fitting will be approximately £20 for a two-part resin adhesive. It was agreed to proceed with this and Mark will order.

Refitting of the jewels in the crown has been discussed with Wayne Chaisty and it was agreed at the meeting that we would purchase some replacements for him to fit for approx £25.00. Wayne’s fitting costs will be extra on top of this.

Mark is also considering trying to get the coping grit-blasted to remove the ugly marks made by the skaters. *(PMN: Lewis has advised that this is wax being applied by the skaters to make the surface slippery, so we will try jet washing it off first).*

The coping is also going to need repair. Options include Community Payback, getting it done as a favour (Tony Donovan owes us one) or doing it ourselves.

It was agreed that the costs of all these repairs etc will be drawn from the Jubilee Project funds that were reserved for future planting, which currently stands at £509.

Planting

Plants are now ready to go in. This could be done at the end of November task day if weather permits. It was agreed to go ahead (the Deployable camera should hopefully be installed by then and act as a deterrent against more vandalism of the bed.)

3.2 Park Benches

Picnic Benches

Refixing of the benches outside the Infants Play Area is waiting for delivery of post-create and will be tackled at the 30 November task day if it is available.

Other Benches

The Ian Rice bench has now been sanded and treated.

Town Centre Benches

We are hoping to do a trial bench on Derby Way to confirm how much work is involved and to demonstrate how good a job we will be able to make of them. Unfortunately this is proving difficult due to the constant wet weather.

Patrick will take "before" pictures of all the benches in preparation for making an application to Area Committee for funding as Marple Regeneration Partnership.

3.3 Infants Play Area Fence

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence will be continued when the weather is suitable.

3.4 Treatment of Sculptures

The acorn and beechnut ground sculptures that were vandalised have now been prepared for re-fitting by Terry with new bars inserted and they are stored in the Bowlers Hut. They will be refitted once the post-create is available from the council.

The Apple and Pear sculptures have been removed and Terry will prepare these for re-installation too. His estimated cost for doing all four with new threaded bar is £50.

3.5 Skate Park

The next skatepark meeting is Thursday 14 November 2013. Latest news is:

Fund Raising Status (11 November 2013)

Money raised to date	£10,733
Money spent to date	£1,909 (Carnival Event)
Match-funding available:	£8,823 (against a target of £20,000)

Recent income includes a £90 donation from the Moss family. This was the surplus from a collection for a commemorative bench that we helped arrange installation.

We have also received a donation of £39 from All Saints' Church Harvest Festival.

The Co-Op local panel review is to be held in November.

An application for a FM Award of £1,000 has been made to Forever Manchester before their 31 October deadline. The criteria for this award was to "tell us the good stuff" and "don't worry about disadvantage, deprivation etc." so in theory is right up our street. We received great supporting comments from local groups within 24 hours of our request, which was very helpful. An outcome is expected by the end of November.

3 more Ring o' Bells Quiz nights are set for 21, 28 November and 5 December 2013.

The need for an independent contribution of 10% (approx £10,000) to the Veolia Trust in the event of a successful grant bid has been highlighted to Marple Area Committee with a request that they take this into account when allocating current and future commuted sums eligible for use in Marple Memorial Park.

Meeting with Head of Marple Hall School

The meeting with new head of Marple Hall School, Joe Barker, went very well and the school is very positive about getting involved and supporting the project.

We hope that they will be doing something for their "Review Day" at the school on 22 November and also join us at the Christmas Cracker. In the New Year we will discuss in more detail forming a user group and developing the design.

Rotary Christmas Collections

A list of dates for collections in the Marple Co-Op, Tesco Whaley Bridge and New Mills Co-Op was discussed. It was agreed to support the Marple Co-Op collection and try to do the vacant slot at Tesco Whaley Bridge too. Terry will be Santa at Whaley Bridge on 17 December, Mick, Lorraine and Mark will be Elves on various dates. Mark will fill in the roster and then circulate more widely to seek additional volunteers.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge

20 rose bushes replacing those that didn't take were planted during the 9 November task day. One rose shrub was also planted next to the Danny Winter bench.

A grant application to Stockport Council's 2014 Fund has been made to cover our outlay of approximately £200 on this project. It will be reviewed on 27 November.

Primary Schools WWI Project

A letter of support and ideas for the possible location of artwork has been sent to Alan Chin, who is representing local primary schools. Hopefully we will hear more soon.

3.7 St Martins Christmas Tree Festival

Entry fee has been paid and preparations seem to be going well. A tree has been borrowed from Stationery Supplies and Micaela and Lorraine will hold a "dress rehearsal" with Gill on Wednesday 27 November at 10am. Micaela and Lorraine will assemble the tree at the church on 5 December too.

3.8 Marple Christmas Cracker – 7 December 2013

MBF has confirmed that we can have "half a stall" at the Cracker free of charge.

We will have a guess the sweets competition, skatepark displays and surveys plus any other ideas. Skatepark users from Marple Hall School should be joining us too.

Lorraine and Mick can help out on the stall from 10am to approx 12noon.

Mark will issue a request for help from other volunteers.

3.9 Park Cottage

Work on the extension to the cottage is making good progress and the Bands are hoping to be using the new practice room by around Christmas time.

3.10 Task Days

Last Task Days – 26 October & 9 November 2013

Both task days concentrated mainly on the War Memorial beds and ornamental flowerbeds. These looked fantastic for the Remembrance Service yesterday and we received lots of very positive comments.

£25.25 was donated in the collection box near where we were working.

The Allotment Association also tidied up their bed too, which was great.

It has been agreed with the Allotment Association that using slabs for the gap will be better than leaving a 2.5m wide gap for mowing between the existing bed and a new one. Mark has located some slabs at Etherow Park and will ask if we can have them. *(Post meeting note: slabs now obtained).*

Nest Task Day - Saturday 30 November 2013

Hopefully we will re-fix sculptures, park benches and plant up the Jubilee Bed.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day email.

Remaining Task Day Dates for 2013

28 December 2013 *(Post Meeting Note: the majority of volunteers seem to be busy with family activities so it's likely that this scheduled task day will be cancelled).*

3.11 Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration

Task Days up to and including end of March 2014 are registered and approved on the council web site. 2014 registered dates are 25 January, 22 February and 29 March.

Daily Task Days have been registered until the end of 2013 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures. These will need to be registered for 2014 in the near future. This means that we can do ad-hoc task days on any day at short notice providing one of the volunteers involved has been on the RA course.

The next RA course is on Tuesday 26 November from 7pm – 8.30pm at Endeavour House, Bredbury. Mark will arrange for Gill and Micaela to attend this one.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 October 2013 is £9,337.09.

Income since last meeting includes:

£234.94	Morrison's Bag Pack.
£90.00	Moss family donation.
£400.00	Marple Firefighters Marple 10k
£39.23	All Saints' Church Harvest Festival Collection.
£25.25	Collected in Park.
£120.00	Disposal of surplus Aldi Jet Wash.

Expenditure since last meeting is £10 on the St Martins Christmas Tree Festival entry and £25 for our Poppy Wreath laid during the Remembrance Service.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £509 and the Skate Park Fund £8,823 leaving a working balance of £644.

Around £35 from easyfundraising.com is apparently on its way to the account.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

The finishing off of the slope that has replaced the Bowling Green steps is really poor. We were expecting it to be turfed over but it has been seeded and then just left. It is now covered in deep footprints and looks a real mess. The council have agreed to put up chestnut paling next Wednesday and then re-soil and re-seed it. The fencing will be removed when the grass becomes established.

5.2 Street Lighting not working

Marple Bands have reported three lights (nos 24, 27 & 28) not working in the park several times without any results. These have now been reported by FoMMP to Greenspace and a promise has been received from Stockport Direct that they will be dealt with within 7 days, which is tomorrow. (*PMN: not achieved - watch this space!*)

5.3 Remembrance Service – 10 November 2013

The service was very well attended and weather was brilliant.

5.4 Christmas Lunch

Mark and Gill checked out the Crown yesterday. The food was good and they have plenty of room for a large group. Their Christmas menu starts 2 December and costs £23 / head. They can do something by arrangement in the New Year.

It was agreed to set a date of Saturday 4 January 2014. Mark will email volunteers to ask who would like to attend and ask them to reply to Terry / Micaela. Micaela will make any further arrangements with the Crown.

We will also look at attending the Roman Lakes Tea Dance as a group in the New Year.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 13 January 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):

13 January, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 14 November 2013
Marple Library

Present: Lewis Abbott, Ben Meek (Skate Park Users), Graham Clarke (Marple Vision Partnership), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Jason Saenz, Henry Broadhead (Skate Park Users), Craig Silcock (All Saints Youth Worker), Richard Booker (Council).

Craig has advised that due to his change in work and personal circumstances he will not be able to attend the skatepark project meetings any more. However, he will continue to encourage the young people that he deals with to support the project and is arranging for All Saints' Church to make a contribution to the match-funding.

2.0 Fund Raising Status

The owners of House-on-the-Hill Software have made a pledge and also asked some more questions. Mark has answered these and we're waiting for them to confirm.

The Co-Op local panel meet to review our application this month.

Friends of the Park have made an application to Forever Manchester for an "FM Award". These are awards of £1,000 for an organisation's success stories. We got a good response from other local groups with lots of great comments received to support the bid in a 24-hour period. The outcome is expected at the end of the month.

We've now received contributions of £313 from Stockport Homes and £400 from Marple Firefighters raised during the Marple 10k Trial Run. The special Marple Carnival Committee award of £1,000 was also received at a presentation evening.

A total of £928 was raised for the skatepark over the two bag-packing events at Marple Co-Op and Morrison in Bredbury with pupils from Marple Hall and All Saints' Schools. A further £50 raised was donated to Stockport Homes' nominated charity Beechwood Cancer Care as a "thank you" for their support and for the donation of 20 free skatepark tee shirts. Due to the number of tills we invited Marple Cancer Charities to share the Morrison bag-pack and they also raised £205 for their cause.

We've recently received a donation of £90 from a family who Friends of the Park helped to organise and site a commemorative bench in the park.

Jason has passed over £39, which is a share of the money raised during a Harvest Festival collection by All Saints' Church.

The project page on the Friends of the Park web site has been restructured to make it easier to follow progress and a fund-raising "thermometer" has been added too.

The next three Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights for the skatepark project are scheduled for Thursdays 21, 28 November and 5 December 2013.

Total funding raised (11 November) is £10,733 with expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £8,823 match funding against the target of £20,000.

The need for an independent contribution of 10% (approx £10,000) to the Veolia Trust in the event of a successful grant bid has been highlighted to Marple Area Committee with a request that they take this into account when allocating current and future commuted sums eligible for use in Marple Memorial Park. Ongoing.

3.0 Meeting with Marple School Head

Graham, Richard, Lewis and Mark met with Joe Barker, new Head of Marple Hall School, and Kirsty Pierce on Thursday 17 October. The meeting was very positive and the school is keen to support the project. They recognised that pupils from the school are probably the core users of the skatepark that will benefit from improvements.

We are hoping that the school will be able to put on a display with pupils during their "Review Day" on Friday 22 November. We also understand that a number of pupils are keen to join us for the Christmas Cracker, as they did last year.

In the New Year we hope to work with a user group from the school to develop and finalise the skatepark design and also to raise funds. The school was receptive to the idea of "Road Trip" visits to surrounding skateparks and enrichment week activities.

4.0 Marple Christmas Cracker – 7 December

MBF has confirmed that we can have half a gazebo stall free of charge so we need to get organised on what we are going to do. **Mark** and **Gill** will organise a "guess the sweets" competition and hopefully Marple Hall pupils will do adult and user surveys.

Mark will also ask Terry about bird boxes and feeders etc.

Lewis, Jason and **Ben** to have a think about games like Slat the Rat and a Raffle.

Lewis will be able to help on the day. Ben possibly. Hopefully Jason too.

5.0 Rotary Christmas Collections

We now have a roster for supporting the Rotary Christmas Collections at local supermarkets. Mark distributed this and asked for everyone to check their diaries and see if there were any time slots that they could fill.

6.0 Skate Park Design

This will be a key aspect to develop in the New Year so that we can obtain planning permission and go out to re-tender before we can apply to the Veolia Trust.

Graham suggested that we obtain some A2 or larger prints of the existing designs to help with publicity. *(PMN: **Richard** is trying to get some printed by the council).*

It was suggested that it would be good to have a physical model of the skatepark for users to play around with. **Ben** will have a look to see if he can do something on this.

7.0 Promotional Videos

Mark & Richard will start to compile comments on the Marple College video to allow them to be easily transmitted to the college staff who have been helping us.

The Stockport College students' video is still being pursued too and they have indicated that this may be ready around end November.

8.0 Pure Radio

Mark advised that one of the presenters may be prepared to do a studio interview and agreed to come along to support if required. **Lewis, Ben** and **Jason** have not got very far with preparations agreed to try and get together later this evening.

9.0 Other Items

Richard has provided contact details for Bones, **Mark** to follow up.

Lewis still to get in touch with Rick at All Things Nice.

Other ideas to contact for support:

Youth Club at College (is it still going?)

Carver Theatre

Girl Guides (Jason?)

Scouts

Churches Together

St Martin's Church

Rose Hill School / other primary schools

Marple & Romiley Lions

Next Meeting: To be arranged.