

## Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2004

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Peter Clarke, Sally Curley, Ken Wood (Bowling Team), Adrian Ellis, Jay Havoleana, Chris Armitt, Bill Arden, Cllr Elwood, Mrs Wood, Brian Nash

**1. Apologies:** Dave Burrows, Peter Bardsley, Janet Milligan (Ridge Danyers),

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Ken Wood asked about attendance of other bowling representatives. Peter said that all Bowling Teams who play at Marple Memorial Park have been invited to attend a meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Aidy and seconded by Jay.

### **3. Matters Arising**

- Living Spaces

No reply from Living Spaces yet.

- Toilets

Aidy and Peter had investigated adapting the toilets to incorporate a handrail. Cllr Elwood suggested that Aidy contact Janet Beer from Social Services for advice and information on a handrail.

#### **Action: Aidy to contact Janet Beer**

Ken Wood mentioned about the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act to make all buildings accessible for people with disabilities by 2004.

Mrs Wood mentioned that St. Thomas' Hospital has a Disabled Living Centre that may help with the handrail.

Peter mentioned about the interpretation boards raised at the last meeting by Cllr Candler. He said that this would be included in the group's action plan.

#### **Action: Sally to send out a copy of the action plan with minutes.**

Cllr Elwood referred to the issue of creating a dog free area and asked the group what they thought. Peter ran through the issues discussed at the last meeting. Everyone thought that there should be a dog free area and that this could be incorporated into a new junior play area. Cllr Elwood said that this sounded like a good idea.

Ken Wood had done a drawing of the proposal to fence off an area, this included a football area. Peter said that when the park was 'gifted' it was stated that there should be no formal ball games played on the park. The design will be looked at further with a landscape architect once the funding for the play area has been confirmed.

#### **4. Advertising**

- Newspapers

Peter said that he had put some articles in the paper about the task day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Mrs Wood said that her family would come along and help. Chris Armitt reminded the group that it was Cup Final day. However, the task day will start at 10.00 and may well be finished by the time the match starts.

- Flyers

Peter had produced a flyer to promote the group and handed it round for people to see. Peter said that it needed to be distributed and Jay asked how this could be done. Peter said that at a previous meeting the Cllrs had offered to deliver any flyers with their publication.

Chris Armitt asked whether there needed to be reference to Stockport Council on the flyer. Cllr Elwood said that it could not be delivered with their publication if it had reference to Stockport Council.

Peter and Sally felt that the flyer did not need to have Stockport Council on and everyone agreed.

Everyone is happy for the flyer to be delivered.

- Newsletter

Sally handed round examples of other Friends groups newsletters. Peter said that he would be happy to put together a draft if people could contribute by writing a short article and passing it to Peter.

Cllr Elwood asked how a newsletter could be distributed. Sally said that the Friends of Torkington Park pay the free newspapers to include it in their delivery. Cllr Elwood said that the Friends could apply to the Area Committee for funding to produce and distribute their newsletter.

**Action: people to contribute articles for the newsletter for the next meeting.**

Cllr Elwood also mentioned that the Area Committee had agreed the proposed cycle path through the park. There were some changes to the original plans. The path is not to be widened as Cllrs felt that it would make the park too urban. Also, the pathway from the skating area to the towpath was to be given a gentler gradient.

Peter asked if there would be any wildflower areas established this summer. Aidy said that some would be planted, probably plug plants, which will produce some lovely colours.

## **5. Task Day**

Peter had costed up the fencing to temporarily repair a gap. This would be until British Waterways could repair it properly. Cllr Candler had written to the Waterways about this issue.

Peter had spoken to a contact at Lyme Park who would be able to donate some daffodil bulbs.

People would be asked to bring their own protective clothing on the task day.

Cllr Elwood asked what time the task day will start. It will be 10.00 a.m. until 4.00p.m. British Waterways have said that they will remove any rubbish produced from the task day. Chris Armitt asked whether the council could pay for the fencing.

**Action: Aidy will speak to Dave Burrows.**

## **6. Carnival**

The carnival will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> June. The Friends will have a stall and will hand out flyers. Sally suggested that the group could do a fund raising activity such as guess the number of sweets in the jar.

**Action: Bill to speak to a contact at Swizzels for a donation of sweets.**

Bill also mentioned that the Friends could write to the carnival committee for a donation. The Friends will also have a stall at the bi-centenary event.

Jay suggested that photos could go in the newsletter as well as photos of the task day.

## **7. AOB**

Sally said that the group could apply for a start-up grant from the Community Grants Section at the Council. This would be for £95 for start-up costs. A form was given to Peter to complete and return to Sally who would be a referee for the group.

Cllr Elwood asked if there had been any feedback from the police. The group reported that there had been nothing, which was good news.

Chris Armitt asked about the new junior play area and whether any designs had been drawn up yet. He had been speaking with someone who had asked about inclusive items of play for children with disabilities. Sally said that no designs had been drawn up yet and this would be done in consultation with the community, and that we would look to include items of inclusive play.

Jay asked if there were any bins that didn't burn and buckle when set fire to, particularly the one near the skating area.

Mr Wood asked why there are no park rangers anymore. Aidy said that there was a seasonal ranger starting that week as well as the permanent gardener. Cllr Elwood

said that it was a result of lack of finances that meant that there were no permanent park keepers, but the fact that there are seasonal staff showed a commitment to improve the situation.

Chris Armitt asked when the work on the paths and the lighting would be starting in the park. Cllr Elwood said that she wasn't sure and asked Sally if she could contact Richard Leyshon in Transportation and Health Section, for a proposed start date and feed back to the group.

**Action: Sally to contact Transportation and Health Team for start dates and feed back.**

Mr Wood mentioned that there had been young people on mopeds driving through the park. It was agreed that this must be reported to the police. Cllr Elwood reported that there had been a similar situation at High Lane Park and that the Youth Offending Team had been involved and it had worked well.

**Date for next meeting will be Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 6.30p.m at Marple Library – this meeting will be primarily to discuss the task day.**