

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 10th August 2015
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson, Bob Wilson, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Patrick O’Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

Working Group Meeting / SAVY Consultation

The last Working Group meeting with Police, CSU and Local Councillors was held on 23 July 2015. The key points arising are:

CCTV signs are now fitted in the locations we requested. Since then we’ve placed posters in the notice boards providing more detail about how to report incidents. Details have also been published in the Stockport East GMP newsletter.

SAVY (Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth) has been engaged to carry out a consultation with young users of the park over a period of 6 weeks starting this week. This will be funded by East INPT, hopefully with support from Marple Area Committee. *(PMN: Marple Area Committee agreed to provide 50% of funds on 12 August).*

The end result of the consultation will be a report that should give an insight into how young people feel about the park and what they would like from it. It will make recommendations for further action, which may also require further funding.

Police have advised that congregation of certain youths has moved out of the park.

Mark and Ronit from CSU met with the bowler who had been abused by youths for a chat on Tuesday 14 July. Ronit was also able to talk to bowling club secretary Ken Else and will be going back to speak to more of the bowlers to emphasis the importance of reporting any incidents that are witnessed.

The bowlers identified that they have received several unhelpful responses when calling the duty team number, which has put them off using it. Ronit was able to address this too and the bowlers have been asked to record dates, times and details if this occurs again so that it can be followed up.

With camera and signs installed, engagement with bowlers now taking place, the consultation with young people starting and reduced anti-social behaviour over the last few weeks it feels like we are making some real progress at last.

Anti-Social Behaviour Logs

ASB logs submitted since the June meeting and distributed with the agenda include:

- Verbal abuse / intimidation of a volunteer during our task day.
- Ongoing collection of drug packets and paraphernalia.

The incident of abuse of our volunteer has reached a satisfactory conclusion. The Police were very helpful and after their investigations the victim was given several options. A personal apology was chosen and this took place during the last task day.

Mick and Lorraine advised that youths were witnessed playing football on the Bowling Green after the French Boules match on Tuesday 4 August. The incident was reported to Police, who were seen heading into the park within 10 minutes.

There have also been reports that some youths have started to use areas of the green obscured from the camera by trees. This may need to be looked at further.

Crime Prevention Report:

Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion

The order for the fencing / gates has been placed and installation is expected to be complete within 6 weeks of order (around first week in September).

Covenants and Bylaws

We've now been waiting 9 months for guidance from the legal team on whether a better football provision can be made in the park. Cllr Shan Alexander got involved to try to expedite this but as yet we still have no response from legal.

CSU took an action to follow this up with Ian Warmsley and Cllr Candler during the 23 July Working Group meeting and Mark has followed it up with Ian and Jane too.

3.2 Roundabout in Infants Play Area / Play Area Improvements

The report allocating commuted sums was considered at the July Area Committee but councillors had several questions and asked for an officer to attend the next meeting to provide answers and clarify several details. Richard Booker will be attending the next meeting on Wednesday 12 August to present the report and clarify the procedures for allocating commuted sums. *(PMN: Report now approved by AC).*

If approved there will be a total of £18,288 of commuted sums available for play improvements in the park. Mark has met with Richard to go over the Greenspace proposals and the plan is to replace the roundabout in the infants play area and cover the safe surface of the roundabout, the multi-play climbing unit and the inclusive "Springer" with a synthetic carpet island covering the whole area.

A schedule of budget costs and a diagram of the proposed carpet area was distributed. Full costs are not minuted, as they will be competitively tendered.

The standard synthetic carpet is green. There is an opportunity to maintain the "water" theme of the play area by choosing a blue carpet at an additional cost of around £500. The group discussed this and the overall consensus was that the standard carpet should be used and the money saved for future improvements.

It is not planned to do the safe surface around the swings, the Wendy house or the set of 3 "Springers" at this time as their life expectancy is relative short and we would like to replace them when further funds become available in the future.

The Junior Play Area has been looked at more closely and instead of covering all safe surfaces with carpet, at a budget cost of around £10,500, it has been agreed to replace the coloured sections of wet pour that have become detached from the surrounding tarmac around each piece of equipment. This will be less than half of the cost of the carpet and should provide a satisfactory solution that will prolong the life of the Junior Play facility safe surfaces for a good number of years.

To avoid delays the replacement roundabout has been ordered, as sufficient funds are already allocated from commuted to cover the cost of this.

The work is expected to start early September, after the school holidays are finished.

3.3 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

Terry has now fully repaired the picnic bench in the Infants Play Area.

Patrick has made great progress on the benches in the park and most have now been done. He has advised that we're down to the last tin of preservative and the council has placed an order for another 4 x 5L tins of summer tan for us.

Town Centre Benches

Our Risk Assessment for using generator and power-tools has now been approved and several task days dates have also been approved. Unfortunately yesterday's had to be cancelled but the next two are Wednesday's 19 and 26 August.

The plan is to do one or two benches in order to show what we can achieve and then seek funding and support to do the balance.

3.4 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Patrick has now made good progress on this too.

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".

The first anniversary of this request is now approaching!

3.6 Park Buildings

Gents' Toilets

The toilets are now fully opened for business again!

Bowling Pavilion

Two windows were boarded up following forced entry to the Mess Room several months ago and these have not yet had a permanent repair. They are not very secure and we have asked for the permanent repair to be chased up.

Bowlers Hut

One of the metal security screens fell off recently when it was opened by the bowlers. It's been temporarily re-fixed but cannot be used until a proper repair is carried out.

3.7 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

The council's agreement to provide up to £50,000 match funding from Formal Sports Commuted Sums has been signed by the Exec Councillor. There is a call-in period with a deadline of 18 August 2015, after which we can start actively promoting this.

This is a significant step forward for the project and means that instead of having to find a further £55,000, we will (only) need to raise approximately £28,000 more to achieve the £100,000 target. There is a time limit of April 2018 (when the current planning permission is due to expire) at which point the allocation will return to the commuted sum "pot" or be subject to further discussion.

At this point it seems a good time to exclude the £2,500 allocated by Forever Manchester's CDL Fund. They have told us that this will expire in December 2015 unless we've raised the full balance of funds we need and it seems unlikely that we could achieve that by December.

So, the funding situation will now be:

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£21,754	(excluding £2,500 FM CDL Fund).
With match funding:	£43,508	
Balance needed:	£56,492	
We need to raise:	£28,246	(50% of balance).

Fundraising

The Vernon Building Society has rejected our application for the 4th year running. The outcome of our Stockport Homes application is expected soon.

No news on 4 other grant applications submitted.

Mick advised that he submitted the group for the Carver Theatre local causes collection but we did not make the final selection.

There have been further developments with Asda. Peter Dewsnip had spoken to Mark on the phone a couple of weeks ago but has now moved to another store. However, the Leeds HO contacts have forwarded details for the new General Manager and hopefully we will be able to progress matters further with him in due course.

The money from Lewis and Steve has not been received yet, apart from some payments via Local Giving from people who donated on-line. They are both away at the moment and hopefully will catch up on their return.

Marple Hall School has agreed to help when they are back in September.

Art Exhibition at Marple Library starts 1st September

Joyce advised that arrangements are going well and 15 artists have signed up to display / sell 2 paintings each with 15% commission to the Skatepark Project.

Artists will need their own insurance. People interested in buying will leave a message at the library desk that Joyce will need to follow up.

Joyce, Mick, Mark (and possibly Steve) will help set-up on Tuesday 1st September.

Mark will speak to the library about freestanding displays for himself, Lewis and Arthur Procter, who are interested in contributing too.

Mellor Mill Day – Sunday 6 September 2015

We have been invited to attend Mellor Mill Day down at Roman Lakes with our Splat the Rat. We could also possibly try out the new "Wheel of Fortune" that Terry is building too if it is ready. Mark has also been looking at the practicalities of trying to book the Vernon Building Society's bouncy castle but this is now looking unlikely.

Mick and Lorraine should be able to help (but cannot do the Food and Drink).

Food and Drink Day – Saturday 19 September 2015

Micaela advised that tombola preparations are going well with 80% of letters distributed. Gill has received some donated prizes too.

3.8 Possible Sports / Fitness Trail

No news at this stage.

3.9 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Carlos Bates was added on 7 August. Next man is Jack Hardy on 25 September.

It was agreed to purchase 2 new flags in time for Remembrance.

3.8 Task Days

Last Task Day – 25 July 2015

Mostly working on the shrub bed near to the Bowling Green and benches throughout the park. Also some work to the Garth Road shrub bed. New councillor Annette Finnie paid us a visit during the task day and was very complimentary of our volunteers.

Next Task Days – 15 and 29 August 2015

More work to shrub beds and Gill has more plants to go in too.

Free parking has been arranged and confirmed.

Mark will send out the task day emails when due.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2015

Approved: 15 & 29 August, 12 & 26 September, 17 & 31 October 2015.

To register: 14 & 28 November, 12 & 26 December 2015.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are approved on the council's system until 31 December 2015 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.

Risk Assessments / Training

11 volunteers have attended the previous risk assessment training.

Gill, Bob and Mick have recently attended the new Team Leader training so we now have 6 volunteers who have done this.

Chris, Michaela and Lorraine are interested in doing the Team Leader course too.

Mick and Bob would also like to put their names down for the power-tools training.

Mark will email the Greenspace Forum to request this.

Power Tools

We have a petrol blower donated by Myers Tree Care.

Bob has also donated a petrol hedge trimmer and the group thanked him for this.

Mark proposed the purchase of a petrol long-reach / angle hedge trimmer and strimmer combination from Screwfix that has over 200 very good reviews. They are currently reduced down to £70 from £100 including delivery and the purchase was agreed while they are at this low price. *(PMN: Order placed)*.

Risk Assessments will need to be in place before we can use these tools.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The balance on latest bank statement dated 22 July is £25,336.04.

Income since last meeting includes:

£152.54 Local Giving (mostly Lewis's beard-off donations).
£187.50 Donations in memory of Mrs Mavis Shelley.
£30.00 Collected in park.
£2.40 Interest.

Mark has written to Mrs Shelley's daughter to thank the family for their donations.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

Nil

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £21,754, Pavilion Fencing £3,150, Flowerbeds £24 and WWI Display £167, leaving a working balance of £458. Flags and hedge trimmer will be purchased from this sum.

Any Other Business

5.1 Nettles at Park Entrance

The pathway at the main entrance has now been widened.

5.2 Waste Bins

Still awaiting the bin at the Skatepark to be replaced. Needs to be chased up.

5.3 Greenspace Forum Networking Day – 5 September 2015

The forum is holding a networking day at Woodbank Park. This was not convenient for anyone to attend. Mark and Gill may go if she is well enough.

5.4 Marple Boules Association

The "Marple Boules Association" games of French Boules organised by Mick and Lorraine have been running for two weeks and been most enjoyable. The games are now held every Tuesday evening from 6.30pm and open to anyone who wants to join in. Scores are one-all Ladies v Gents, so the next game is very important!

5.5 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Monday 14 September 2015 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2015 (library booked):

14 September, 12 October, 9 November and 14 December 2015.