

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 14th October 2013
Marple Library**

Present: Adrian Ellis, Alan Chin (part-time), Anne Frazer, Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Bob Wilson, Patrick O’Herlihy, Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Local Schools WWI Centenaries Project

Alan Chin, Deputy Head of Ludworth Primary School, attended the meeting to explain the details of a project that he is leading for local schools to commemorate the World War One Centenaries that will occur between 2014 and 2018.

All five local primary schools (Ludworth, Rose Hill, All Saints’, Brabyns Prep and St Mary’s) have expressed an interest in being involved. The objective will be to open the eyes of the children to the lives of the men lost during the WWI conflict 100 years ago and to commemorate the centenaries with a creative work of art in the park.

It is proposed to get as many of the children as possible involved in the creative process and provisional discussions have taken place with artist Patricia Lee (Lamb Bananas, Liverpool) about commissioning a suitable 2D or 3D mosaic sculpture.

It is anticipated that a creative group would be formed within each school to contribute to the project, with the potential for talks, artefact displays and even battlefield tours to help the children learn about their lives, jobs, relationships and the impact of losing so many young men from a small local community.

Obviously funding will be key to the project’s success. An expression of interest has been submitted to the HLF’s First World War Scheme and this has been well received. The next step is to firm up the details and costs for the project so that a grant application can be submitted as soon as possible.

The Friends of the Park felt that this sounded like a great project and agreed to do all they could to support it. The group is particularly interested in improvements to the park and would wish to ensure that any artwork additions are suitable and in keeping.

Possible locations for the artwork were discussed and ideas included near the war memorial itself, possibly incorporated into railings around the flowerbeds or 3D artwork within the beds, or 2D artwork on the front face of the library. The latter could potentially be done at ground level or high level but the group stressed that any proposals would have to be taken up with the Library Management and Services.

The group thanked Alan for attending the meeting to explain the project and agreed to provide a letter of support plus some photographs and suggestions on possible locations for the artwork. Contact details for the library will also be provided.

(Post meeting note: letter of support and other details sent to Alan 20 October 2013).

3.2 Diamond Jubilee Project

Vandalism

Mark advised that on the Sunday after the last task day on 28 September, when the bed was stripped and replanted with bulbs ready for the spring, he and Gill returned to add some extra soil and discovered that the bed had been trampled on, plants uprooted and thrown around and jewels pulled out of the crown and smashed.

It was also discovered later that two of the ground sculptures near the Bowling Green had been removed and one of them had been thrown into the canal. Thankfully John, one of our volunteers who lives on St Martin's Road, recovered the one that was in the canal and both have been repaired by Terry so that they can be reinstalled.

A drainpipe was also smashed into small pieces on the Scout Hut the same evening.

This was all reported to the police and emailed to local councillors with photographs of the damage done and a request for support to try and stop it happening again. Local councillors responded very quickly and positively to the suggestion that additional cameras could possibly be tied into the existing CCTV system in the library and it is hoped that the cost of doing this can be investigated and will prove viable.

Gill and Mark replanted the bed on the Sunday and tidied up as well as possible. Since then the bed has been walked over again and fouled by dogs. It has also become apparent that the front edge of the coping on the dwarf wall of the raised bed is being damaged by skaters and /or BMX riders and will soon need repair. The initial request for support from police, councillors and the ASB Team has therefore been followed-up today and a response is awaited from them.

Mark has discussed the damaged and missing jewels with sculptor Wayne Chaisty and will try to obtain some replacements that Wayne can weld back in.

Mark will also investigate the cost of obtaining some anti-skate devices that can be fitted to the coping to stop it being used for stunts. He has also spoken to some of the skate park users during the Bag Packing at the Co-Op about stopping this.

Planting

As mentioned above, the majority of the 800 Polyanthus planted in February were transplanted to other areas in the park and daffodil, tulip, anemone and bluebell bulbs were added to the bed ready for flowering in spring next year.

A few of the Polys were replanted in the bed but the majority of the soil was left bare for planting next month of the perennial collection recently purchased from Van Meuwen and the Monarda Mix due from Parkers in the next couple of weeks.

The Van Meuwen collection has been re-potted and grown-on by Gill and is ready for planting now. However, we are concerned about them being trampled on again and may decide to grow them on at home until next year. The situation will be monitored for the next few weeks before a decision is made.

Following purchases of fertilizer, plant food and horticultural sand for the bed at a cost of £29 the fund reserved for planting has reduced from £539 to £509.

3.3 Park Benches

Picnic Benches

Picnic benches inside and outside the Infants Play Area have now all been sanded and retreated. The external benches need some work on the ground fixings to secure them as they have become loose over time. Terry has had a look at this and will make new ground anchors where required, which will need some bags of post-crete to fix.

Boules Court Benches

Sanding and treatment of all three Boules Court benches is now complete.

Bluhm Family Bench (opp Senior Citizens Hall)

Mrs Bluhm got in touch to advise that her bench had suffered from graffiti and asked if she could pay for it to be rectified. The bench has now been sanded to get rid of the graffiti and will be retreated at the next opportunity. Mrs Bluhm has donated £10 to the Friends of the Park towards maintenance materials.

Other Benches

Ian Rice, Alan Procter benches and the Coronation bench are next on the list.

Also, under the banner of the District Centre Partnership, Patrick has made some proposals for refurbishing the benches on the Hollins, Market Street and Derby Way.

He has asked if the Friends will help him on this and Mark has agreed that we should do a trial on one of them to see how much work is involved. This is arranged for next Wednesday on Derby Way and Mick agreed to come along and help too.

(Post meeting note: unfortunately the benches have to be dry to sand and treat so this had to be cancelled due to poor weather and will need to be rearranged).

3.4 Karcher Equipment

Arrangements have been made for the sale of the surplus Aldi Jetwash.

3.5 Infants Play Area Fence

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

3.6 Treatment of Sculptures

Two of the ground sculptures that were vandalised have now been prepared for re-fitting by Terry and are stored in the Bowlers Hut. The cost of materials (threaded bar and adhesive) was approximately £30 – Terry will invoice via the David Lewis Centre.

Mark has spoken to Jonathan about supply of post-crete for this and for re-fixing of the picnic benches and also the Apple sculpture, which Patrick mentioned has come loose. Hopefully 10 bags will be available to cover all these jobs soon.

3.7 Skate Park

A skatepark meeting was held on 9 October 2013 and the full minutes are appended to these. In summary the latest information is:

Fund Raising Status (14 October 2013)

Money raised to date £10,368
Money spent to date £1,909 (Carnival Event)
Match-funding available: £8,459 (against a target of £20,000)

The Co-Op local panel review meeting has been moved to November.

Stockport Homes have now passed over £274 cash plus £39 including Gift-Aid donated via Localgiving.com from their involvement in the 10k Run, a total of £313.

Marple Firefighters have advised that we should receive a cheque for £400 soon, which is a 20% share of the funds raised by them at the Marple 10k Trail Run.

The Marple Food and Drink Day Tombola raised £570, the "Guess the Sweets" £118 and the Chopper Bike Raffle and donations £78, a total of £766. The group thanked Micaela for the huge effort she put in once again to prepare for the tombola.

Three Ring o' Bells Quiz nights recently raised £183. Three more are scheduled for the skatepark project on 21, 28 November and 5 December 2013.

Marple in Action has provided a cheque for £161 from their surplus funds. There will be a photo opportunity with them at the next task day on 26 October 2013.

A cheque for Marple Carnival Committee's £1,000 Special Award was collected at last Friday's Marple Carnival Charities Distribution Evening.

The attendance from Marple Hall and All Saints' pupils at the Co-Op Bag on Saturday was excellent and a total of £692 was collected. Following this success it has been decided to proceed with the Morrisons Bag Pack on 19 October too. As it is unlikely that we can man all 23 tills, Marple Cancer Charities have been invited to join us.

(Post meeting note: £235 was raised for the skatepark at Morrisons + a £50 donation was made to Stockport Homes' nominated charity Beechwood Cancer Care to thank them for arranging and supporting the two events and for donating 20 free skatepark printed tee-shirts. Marple Cancer Charities also raised £205, so an excellent result).

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

A meeting has been arranged with the new Head, Joe Barker, to discuss how the school might help to support the skatepark project in more ways on Thursday 17 October 2013. *(Post meeting note: discussions were very positive and we look forward to working even more closely with the school in the coming weeks and months.)*

Promotional Videos

First cut of the Marple Sixth Form College video is on line here:

<http://youtu.be/Ceml306i-s>

Mark and Richard Booker will discuss the development of this with the college.

The Stockport College students' video has been delayed due to availability of staff to support the editing but they expect to provide one in November too.

Rotary Christmas Collections

Details of the dates and times for helping the Rotary with their Christmas Collections are now available. Mark will issue more information about this in due course.

Interview for possible Pure Radio broadcast

We are waiting to hear from Lewis, Ben and Jason when they are available to meeting Anne in the park to conduct an interview recording.

3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations

War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge

Replacements for 15 of the roses that did not grow are due in November.

Application forms are awaited from SMBC for their new small grant scheme for this kind of project and it is hoped that we can recover our outlay on this.

Commemorative Iron Railings

This idea could possibly be merged with the Schools' WWI project.

Planting of Poppies throughout Stockport Parks

Our interest in taking part is registered with the organisers.

3.9 Park Cottage

Work on the extension to the cottage has now started and the Bands are hope to be using the new practice room by around Christmas time.

3.10 Task Days

Last Task Day – 28 September 2013

Picnic benches sanded and treated, Jubilee Bed bulbs planted, 800 Polyanthus relocated throughout the park including the toilet block bed, the sensory garden, the small bed at the side of the library, the bed in front of the council offices and the raised bed between the Senior Citizens' Hall and the Scout Hut. Treatment of the Boules Court benches was completed and Arthur Procter took a group photo for us.

We also introduced an A-frame with posters and a collection box near where we were working and the public donated £13.58. This is obviously worth repeating!

A meeting has taken place with Marple Allotment Association and Jane Bardsley from the council during which it was agreed that the Allotment volunteers could extend their adopted bed for next year. It was stipulated that there must be a 2.5m gap to allow for mowing between the existing bed and any new one, which is rather large. This was discussed further today and it was suggested that a paved pathway be added between the beds instead. This would avoid the need for the large gap for mowing. Mark will pass the suggestion on to the Allotment Association members.

Nest Task Days - Saturdays 26 October and 9 November 2013

The next normal task day is Saturday 26 October, which will focus on preparing the War Memorial beds and ornamental beds for the Remembrance Service. It was also agreed to hold an extra task day on Saturday 9 November, the day before the service, for the same purpose. Mark will register the extra task day on-line.

Mark will also send out parking requests and task day emails.

Remaining Task Day Dates for 2013

26 October; 9 & 30 November; 28 December 2013.

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.

Ad-hoc Task Days during the Working Week

Lorraine could not attend the meeting but has made the suggestion that she and other retirees could do some work in the park during weekdays. These could be arranged at fairly short notice when the weather was suitable and 2 or 3 volunteers were able to work together. Mark has raised this with Richard Booker at the council, who has provided the following guidance to ensure that we are covered for insurance:

All Task Days need to be registered and must be supervised by either Bob (or his equivalent) or a volunteer who has attended the RA course. It is possible to register daily task days and then not turn up, so the key criterion is the RA supervision.

It will be possible for more volunteers to attend the RA course and this is the best long-term solution. The next course dates are awaited from Richard but in the meantime Bob, Mark, Mick, Patrick or Terry must be present for the activities to be properly covered. Mark will register a daily task day in the council's on-line system. *(Post meeting note: daily task days have been registered until the end of the year for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures).*

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 September 2013 is £6,752.83 but there is now much more in the account following a period of successful fundraising for the skatepark.

Income since last meeting includes:

£766.00	Food and Drink Day
£11.60	Local Giving Gift-Aid
£20.00	Donation for photos on Marple Website Virtual Tour
£13.58	Collected in Park on 28 September Task Day
£183.00	Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights
£23.00	Recon Cycle Repairs
£10.00	Mrs Bluhm (donation for bench maintenance)
£313.00	Stockport Homes (Marple 10k)
£692.94	Co-Op Bag Packing
£1,000.00	Marple Carnival Special Award
£160.94	Marple in Action

Expenditure since last meeting is £58 on Public Liability insurance for our stall at local events and £28.96 on fertilizer, plant food and horticultural sand.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £509 and the Skate Park Fund £8,059 leaving a working balance of £533.

Around £40 has been raised by easyfundraising.com that is not yet included.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

Work has now started and should be complete in the next week.

5.2 Public Toilets

Now reopened. The toilets were not vandalised as the signs said but there was a problem with the plumbing exacerbated by a poor repair that leaked again.

5.3 Remembrance Service – 10 November 2013

Our wreath is ordered and will be available for collection on 26 October from the Scout Hut between 11am – 12noon. A cheque for £25 was signed at the meeting in payment. Terry will lay the wreath on behalf of the group.

5.4 St Martin's Church Christmas Tree Festival

It was agreed to enter this and to make a donation of £10 to Friends of St Martin's Church. Ideas were discussed and Micaela will take the lead and establish a budget for further discussion at the next meeting. Mark will scan and send out the guidance sheet to those interested in getting involved.

5.5 Marple Christmas Cracker – 7 December 2013

It is hoped to take part to raise funds for the skatepark. Mark has enquired with MBF if a free stall is available and is waiting to hear back.

5.6 Christmas Lunch

Micaela is starting to think about the group Christmas lunch and asked for ideas and preferences. Platform One in Romiley was suggested.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 11 November 2013 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2013 (library booked):

11 November, 9 December 2013.

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 9 October 2013
Marple Library

Present: Lewis Abbott, Jason Saenz (Skate Park Users), Richard Booker (Council)
Graham Clarke (Marple Vision Partnership), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Ben Meek, Henry Broadhead, Mattias Svensson, James Sandoe (Skate Park Users), Craig Silcock (All Saints Youth Worker).

2.0 Fund Raising Status

All Saints' Church – ongoing – **Craig** had hoped to arrange a contribution. He has recently got married and moved house, so has been rather busy but says that he intends to continue his involvement with the project when things settle down.

House on the Hill – Mark made initial contact with the owners and they asked for more information about the project, which has been provided. We now wait to see if they are interested in getting involved or not.

The Co-Op local panel meeting when they review funding applications has been put back from October to November. One of the panel members spoke to us during the Food and Drink Festival about our project and we hope that they will support it.

A follow-up enquiry has been made to the "Wish and Chips" scheme and they have replied to say that they are in the final stages of setting up the new charity and bank account. As a new charity the likelihood of our success is probably low but we can follow how they are doing on their FB page: www.facebook.com/WishandChips

Our application to the Equity Foundation was not successful. We are still waiting for feedback and comments from their panel and hope this will be helpful for the future.

Stockport Homes have indicated that their tombola and runners at the Marple 10k Trail Run raised in the region of £300 for the project, which is fantastic. They hope to have it all collected in by the end of next week.

We are still awaiting final figures from Marple Firefighters for the 20% share of proceeds from the 10k and also expect to hear from them within the next week or so.

The Marple Food and Drink Festival was a great success and £570 was raised by the tombola, £118 on the "Guess the Sweets" competition and £78 on the Chopper Raffle and donations, giving a brilliant total of £766 for the project.

The three Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights held recently for the project raised a total of £183. Three more quizzes are scheduled for us on 21, 28 November and 5 December 2013.

Marple in Action, the local group that successfully campaigned against a supermarket on Hibbert Lane, recently agreed to share their surplus funds of £447 between four local causes. We were fortunate to be chosen as one of the four and we received 36% of the votes cast by the public, which resulted in our share being £160.94. MIA will present a cheque to Friends of the Park on 26 October at the next task day.

Mark and **Gill** will be attending the Marple Carnival Distribution evening on Friday 11 October to collect our award of £1,000. **Lewis** to bring a friend too if he can fit it in.

Jason gave a further £23 donation from his start-up business Recon-Cycle Repairs and Sales (Marple) and has now given a total of £78. The group thanked him for this.

Total funding raised (9 October) is £9,002 with expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £7,092 match funding against the target of £20,000. £5,931 is banked with £1,161 to be received soon from Marple Carnival and Marple in Action. These figures do not include money expected soon from Stockport Homes and Marple Firefighters.

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.

2.0 Bag Pack at Marple Co-Op – Saturday 12 October

This is arranged for 10am to 4pm this coming Saturday. Marple Athletic did one recently and they have advised that it starts off with around 2 tills at 10am building to the full seven tills by about 11am and then fairly steady for the rest of the day.

Two volunteers have rung up from posters in the park and are expected 3pm-4pm.

Jason has been trying to drum up support from All Saints' School but is not sure how many will be attending yet. He and daughter Millie will be coming.

Three volunteers from Stockport Homes are expected and the local PCSOs will also be supporting with a crime awareness campaign in the Co-Op at the same time.

Graham has been discussing support with Kirsty at Marple Hall School and she says that they now have 40 names, which is fantastic. **Graham** will get ask Kirsty to try to ensure that volunteers are organised into shifts rather than all coming at once.

Mark will organise displays and buckets with signs.

After being moved to 19 October, it has been decided to postpone the Morrison's Bag Pack until the New Year to give us time to organise the larger numbers needed to make the most of this opportunity.

3.0 Meeting with Marple School Head

Graham has also been talking to Kirsty about further involvement in the project from Marple Hall School and the new Head, Joe Barker, is keen to talk to us about this.

It was agreed that from our side it would be ideal if Graham, Mark, Richard, Lewis and Craig could attend (**Mark** will ask Craig). Available dates for most of us in the next couple of weeks would be 17, 23, 24 or 25 October. Richard suggested that some of the pupils interested in the project could possibly attend too. Graham will try to arrange a meeting with the Head through Kirsty.

Things that we thought could be discussed include:

- Fund-raising / sponsored activities (non-uniform / Morrison Bag Pack etc).
- Skate Park User Group / Design Development / Discussions with users.
- "Road Trip" visits by school groups.
- Enrichment Week activities.

Lewis mentioned the CRB check problems experienced when he last visited the school to talk to pupils with Kirsty and we will need to cover this in discussions too.

4.0 Rotary Christmas Collections

More details are now available for the opportunity to support the local Rotary group with their Christmas collections and share income pro-rata with the effort we put in.

Opportunities to support them during supermarket collections (2 hour slots with two collectors, one as Father Christmas) are:

Marple Co-Op: 12 & 13 December 2pm to 8pm, 14 December 11am to 5pm.

Tesco Whaley Bridge: 17, 18 & 19 December 2pm to 8pm.

New Mills Co-Op: 20 & 21 December 2pm – 8pm.

Opportunities to support Door-to-Door collections (4 to 6 people including Father Christmas, driver and collectors) are:

Marple Bridge: Monday 15 December

Disley: Sunday 22 December

Mark will issue details out once Door-to-Door times are known and ask for volunteers.

5.0 Skate Park Design

It was agreed that the meeting with Marple Hall School could be key to getting a user group together to develop the skate park design and will be discussed further after.

6.0 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.

7.0 Pure Radio

Mark explained that there has not been much interest from Pure to do interviews without being able to link it with some kind of topical event, which we don't currently have. However, Anne has agreed to interview **Lewis, Ben** and **Jason** with a view to creating a 3-minute recording that could be broadcast as part of the Stockport Focus Programme, which may lead to more interest too.

Anne is available most of next week, so **Lewis** and **Jason** agreed to get together with Ben and workout what they would like to say and advise Mark when they could meet up with Anne in the park to do this as soon as possible next week.

The Marple Christmas Cracker could possibly be an event to link up with the interview.

Mark will provide a breakdown of funding raised to date for reference.

8.0 Other Items

Mark still to write to the new Marple Business Forum Chair and investigate the process of becoming a registered charity.

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

Richard to investigate via his contacts if Bones III can help us in any way.

Next Meeting: To be arranged.