

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 21st March 2005

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke, Bob Wilson, Bill Arden, Chris Armitt, Dave Burrows, Richard Booker, M.Wood, David Hoyle

Apologies: Brian Nash, Mark Whittaker, Adrian Ellis, Malcolm Allcard

1. Review of minutes

- **Picnic Benches**

Dave Burrows has ordered the picnic benches.

- **Jim's Bench Fund-update and Account**

The Jim Heald bench fund has received further anonymous donation taking the fund to just over £600. Richard brought some brochures of memorial benches to the meeting these must be returned to the landscape section in Stopford House via Adrian Ellis. The group will decide on a suitable bench, it was also suggested by Dave Burrows that they consider installing a similar bench to the one last put in the park.

- **Football posts and Bins**

The position over the football posts and the bins are unchanged from the last meeting. These will be installed in the spring when the weather has improved. The site for the football posts has been chosen. The siting of the two new bins still needs to be decided.

Peter and Adrian need to discuss siting arrangements.

- **Junior play area consultation**

Adrian reported to the group that the consultation had gone well! All the schools that had been sent questionnaires had replied. The consultation in the library produced good results and there has been over thirty replies via the Internet.

Richard passed pictures around of the pieces of equipment that had scored highest from the public consultation and explained that this information had been sent to four play area developers to produce a design for a park. Once the designs have been received there will be a further consultation exercise giving the community a chance to vote for their favourite one. The aim is to have finished the project by the end of May.

Action Richard to pass on Mike Craigs contact details onto the group. He is the Landscape Architect over seeing the project.

- **SEMMS Project**

Peter reported that the resurfacing in the park for the new cycle way/footpath seemed to be complete with work still taking place on the canal to-path. Dave Burrows will check on why the lamp posts along the path aren't working.

- **Graffiti Project**

Peter informed the group that he had been in contact with the local youth co-ordinator Andrea Nyland who is still progressing with the scheme but has tendered her resignation and will leave the youth service in a months time. Andrea hopes to continue with the project and is working with the group on an application for funding to the Local Network Fund. This involves the group becoming associated members of Stockport Youth Services.

Action Peter to work with Andrea on the funding application.

- **Newsletter**

There is a problem with people coming forward with articles for the newsletter it is hoped that the newsletter would be ready for the spring so that the local events for the park could be included. Bill said that both Chris and himself had produced an article about the carnival this has been handed to Peter. Bob Wilson the community Parks officer will work with Dave Burrows to produce a piece on the day in the life. Michaela will also work on an article about how young people see the park. The newsletter will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Action articles to be brought to the next meeting.

2. Park Action Plan

Dave Burrows has reviewed the action plan for the park and has now combined the friends action plan with the parks so that they are one document this will help build on the communities aspirations and not just the councils needs.

The actions to be included are extra signage in the park. The interpretation boards for the park and features in or around the park. The new ramp into the library. To make the parks toilets more assessable and eventually create a better facility. To identify if there is a need to increase the number of litterbins within the park. To produce newsletter on a regular basis and identify how many times a year it is to be produced and who will be the contributors. To include the friends web site and the close working with the youth service and the young people of Marple and surrounding area.

To out line projects time scale to repair the base of the sundial from Marple Hall.

Action Richard to send out copies of the action plan out with the minutes

3. Park House

Peter raised this issue, as a concern that he thinks the group should pursue. The cottage has been vandalised on two occasions and parks and recreation have now boarded the entire property to protect it from further miss use due to recent spates of vandalism and arson to other vacant properties in Marple.

Peter sent an email to Norman Hudson the head of Parks and Recreation. Peter has received a reply acknowledging the receipt of this letter.

There was a strong feeling at the meeting that the community could use the property if resources could be found to renovate the property to a good standard

The group decided to keep this as an agenda item until a decision on the property future has been decided.

Action keep cottage as an agenda item until further notice

- **Carnival Toilets**

Bill Arden asked if the council could give the carnival committee any support to the cost of toilets at this years carnival as the cost has escalated this year and it would mean that most of the charity monies collected would be spent on toilets. Peter suggested applying to the local area

committee for support. Dave will speak with Peter Ashworth to see if any funding could be made available for the toilets.

- **Bulbs**

Peter reported that the bulbs planted by the group last autumn were now appearing in the green corridor in the park and that a good display should be expected in the next few weeks.

- **Treasurers Report**

Peter has applied for a Community Development Top up Grant but needs a Community worker to fill in section D of the application form. Richard will make arrangements for someone from the Comm Development section to do this.

- **AOB**

Recruitment Drive

The Group feel that there is a need to increase the number of residents that attend the monthly meetings ideas discussed to increase the communities awareness of the group included better advertising in the library and a leaflet drop of houses in the immediate area around the park.

Information Signs

Dave asked if anyone in the group could help produce a written piece on the history of the locks. This would be used on an information sign that will be placed down near the canal. Peter asked Dave about the interpretation boards that had been proposed 12 months ago. Dave will chase that up.

Church Bus

Dave Burrows told the group about an initiative that was discussed the Marple LAT. An Activity Bus run by a group of churches has been visiting Marple Park on a Thursday evening between 7.30 – 9.00pm. The bus is run by volunteers and full of activities for young people. Dave will invite Andy Siddell to the next Friends meeting to discuss this further.

Date of the next committee meeting was set for Monday 25th April 2005 at 6.30p.m at Marple Library.