

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Anne Frazer, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Patrick O'Herlihy.

**2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.

**3.0 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project**

**Display Panel**

The display panel was protected with timber as we requested at the last meeting but unfortunately the damage done before this by the contractor's scaffold has resulted in one side of the clamp frame breaking loose. A price is awaited from Shelley Signs for supplying a replacement frame and Mark will pass this onto SMBC when it is received. *(Post meeting note: Price of £95 +VAT quoted by Shelley has been passed on to SMBC/NPS on 19 June and their response is awaited.)*

**Future Planting**

Rebecca Knowles has recently left the college for a job in the private sector. Prior to leaving Rebecca advised that it was intended to ask us to order a list of seeds and the college students would then plant them directly into the bed in June / July.

This is not what we understood would be happening and Gill, Joyce and Mark have discussed it separately. It has been agreed that we shouldn't plant seeds directly into the bed at this time of year, as it would leave it looking very bare. The college have been advised that we are happy for a new tutor to get involved in the future but we would prefer to plant the bed with perennials and create a long-term scheme.

Gill, Joyce and Anne will talk further about developing a scheme but it was agreed that the Polyanthus could be left in until the autumn if necessary. The council office bed would be one good location for transplanting the Polys when the time comes.

Micaela would like the scheme to involve red, white and blue colours if possible.

A budget of £632 is available for purchasing plants as required.

**3.2 Park Benches**

**Refurbishment / replacement of benches**

Most Streetmaster style oak benches have now been re-treated at least once.

Jim Heald's bench, the Boules Court benches, the Ian Rice bench (near the towpath entrance at lock 12) and the Alan Procter seat still need to be tackled. The picnic bench in the play area and the two just outside need treating too.

Mark attended Gladys Romm's funeral recently. The family have asked if they can supply a new plaque to go on her husband Len's bench near the Boules Court. Mark has given them the measurements and Terry has agreed to fit it when available.

It is planned to sand and paint the Coronation Bench when weather permits.

Anthony Crook has been in touch to advise that he has taken orders for 3, possibly 4 new benches on the main pathway. He has asked the group to confirm that we are now happy to say that all seat opportunities in the park are full and that he can look at Arkwright Road / Strines Road Recreation ground as an alternative site.

Anthony has also asked if there are any highway seats in the area that need replacing as he could potentially also look into this.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the main park was now pretty full but additional seating in the play areas would be helpful. There are also the three old benches near to the bowling green hedge that we have agreed to replace with new once they are 30 years old. The intention would be to include the old plaques on the new benches if donors were agreeable. Mark will reply to Anthony accordingly.

### **Picnic Benches on the Recreation Ground**

Both picnic benches on the Recreation Ground have now been refurbished with just the refitting of the second plaque to be completed.

Terry presented an invoice from the David Lewis Centre for £250 to cover all materials and a cheque was made out and signed at the meeting.

### **3.3 Maintenance Materials and Tools**

#### **Tidy Up of Lock-up**

The lock-up has been tidied-up using the shelf donated by Anne and the two chests of drawers donated by a member of the public. It is much better organised now and there is room to store equipment and displays ready for the Carnival.

### **3.4 Karcher Clean-Up Competition**

Mark advised that he had entered the group in a Facebook competition run by Karcher to win a visit from Sarah Beeny and the Karcher Clean-Up Squad, £500 worth of vouchers and a "Karcher Clean-Up Kit".

We have won one of three runners up prizes. This includes a visit from the Karcher Squad and Keep Britain Tidy volunteers from 7am to 5pm on Thursday 27 June to help us clean the park up. We have also won a Clean-Up Kit that comprises of a top-of-the-range Jet Wash, a Steam Cleaner and a Window Vac.

We need as many volunteers as possible to come along and help on the clean-up day between 10am and 12noon and for a photo-call at 10.45am. Areas targeted for the clean-up are around the Library, Senior Citizens' Hall, Co-Op steps, Scout Hut and several benches and other areas of the park. It is also planned to clean the stone drinking fountain at the Recreation Ground.

As the prize includes a new Jet Wash we will need to consider what to do with the one that we recently purchased from Aldi.

### **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**

The Owl Tree Sculpture has been jet-washed and re-treated. The acorns and beechnuts need treating and the Breathing Places sculpture also needs doing.

### **3.7 Skate Park**

Mark advised that a professional extreme sports company called Team Extreme has been found who will put on demonstrations, coaching and competitions for us.

We have not been able to obtain funds specifically for this in time so it has been agreed at the Skate Park subgroup meetings that the cost of £1,700 is worth paying for out of the Skate Park funding raised so far. It will give a great opportunity to promote the project and consult further with users. Also students from Cheadle and Marple College and Stockport College have agreed to film the event for us.

A funding application to the Co-Op Community Fund for a similar event has been accepted for consideration at their panel meeting in August and if this is approved we will be able to hold a second event in September, after the Food and Drink Day.

We have now raised just over £7,000 toward our match-funding target but this will reduce due to the Carnival Event costs. Some of this we will be able to recover by fund-raising with a stall on the day and a number of local businesses have given support and sponsorship to help us with this:

Stationery Supplies, David Myers Golf Academy / Marple Golf Club and the Springfield Hotel have sponsored competition trophies and prizes for £50 each. There will be three competitions, one each for skateboard, BMX and scooter users.

CLEAR School of Motoring, Marple Bridge Stores, Chocolate Collective and Veranna Cakes have paid for publicity posters. Stars N Stripes American Candy Shop has filled our "Guess the Sweets" jar free of charge and Woodstock Pizza has agreed to donate a portion of their sales on Carnival Day. The Branch Manager of the Marple NatWest has also agreed to come and help us on the day and he is hopeful that NatWest will provide some match funding of the money raised on the day too.

Raffle prizes have been donated by Icing on the Cake, CLEAR School of Motoring, Veranna Cakes, Marple Wine Club, Naturally Human and Chocolate Collective.

Adrian agreed to help set-up the stall on the day. Other volunteers will join in during the day to help sell raffle tickets, Guess the Sweets and engage with the public.

Other great news is that Marple Firefighters have agreed to donate 20% of the funds raised by this year's Marple 10K Trail Run on Saturday 7 September to the Skate Park Fund. We can look at how we can get more involved in that after the Carnival.

### **3.8 WWI Centenaries (2014 – 2018)**

Terry and Mark attended a Council "2014 Meeting" at the Town Hall on 17 April to discuss ideas for commemorating the WWI centenaries starting next year. Mark attended a second meeting on 8 May to discuss funding and a further meeting is scheduled for 28 June, when the Council will advise how they see their role in funding applications and leading of the borough-wide projects that are proposed. The proposals put forward by us were:

### **Planting of a Rose Hedge "Wall" around the rear edges of the War Memorial Beds.**

This project is already underway with 60 Stromboli Red Rose bushes planted around the two beds. £150 has been spent on the roses plus fertilizer and compost and a temporary barrier is currently erected to allow them to become established.

Most of the roses bushes are now growing well but a number of them appear to have died. Mark has emailed the supplier to register this with them and they have asked us to give it a while longer. They have said that the order is fully guaranteed until 1 August 2013 so we need to get back to them in early July to resolve.

### **Commemorative Iron Railings around the front edges of the War Memorial Beds.**

Prices and design ideas have now been obtained from two potential suppliers and information from a third company is expected soon. There are two options – to just have railings on the front-most sections (approx 18' of railings each side) or to have them all the way around the inner / front edges (approx 108' of railings in total).

The next step is to talk to the Council about funding at the 28 June meeting.

### **A Digital Project about the men who fell during WWI**

The initial idea was that this could be a Marple-based project working with the authors of the book "Remembered". There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the idea at the first Council meeting but the general consensus was that it should be broadened to encompass the whole of the borough of Stockport. This seems like a good idea, as the information for all the Stockport men who fell is already available digitally on John Hartley's web site "More Than A Name" [www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk)

A very provisional ballpark price was obtained for doing this from the digital company working with Mellor Archaeological Trust, which was based on dividing Stockport up into ten different regions. It was presented at the 2014 Meeting on 8 May 2013. However, it was also made clear that Friends of Memorial Park could not lead a Stockport-wide project, as our focus needs to be on our own park.

The probability of this larger project proceeding will depend on how the Council see their role in funding of applications. If they don't agree to lead it then it is unlikely to go ahead but this will become clearer at the next 2014 meeting.

It is also understood that Marple Civic Society has recently spoken to the authors of Remembered about funding for a similar type of digital project based on their book, so it was agreed that we would not need to pursue this any further.

### **Planting of Poppies throughout Stockport Parks**

One of the other projects suggested at the 2014 Meetings is the planting of wild poppy seeds and Oriental poppies in as many parks as possible. Our interest in taking part in this if it goes ahead has been registered with the organisers.

### **3.9 Park Cottage**

Good news is that Marple Bands have sold the land behind the cinema and this means that they will be able to start work on their extension to the cottage very soon.

### **3.10 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Days - Saturday 13, 20, 27 April, 11 and 25 May**

Five task days have been held since the last meeting. Successes include restoration of the Recreation Ground picnic benches, planting of 60 rose bushes around the War Memorial borders, repairs to Infants Play Area fence, treatment of most Streetmaster benches, jet washing and re-treatment of the Owl sculpture and a great deal of weeding, pruning and planting of flowerbeds and shrub beds throughout the park.

We also had a special litter-picking day with All Saints' Church Youth Group.

Marple Allotment Association have also been making great progress with their adopted bed and we have been getting some very positive comments about it from park users.

#### **Nest Task Days - Saturday 15, 29 June, Thursday 27 June**

Next task days are the Carnival, the Karcher Clean-Up Day on Thursday 27 June and the normal last Saturday in the month on 29 June.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

#### **Remaining Task Day Dates for 2013**

15 (Carnival Day) & 29 June; 13 & 27 July; 17 & 31 August; 14 & 28 September; 26 October; 30 November; 28 December 2013.

### **3.11 Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration**

Task Days now have to be registered on the Council web site. Ours are registered up to and including the 28 September 2013. In order to be covered by the Council's insurance we also need to have Risk Assessments in place for the approved tasks that we carry out. The following RA's have been produced and issued to the Council:

- Friends of Memorial Park General Approved Tasks
- Application of wood treatment / preservative
- Application of paint treatment

The General Tasks RA is now always issued with the Task Day email as a reminder to volunteers. Mark is also collecting signatures from volunteers to confirm that they have read, discussed and understood them.

### **4.0 Funding - Status of Funds**

Balance on last statement for 22 May 2013 was £7082.30.

Income since last meeting includes £32.63 via localgiving.com, £125 from New Mills, Marple and District Rotary Club, £1,000 from Marple Area Committee, £172 from Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights and £1,000 from Stockport Homes.

Expenditure since last meeting is £123 on a Jet Wash, £23 on printed questionnaires and flyers, £150 on roses, fertilizer and compost, £150 on trophies and prizes, £26 on timber, cable ties and screws and £11 on charity donation buckets.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £1,391; Recreation Ground benches £325; Skate Park Fund £5,896 - leaving a working balance of £601.

There are still a number of Gift Aid and sponsorship payments to be confirmed on future bank statements not included in the above figures.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 2014/15 Budget Cuts**

The council's consultation on proposed budget cuts is now closed. No information has been made available on the response yet and we have not been advised when it will be published. We expect the council to be clear and transparent with the results.

The group did as much as we could to raise awareness of the consultation including web sites, social media and email campaigns, writing to local organisations and schools, having a stall on Market Street and distributing flyers and posters. Anne recently did a lot of work with local nurseries and toddler groups too.

Mark was invited to register for a local panel to discuss the issues in more detail with council representatives but did not make the final (random) selection of eight to take part. No feedback has been received from these discussions yet.

It is understood that Cllr Hogg, the Executive Member responsible, has resigned from his position due to the amount of flack he has been receiving over the proposals.

All we can hope is that the response to the consultation is so overwhelming that the council has to take notice of it by making changes and concessions.

### **5.2 Bowling Green Steps**

The Bowling Green steps remain a concern. No update has been received from Jonathan this month. *(Post meeting note: following an exchange of emails between Ken Else from the Bowling Club, Mark and Jonathan the steps have now been barriered off until repair options can be finalised and implemented by the council.)*

### **5.3 Bowling Green Boards**

Ken Else has asked for the Bowling Club's thanks to be passed on to the Council for repairing / replacing the Bowling Green boards – they're very pleased with the result.

### **5.4 Lyme Park Bulbs**

It was agreed that Joyce should try to get any surplus Lyme Park bulbs for planting in the park again, as she managed to do successfully last year.

## **6.0 Date of next Meeting**

Monday 12 August 2013 at 6pm in Marple Library.

### **Meeting dates scheduled for 2013 (library booked):**

12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December 2013.