

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 9th March 2015
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Terry Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Bob Wilson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Micaela Wood.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour / Additional CCTV Cameras

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

- Ongoing collection of drug packets and paraphernalia.
- Golf and football being played on the bowling green again.
- Extensive graffiti around bowling buildings and infants play area. (Rob removed this quickly before it could be photographed because it was offensive.)

The last fortnight has been relatively quiet, although Mick advised that he had picked up a large amount of broken glass during his walks in the park.

Progress since the last meeting

A Working Group meeting was held on 4 March to review a draft report due to go to Area Committee recommending one PTZ camera be installed to monitor the bowling green and buildings, toilets and Infants Play area. This will be considered at the Area Committee meeting on Wednesday. (*Post Meeting Note: Camera approved by AC.*)

A set of notes from the Working Group meeting was circulated with the agenda.

Key points are: Installations costs are £2,987+VAT; maintenance costs £271 PA; an allowance for 24 downloads over the first 12 months will be covered 50% by Area Committee and 50% East INPT – approx £1,200 in total; the effectiveness of the camera will be reviewed in September 2015 (not 2016 as stated in the notes).

(Post Meeting Note: It has since been identified that there will be no costs for viewing and downloading footage as deemed appropriate following crime/ASB reports.)

A tree needs to be removed to improve the camera coverage. This has been reviewed with Greenspace and agreement reached that we can use Myers Tree Care. David Myers has undertaken to do the work free of charge as support to the Friends group. (*PMN: Myers Tree Care removed the tree on Friday 20 March 2015.*)

Crime Prevention Report

This was also reviewed at the 4 March Working Group meeting, particularly the fencing options identified within the report:

Fencing of the Bowling Green

The Police feel that fencing the bowling green itself would significantly improve the situation of it being misused. Verbally Greenspace have said that this is not effective in other parks. Greenspace have been asked to provide a report supporting this.

The Veterans' Bowling Club will review the fencing recommendations at their meeting on 24 March and feedback their collective views on the issue after that.

The groups' current view is that fencing the green is not at all desirable. We would rather the money that it would cost be put towards a positive improvement, like making a better provision available for playing football elsewhere in the park.

Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion

As identified previously, in the future the group would like to install gates and railings to close off the Bowling Green Pavilion canopy and incorporate WWI themed artwork complementing the new silhouette signs we've installed in the park. As fencing off the canopy is also recommended by the Crime Prevention Report, East INPT are prepared to contribute a grant of £3,000 towards this but we need to act quickly to secure it.

It was agreed to pursue this opportunity to add the security aspects as soon as possible with an artwork project following on at a more leisurely pace afterwards.

Mark is meeting with Ken Else, Chair of the Bowling Club, tomorrow to ensure that the Bowlers understand what we plan to do and don't have any objections to this.

Mark has also asked Greenspace for the support of a landscape officer to assist with the design and specification of suitable railings and gates so we can obtain prices.

Section 59 signs

The section 59 signs have arrived but are bigger than anticipated and cannot be installed on lampposts as the council proposed. They will need to be installed on separate posts. Locations have been agreed with Rob and posts are on order.

No Ball Game signs

The "No Ball Game" sign has been received and fitted but it is very small and doesn't include the wording or graphics that were requested during the round of comments by local councillors or us. There appears to have been a communications breakdown.

The sign is to be redone and a proof has been requested to avoid further issues.

Removal of the Teen Shelter

With reference to the comments in the CP Report concerning the Teen Shelter, it was made clear at the Working Group meeting that consultation has taken place with young people over this as part of the Skatepark Development Project. If the project is successful in securing the grant funding needed to undertake completion of the works, then the shelter will be removed from the skatepark area. If it can be removed in a condition suitable for it to be relocated then this can be considered separately.

Covenants and Bylaws

Jane Bardsley is STILL waiting for a response from Legal on whether it would be acceptable to install a better open and inclusive football provision in the park.

3.2 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

There was graffiti on two benches, one near Costa Coffee and the other opposite the Senior Citizens' Hall. Patrick thinks that these have been done but will double-check.

Terry has the slat from one of the benches near to the library. Unfortunately he is off work due to injury at the moment but will look at sorting this out when he returns.

Town Centre Benches

Waiting for competent person training from SMBC / SSK.

3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Awaiting better weather.

3.4 Commemorative Plaques

Still waiting for the Greenspace Team to draft a report for submission to Area Committee. No new sponsored plaques will be installed until the outcome is known.

3.5 Park Buildings

Gents' Toilets

The situation is unclear. We've been advised that the work to the spreaders has been done but are not convinced it's all working. Mark will follow up with Jane Bardsley.

Tool Store

Tidy-up of the tool store is still needed.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

Marple and District WI has confirmed a funding contribution from the Christmas Cracker of £600, which is fantastic. *(PMN: cheque now received from MAD WI.)*

Pupils at Marple Hall School have conducted a sponsored silence to raise some extra funds for the project. We're waiting for more details of how well they managed to do.

Community Funding has now reached £22,928 and we will need to ask for £62,000 in our grant application. The council is providing £15,800 match funding and has undertaken to pay the 10% landfill tax on the grant (£6,200) that will be needed if the application is successful. The application is nearly ready and we expect to send it by recorded delivery to the Derbyshire Environmental Trust on Wednesday.

A planning application was submitted on Friday 6 March 2015.

If the DET accepts our application for consideration by their committee then a decision would be made towards the end of May. We need to advise them of the planning application outcome before then. This is due in early May so all fits if things go well.

The design has been updated by Canvas following the meeting with users on 5 February and a 3D model is now available on-line for users make further comments.

(Post Meeting Note: The DET acknowledged receipt of the application by email on 11 March and advised that they will write to formally acknowledge and ask any questions within the next couple of weeks).

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Silhouette Art Project

The first WWI silhouette was installed at the entrance on 18 February. It looks brilliant and we've received a fantastic response from park users since then. The support bench made by Terry was a really useful aid to the installation and fitted perfectly.

The second silhouette is nearly ready for installation and the frame has been prepared and painted. (*Post Meeting Note: It was successfully installed on 17 March.*)

The following additional items have been purchased:

£30 on consumable items.

£77 on Perspex for the second silhouette (only one sheet was needed).

£28 on M8 security bolts for the second silhouette.

Mark has advised Alan Burton that the first silhouette is installed and we hope that he and David Birch, MD of AET who supplied the metalwork, will be able to visit us during a task day and have their photos taken with us in front of the signs.

Timeline Commemoration

Photos of Brabyns Nurses and Marple Defence Corps were added on 26 February, 100 years after they were taken. Robert Ashton was added on 6 March 2015.

Next additions are Joe McDermott on 5 May, the Lusitania family on 7 May, Frank Bradshaw-Isherwood on 9 May and 3 others in May too.

WWI commemorative flags

A replacement has been purchased for the commemorative flag first flown last summer, which is now worn out, and a second one that matches the silhouette sign has also been bought to fly on the other pole. Total cost £9.88 for the two flags.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Day – 28 February 2015

Prepared frame for silhouette, lots of work on flowerbeds in front of Senior Citizen's Hall and Scout Hut, toilets, front of library and in the woodland behind. Also more management work carried out in the woodland walk alongside the canal.

Mick purchased a tarpaulin to assist with the tree work for £7.35 and has passed the receipt to Mark for reimbursement.

Next Task Day – 28 March 2015

Subject to weather but we hope to tackle pruning and stripping of handrails. We should be able to get to grips with gardening tasks too if the weather is reasonable.

Parking has been arranged. Mark will send out the task day email.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2015

Registered: 28 February, 28 March, 11 and 25 April 2015.

To register: remainder of 2015.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are registered on the council's system until 30 June 2015 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.

It was agreed to hold an ad-hoc task day on Saturday 14 March to make up for the one that had to be cancelled in January.

Tree Work

Patrick advised that a large amount of branches were now stacked ready for shredding next to the green waste area. He will advise Anthony Crook.

Anthony has provided beech saplings to fill the gaps in the hedge along Station Road, which now need planting. He has also supplied willow whips for creating a bird screen in the woodland area. *(PMN: These were planted during the 14 March Task Day.)*

Risk Assessments / Training

Risk assessments and training are currently up to date with 11 volunteers having attended the RA training. It is hoped for further training to cover power tools in the near future (see below).

SSK Support for Task Days / Competent Person Training

Mark, Patrick, Mick, Terry and Bernard have put their names forward to receive Competent Person Training to allow use of light power tools in the park.

Discussions are ongoing between SSK / Council and insurers about what tool usage can be covered. We await further details.

Patrick advised that Wright Hire have offered the free use of a petrol disc strimmer. We will have to wait and see if the training permits us to take advantage of this.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The McInnes Partnership has audited the 2014 accounts ready for the AGM.

The balance on latest bank statement dated 20 February is £20,576.31.

Income since last meeting includes:

£4.75 Local Giving.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£135.37 Silhouette items listed earlier.

£47.07 Outside tap and security box (spent last year).

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £19,828, Flowerbeds £150 and WWI Display £167 leaving a working balance of £230.

A number of pending payments are still to be processed:

£16.74 on folders and 4 hole punch for skatepark bid.

£11.00 on bulbs*.

£7.35 on a tarpaulin.

£4.90 on nuts, bolts + a driver for the security bits.

£37.81 on perennial plants and bulbs*.

£9.88 on two flags.

£4.50 on herb plants at the seed potato day*.

* from flowerbeds budget.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 New Waste Bins

Awaiting council to action.

5.2 Cargo Net in Junior Play Area

A replacement cargo net has been authorised. Awaiting order and fitting.

5.3 Treasure Hunt Event

Julian Wadden, the new estate agents on the Hollins, has expressed an interest in getting involved to help the Friends raise funds for the park.

We've had one meeting with JW manager Jonathan Hyde attended by Jane, Anne, Diane and Mark. The initial proposal was an Easter Egg Hunt but it was decided that there is not enough time to organise and publicise for Easter this year.

Di and Ann are taking the lead on this for the Friends and they were due to have a walk around the park this morning with Jonathan to discuss ideas.

Terry advised that Micaela would probably like to help with this too.

Also Jonathan has invited representatives of the group to a JW launch party on Thursday 12 March. Mark, Lorraine, Joyce, Micaela, Di and Greg will attend.

5.4 St Patrick's Day Meal

Marple and Goyt Valley Rotarians have invited us to join them for a St. Patrick's Day meal at the Royal Hotel, Hayfield. Terry, Micaela, Di, Greg, Gill and Mark will be going.

5.5 Next Meeting (AGM)

The next meeting is the AGM on Monday 13 April 2015 at 6pm in Marple Library.

There is a clash with the Reading Group due to the bank holiday but they have agreed to use the exhibition area so that we can use the meeting room.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2015 (library booked):

13 April (AGM), 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November and 14 December 2015.