

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting (AGM)  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
Marple Library**

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

**1.0 Apologies:** None.

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

**2.0 Chairman's Report for 2013**

**Successes and achievements since the last AGM in April 2013**

Our programme of bench refurbishment and replacement has continued and all benches in the park have now been dealt with at least once. On-going maintenance is continuing and there are 3 more benches that could be refurbished if we can find sponsors. We've also "branched out" with refurbishment of two picnic benches at the Recreation Ground and proposals to tackle the town centre benches too.

This year's achievements included:

- Four new commemorative benches installed in the park.
- Jim Heald's bench was cleaned by Karcher and refurbished by us.
- The three French Boules Court benches and the Ian Rice bench were refurbished.
- An addition commemorative seat for the Infants Play Area is on order.
- Another Picnic Bench for the Infants Play Area is on order.
- The Picnic Benches behind the Bowling Hut have been refurbished and one of them was also repaired and reinstalled after vandalism.

Maintenance of the Flowerbeds and Shrub beds throughout the park has continued, and we are now regularly maintaining:

- The ornamental beds and War Memorial beds.
- The flowerbed in front of the toilets.
- The raised brick bed at the side of the library and the Breathing Places area.
- The bed in the Infants Play Area.
- The beds surrounding the Senior Citizens' Hall and Scout Hut.
- The Sensory Garden.
- The beds around the council offices and all shrub beds in the park.
- The Beavers have continued to look after their adopted bed.
- The Allotment Association bed has been a very popular success and we've helped them to double its size for this year.

A rose wall hedge has been planted around the War Memorial Beds to commemorate the WWI centenaries.

We won a "Karcher Clean-up" Competition, which included:

- A visit from Karcher, who used their equipment to clean-up the library paving, the Infants Play Area, the War Memorial, in front of the council offices, behind the Senior Citizens' Hall and the water fountain on the Recreation Ground.
- At one point we had 40 volunteers working in the park!
- We also won a Karcher Jet wash, a Steam Cleaner and a Window Vac.

Unfortunately our Diamond Jubilee flowerbed in front of the library was vandalised during the year and was also being used for grinding by skaters. All repairs have been completed:

- Skater-wax was removed and Skate-Stops were purchased and fitted.
- Damaged jewels in the crown were replaced and all were refitted more securely.
- Loose copingstones were reaffixed and re-pointed.
- Polyanthus planted last year were transplanted to other areas of the park and the bed replanted with bulbs and perennials, which are looking great now.
- The display panel damaged by the council's scaffolding contractor was repaired.
- Also, after much effort, we've obtained a quotation for additional security cameras from SSK and this is now with Marple Area Committee, who have asked Council Officers for a full feasibility study.

The project to refurbish the skate park is going very well and we've received great support from the community. We look to be on track to achieve our £20,000 match-funding target and the council has also set aside £22,000 of commuted sums. Currently we are about to go out to tender for designs before seeking planning permission and then making a grant application to the Veolia Environmental Trust, hopefully in November.

The group continues to work with Marple Civic Society/Marple Vision Partnership, Marple Hall School and local skaters on this project.

- By the end of 2013 Community Funding of £13,249 had been raised.
- A successful event was held as part of Marple Carnival (spending £1,909).
- The group has been into Marple Hall School to consult with users.

Last year council cuts of £1.1M were proposed to park budgets for 2014/15. We joined the borough-wide campaign against them. According to the Green Space Forum the council received the highest level of response to any consultation ever. The cuts were reduced to £550,000 but will still have a significant impact on Parks and Open Spaces.

- One outcome of the cuts is that we have lost Bob to early retirement and Adrian has left too. Thankfully both are returning as volunteers.
- Rob, a new SSK operative who has parks experience, is now working in the park. It's early days yet but it seems he may be assigned here semi permanently.
- The Green Space Forum is continuing to oppose the council's removal of support to Friends Group Task Days. They've established that the council can't even define how much, if anything, this action has saved them! They are asking people to tackle this issue with local councillors due for re-election.

The group attended Marple Food and Drink Festival with their Tombola stall, Marple Carnival and the Marple Christmas Cracker with stalls for the skate park.

The Tombola has now raised a total of £4,385 for the Park, so a big thank-you to Micaela and Terry for organising these. We also enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at the Crown, so thank-you to Micaela and Terry again.

A total of 17 Task Days were held in the park during 2013. In anticipation of withdrawal of support for these, 6 of our volunteers have been on the Council's Risk Assessment Training and hopefully several more will be able to attend soon.

- We have our own Risk Assessments that have been reviewed by the Council.
- We have Ad-hoc task days registered so that we can do tasks at short notice.
- We are now key holders for the Bowling Pavilion store.

Adrian thanked everyone for volunteering in the park over the last year and Mark for organising and making everything happen - we seem to be in good shape for 2014!

## **2.1 Treasurer's Report for 2013**

The McInnes Partnership has audited our accounts for the year 1 January to 31 December 2013. An income and expenditure sheet was distributed with the agenda.

The McInnes Partnership has now provided this service free of charge for 10 years.

Our income during 2013 was £13,369, taking the total money raised since the group began to £52,767 - this doesn't include the funding from Stockport Council or Living Spaces for the two play areas or the basketball fence from commuted sums. It is just the money raised directly by the group and passed through our account.

### **The fund-raising highlights in 2013 year were:**

£1,700 from Co-Op Community Fund, £1,500 from Forever Manchester, £1,325 from Marple Area Committee, £1,313 from Stockport Homes, £1,109 raised at the Food and Drink Day and other events, £1,000 from Marple Carnival Committee, £928 Bag-Packing, £682 Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights, £500 from House-on-the-Hill, £468 from The Marple Website, £400 from Marple Firefighters, £250 from NatWest Bank, £200 from High Lane Garage & Murson Cars, a £200 SMBC WWI Grant, £161 from Marple in Action, £150 from Marple College, £139 from All Saints' Church, £125 from New Mills, Marple and District Rotary Club, £120 from Chas Wright, £110 from Recon Cycles, £100 from Ian Moss and £263 in donations of less than £100.

In the 2013 we spent £4,302, taking our total spending on the park to £38,664.

### **The biggest outgoings in the year were:**

- £1,909 on the Carnival Skatepark Event.
- £1,316 on the Diamond Jubilee Project.
- £350 to the David Lewis Centre (bench refurbishments).
- £285 on tools and maintenance materials.
- £224 on plants and seeds.
- £72 on our local giving fee (Analysis shows: £730 in donations, less £49.40 in fees, plus £49.90 Gift Aid plus £525 match-funding, so we are approx £453 up on the deal thanks to the Forever Manchester "March Match" of £500).
- £58 on Public Liability insurance.

At the end of 2013 we had a bank balance of £14,103 with £13,464 of that committed to various projects, giving us a working balance of £640.

Commitments were made up of: £334 for the Jubilee Project, £13,039 on the skatepark, and £90 to be refunded to Ian Moss due to a banking error.

Since the start of 2014 our income has been £4,045 and expenditure £917.

This takes our total income to £56,812 and our "spends" to £39,580.

### **Income highlights in 2014 so far are:**

- £1,000 from The Marple Website banner advertising.
- £850 share of collections at the Co-Op with Marple & Goyt Valley Rotary.
- £620 from Marple Area Committee (recovering what we've spent on repairs).
- £263 raised by Sarah Morley's art exhibition.
- £250 from Mrs Fielding for sponsorship of the flowerbeds.
- £200 from The Marple Tavern and Woodstock Pizza.
- £181 from Ring o' Bells Quizzes, taking total for skatepark to £1,000.
- £100 from Marple Mini/Youth Rugby.
- £100 from the Brass Bands of Marple.
- £100 from Sue Emery.
- £100 from MESS.
- £100 from Marple Health Shop.

- £50 from Marple Civic Society
- £50 from William Wragg

### **Expenditure highlights in 2014 so far are:**

- £405 on various plants, tools and materials, including Jubilee repairs.
- £150 on repairs to the Jubilee Crown.
- £150 on repairs to the copingstones.
- £90 refunded to Ian Moss.
- £72 Local Giving fee for 2014/15.
- £50 for metal fixings from David Lewis Centre.

Detailed expenditure since the last meeting (included in the £405 above) is:

- £15 on 5 bags of compost.
- £22.40 on photocopying to take to the Marple Hall skatepark meeting.
- £69.59 on Hi-Vis Vests.
- £27.36 on Postcrete.
- £20 on a 25kg bag of Growmore.
- £3.98 on bulbs.
- £13.27 on Algae Remover and Black Bitumen paint.
- £9.95 Dark brown Barrettine preserver.

Our bank balance on the last statement for 22 March 2014 was £15,207 and is calculated to now be £17,232.

Funding raised for the skatepark totals £18,058, with £1,909 spent leaving £16,149 match-funding against our target of £20,000, which is £3,851 to go.

Our committed funds in the bank are £16,124 for the Skatepark and £250 for Mrs Fielding's planting and plaque, leaving a working balance of £857.

## **2.2 Possible need to become a Registered Charity**

Mark advised that when he renewed our subscription to Localgiving.com last week they asked for a copy of the latest accounts to revalidate our status. After receiving these they highlight that because our income is over £5,000 PA they thought that we should be a registered charity. Mark followed this up by looking on the Charity Commission web site and then phoned them to ask last Friday. Unfortunately they didn't provide a clear answer – it would depend on our aims and objectives – and they recommended that we apply and it will be confirmed as part of the process.

Mark has submitted our constitution and asked them if it is suitable.

In order to register as a charity we would need at least 3 trustees. Mark proposed that the committee members would all become trustees if we do need to register.

Our constitution adopted on 19 January 2004 was distributed and reviewed during the meeting. A couple of queries were raised and the following amendments proposed:

**Finances: Item e** to be amended to "No member shall derive any financial **or material** benefit from the 'Friends' except for payment of reasonable expenses."

**Meetings:** To be revised to clarify flexible frequency and that all meetings are open:

"Committee meetings will be held on a monthly basis but may be deferred for up to 3 months if the committee is in agreement that there is no urgent business to discuss. All meetings are open. Informal meetings may be held during task days in the park."

Mark will make these revisions to the constitution and distribute to meeting attendees for agreement and re-confirmation at the next committee meeting.

## **2.3 Election of Officials**

### **2.3.1 Chairman**

Adrian advised that he was happy to continue acting as Chairman. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present.

### **2.3.2 Treasurer / Minutes Secretary**

Mark advised that he was happy to continue as treasurer. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present. Mark will also continue to write minutes and letters on behalf of the group and act as the key contact.

### **2.3.3 Secretary / Social Secretary**

Micaela advised that she was happy to continue as Secretary and Social Secretary. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present.

### **2.3.5 Committee**

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, the following members were confirmed as committee members:

Adrian Ellis  
Patrick O'Herlihy  
Bob Wilson  
Micaela Wood  
Terry Wood  
Gill Whittaker  
Mark Whittaker

All committee members confirmed that they were prepared to become trustees if it proves necessary for Friends of the Park to become a registered charity.

With the election of officials completed the AGM was declared closed and the meeting continued with normal business.

## **3.0 Matters Arising.**

### **3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project**

#### **Flexibility Funding of repairs**

Marple Area Committee has awarded a Flexibility Funding grant of £620 to replace the money that we've had to spend on repairs to the Jubilee Project due to vandalism and to re-fixing ground sculptures and a picnic bench that were also vandalised.

The award replenishes our general funding for planting and maintenance in the park.

#### **Possible Extension of Library / Hollins House CCTV Systems**

A plan of the camera locations relating to the SSK quote was received. Mark has replied with some suggestions for changing the location of one of the cameras so that it takes in the toilets and Infants Play Area as well as the front of the library. This has also been passed onto Marple Area Committee.

At the last Area Committee Meeting Chair Martin Candler said that he would ask for a feasibility study to be carried on the options for installing cameras. This was recorded in the minutes as the committee would "request the Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration to submit a report to a future meeting concerning the possible installation of CCTV cameras in the park."

We await this report with interest, which we assume will be shared with us.

## **3.2 Park Benches**

### **Picnic Benches**

The repaired bench was reinstalled on 11 March and the Bowling Hut cleared out to allow the Bowlers to give it a spring clean. The David Lewis Centre invoice for £50 covering threaded bar and metal brackets for this work has been paid.

### **Extra Picnic Bench inside Infants Play Area**

A second bench for this area is in manufacture and Terry passed around some great photos of the lads at the David Lewis Centre working on it.

The bench will need to be stored locally while it is treated and prepared for installation. Anne advised that she had room in her garden for it to be stored outside.

### **General Bench Maintenance**

The new commemorative bench for the Infants Play Area ordered by Anthony Crook is expected in the next week or two and should be installed soon after.

The installation of a hard surface under the bench located between the two play areas will be done at the same time as the new Play Area bench is installed.

The Alan Proctor bench has been sanded and re-treated to remove graffiti.

Jonathan has advised that he can now order materials from new budgets and Mark has reiterated the request for supplies of "Summer Tan" wood preservative for treating benches and sculptures. It is hoped that this will be available soon as we have started on our last tin from our existing supplies.

Patrick is seeking sponsors for the 3 concrete benches near the bowling green hedge.

The Coronation Bench will be tackled during a suitable task day.

### **Town Centre Benches**

Arrangements need to be made to do a trial bench on Derby Way to confirm how much work is involved and to demonstrate how good a job we will be able to make of them. Patrick is away for a couple of weeks and Mick too, so arrangements will need to be made around volunteer availability when Patrick returns.

Patrick will take "before" pictures of all the benches in preparation for making an application to Area Committee for funding as Marple Regeneration Partnership.

## **3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features**

### **Refitting of ground sculptures**

The last of the vandalised ground sculptures were refitted during the last task day.

### **Stabilisation of "Midnight" Tree Sculpture**

Tony Grimes of Benring Ltd – a specialist resins company with a Royal Warrant – has visited to inspect the sculpture on 11 March and has now provided a quote of £1,100 + VAT to stabilise the bole of the tree by injecting resin. Tony would expect the sculpture to last another 15 to 20 years if this treatment is applied.

An application has been made to Stockport Homes for £1,000 towards the cost of this project. It has also been discussed with the council about placing an order for us, so if the Stockport Homes grant is successful we would only need to raise another £100.

Mark explained that Di Jackson has lots of ideas about this project but is not in a position to take a lead role and asked if anyone else would like to take it on.

Unfortunately nobody was in a position to do this, so Mark will promote the project

with local schools and ask them to help with voting if our Stockport Homes grant application is accepted for the "Community Count" event this year.

Sadly further repairs will also be needed to the tree sculpture because someone has broken off the squirrel's tail, presumably by swinging on it.

Fortunately Terry was in the park soon after and found the tail. He feels that it can be repaired by inserting a metal bar and bonding it with resin. Mark has passed over the surplus resin from the installation of the skate-stops and hopefully Terry will be able to make some progress on this in his workshop before attempting to reinstall on site.

### **Infants Play Area Fence**

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence will be continued when the weather is suitable.

## **3.4 Park Buildings**

### **Bowling Pavilion Access**

We now have keys to the building; however, taking it over is not as straightforward as we thought because Rob will need to continue using it while he is at the park. This is not a problem and we will work with him accommodate joint usage of the store.

Jane Bardsley has ordered two new green wheelies bins for us and they are due for delivery to the park on 25 April 2014, before our next task day.

Repairs to the Mess Room window have still not been carried out and Mark has followed this up with Jonathan, who is contacting Carillon to chase it up.

### **Outside Tap**

The group is keen to install an outside tap to make it easier to fill watering cans and / or connect the hose. Adrian recommended that any proposal to the council should include provision for security and prevention of freezing in winter. Patrick will obtain photos of the outside tap security cover used at Rose Hill Station and Mark will submit a proposal for something similar to Jonathan Long. It is thought we can cover all material and installation costs from our current funding.

### **Tool Store**

Terry and Alan Proctor have repaired the Tool Store door. This now needs painting.

## **3.5 Skatepark Development Project**

### **Teen Shelter**

We are still awaiting the outcome of discussions between the Community Safety Team and Green Space about the early removal of the Teen Shelter.

### **Complaint about litter**

The email complaint from a lady living on Station Road was shared with skatepark users at our meeting with them at Marple Hall School. It was suggested by the deputy head teacher present that the students hold an assembly on the topic of litter at the skatepark and hopefully this will happen. The users present also responded positively to the suggestion that they try to project a better image at the skatepark and hopefully this may filter down to their peers, at least to some degree.

We've also incorporated instructions in the design brief to potential contractors that they should give due consideration to the issues of litter and antisocial behaviour when developing tenders for the project. This will be part of the selection scoring too.

Mark has replied to the complainant with a composite of the views expressed at the last meeting and the actions taken. This was shared with those present and felt to be representative. A "read message" receipt has been received but no further reply.

Terry highlighted that he has heard about a scheme by Handforth Council to stop graffiti by offering a £200 reward. He understood that this has been very successful and will try to find out more details about how it was implemented.

### **Latest Skatepark Project News**

Minutes of the last skatepark meeting held on 20 March were distributed with the agenda and are also appended to the end of these minutes. Highlights are:

### **Fund Raising Status**

Money raised to date: £18,058  
Money spent to date: £1,909 (Carnival Event)  
Match funding available: £16,149 (against a target of £20,000)  
Needed to reach target: £3,851

The Co-Op has confirmed that their award can be put towards match funding.

Local artist Sarah Morley raised an excellent £263 with her "Art from the Parks" exhibition that ran from 15 to 29 March in Marple Library.

The collection of donations by Inkbox of Marple is ongoing until the end of May. Inkbox has also been selling Umbro football boots that have been donated to them.

Jason will be collecting a cheque from Romiley and Marple Lions on the project's behalf tomorrow evening. He is also making arrangements for a cycling event at the Marple Tavern in the summer.

Anne suggested that it might be possible to incorporate free security marking of bikes like the police sometimes do and ask for a donation. Mark will suggest this to Jason.

Our design competition tender is due to go out in the near future. The tender return date has been specified as 13 June, which will mean that we should have the designs submitted before Marple Carnival on 21 June. This will give us a great opportunity to publicise the designs and consult on them with users and the public in the park.

Marple Carnival Committee has already agreed that we can have the same location near the skatepark as last year at the 2014 Carnival.

The plan is to score the tenders with the help of skatepark users during the last couple of weeks of the summer school term. We will then be able to make a submission for planning permission and hopefully get approval in good time to make our grant application to Veolia before their deadline of 14 November 2014. Decisions for this round of funding will be made at their board meeting on 9 March 2015.

## **3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

### **Possible Silhouette Art Project**

Steve Abbott has been busy with the Society of Marple Artists' preparations for their exhibition but some provisional ideas have been exchanged. Mark passed around some images of these. The silhouette with the figure looking at poppies was popular and it was agreed that it would be good to be able to do the poppies in red somehow, as the original artwork. The idea is based on a painting found on the Internet and Mark has been in touch with the artist to see if we can obtain permission to use it.

### **Primary Schools WWI Project**

We've had no feedback on the project for several months despite repeated attempts to find out if anything is happening and assume for the moment that it is not going ahead. If the project is still viable then we will be pleased to help the schools.



### **3.7 Park Cottage (Charles Ingham Bandroom)**

The opening ceremony will take place on Sunday 18 May, when both bands will take part in a "Brass in the Park" style concert. Sue Emery has enquired if the Friends could help with a tidy up of the garden before the ceremony and it was agreed that we could incorporate this into our task days on 26 April or 17 May 2014.

### **3.8 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Days – 11, 29 March & 12 April 2014**

A total of five task days have been held in the park since that last meeting on 10 March, including two "ad-hoc" task days arranged by Gill at short notice.

These included planting of trees with MESS as part of their Incredible Edible Marple Campaign, work on flowerbeds and shrub beds, reinstallation of the picnic bench and ground sculptures, maintenance and refurbishment of benches and thinning out of Cowslip and nettles that are dominating the wildlife area behind the library.

During the 29 March task day, which was Bob's last working day in the park, we presented him with a canvas print of the park in bloom and a "Friends of the Park" polo shirt. Bob was delighted with the canvas print and advised that it now has pride of place in his home and is receiving great comments from family and visitors.

#### **Next Task Days – 26 April and 17 May 2014**

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

#### **Special Task Day – Monday 18 August with Challenge Network**

A special task day has been arranged with the Challenge Network, who will bring a team of up to 12 young volunteers with supervision to work with us in the park between 11am and 3.30pm. They will be covered by their own RA's and insurance.

#### **Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014**

**Registered:** 26 April; 17 & 31 May; 14 & 28 June 2014.

**To register:** 12 & 26 July; 16 & 30 August; 13 & 27 September; 25 October; 29 November & 27 December 2014.

#### **Ad-hoc Daily Task Days**

Daily Task Days have been registered on the council's system until 30 June 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures. These must be led by a volunteer who has been on the council's Risk Assessment Course.

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

Volunteers who can lead tasks are Terry, Patrick, Mick, Mark, Gill and Micaela.

The next RA course is arranged for Thursday 24 April. It was expected to be at Marple Library from 7pm – 8.30pm but Mark has just learned that the library is booked by Marple Civic Society on that evening. He will liaise with Jane Bardsley who is making the arrangements and advise as soon as possible what is happening.

It is planned for Adrian, Bob, Lorraine, Joyce and Bernard to attend.

#### **Task Day Clothing**

Ten printed Hi-Vis yellow vests have now been received. They cost £69.59 (£7 each). A short fashion parade took place and those who preferred to look after their own vests took them. The balance will be given out to others who wish to wear them during task days, to either keep as their own and look after or to be returned at the end of the day. If they are popular and well used we can purchase further supplies.

Joyce showed everyone a funky yellow baseball cap that she had purchased herself and painted with a green "Friends of the Park" logo. If anyone else would like one of these Joyce will be happy to add the logo if they purchase their own plain cap. They are readily available from a large selection of Internet sites for around £3 - £4.

### **SSK Support for Task Days**

As mentioned in the Chairman's report, a FOI Request by the Green Space Forum has revealed that the council cannot quantify if withdrawing support from Friends group task days has saved any money or not. The Green Space Forum is asking people to raise the issue with their local councillors who are up for re-election.

Adrian commented that he believes the key driver for this decision was not a desire to save money but that SSK do not want to work closely with public volunteers.

On a positive note, it was felt worthwhile highlighting to our councillors that as a group we are very pleased that Rob is currently allocated full time to Memorial Park and we hope that they will support this being a permanent arrangement.

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

Covered in Treasurer's Report at item 2.1.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Bowling Green Steps**

Still waiting for action from the council on this. Mark has highlighted to Richard Booker that we have several sacks of grass seed in our tool store that should be suitable.

### **5.2 Sponsored Flowerbed Plaques**

We've received a £250 donation from Mrs Fielding as sponsorship for the flowerbeds in the park. Approximately £50 of this will be spent on a commemorative plaque that will be installed in one of the beds. The balance will be spent on plants, shrubs and fertilizer etc. over the next couple of years.

Terry has prepared a wooden mount on a metal stake with cost of materials of around £5. The wood is recycled from the picnic benches refurbished on the Recreation Ground. Mark will arrange for an engraved plaque to fit this at a cost of around £40.

It's hoped that once this is installed others may be encouraged to do the same.

It was agreed that our first purchase of plants with this money will be from the Scouts annual spring plant sale.

### **5.3 Stump Grinding**

This work has now been completed and the holes are currently filled with chippings. Anthony Crook has been asked to provide us with a supply of topsoil so that we can fill these in properly during our next task day.

### **5.4 Oak Tree near Cinema**

Removal of the oak tree at the entrance has also been completed with a 6m tall stump remaining. We had agreed this so that we could consider turning it into another tree sculpture but it is clear now that what is left is not visible enough to be viable.

It was agreed instead to purchase two fast growing varieties of Montana clematis and plant them to grow up the stump and create a colourful display.

## **5.5 Marking 10 Years of Friends of Marple Memorial Park**

Micaela suggested that we should do something to commemorate 10 years of service to the park by the group, which was founded in December 2003 and had its first meeting in January 2004. Several ideas were discussed but the favourite was to design a commemorative flag that can be flown from the former "Green Flag" pole.

Mark will look into this further.

## **6.0 Date of next Meeting**

The next two meetings scheduled are 6pm at Marple Library on Monday 12 May and Monday 9 June 2014.

At present it was agreed to retain the 12 May date in case things develop quickly on the need to become a registered charity but with the possibility of deferring to 9 June if there was nothing urgent to discuss.

### **Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):**

12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.

**Skate Park Development Project Meeting  
Monday 20 March 2014  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Lewis Abbott, Jason Saenz, (Skate Park User), Graham Clarke (Marple Vision Partnership), Richard Booker (Council), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

**1.0 Absent/Apologies:** Ben Meek (Skate Park User).

**2.0 Fund Raising Status**

Community Match Funding raised since the last meeting on 27 February:

£50 from Marple Civic Society.

£50 from William Wragg, Prospective Conservative MP for Hazel Grove.

£181 from Ring o' Bells Quiz nights (taking quiz nights total to £1,000).

£100 from Marple, Mellor and Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy (MESS).

£200 from The Marple Tavern and Woodstock Pizza.

In addition, the Co-Op Community Fund has now confirmed that we can put their grant award of £1,700 towards the project match funding, which is great news.

This brings Community Funding figures at present to a total of £16,695 raised, less expenditure of £1,909 for our Marple Carnival Event in 2013, giving us a match funding pot of £14,785 against the target of £20,000 as of 20 March 2014.

Local shop "Marple Health" has been in touch about giving support to the project. Mark visited them today and we are now waiting to hear further from them.

Jason will collect a contribution from Romiley and Marple Lions on 15th April.

Marple Business Forum has said that their committee will consider making a contribution once they have set their budgets for the next financial year.

Marple Fire Fighters have said they may do a Car Wash in support later in the year.

Local Artist Sarah Morley's "Art from the Parks" exhibition, running in Marple Library until 29 March, is supporting the project with a share of sales and collection of donations. Good publicity this week will hopefully mean a busy weekend for Sarah.

Inkbox of Marple, on Market Street, will be donating the proceeds of the collection box in their shop between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> May and will also match donations. They are also selling some professional quality football boots that were donated by Umbro.

Jason is continuing discussions with Moss Bank Housing Association and Simeon at Woodstock Pizza / Marple Tavern about a fun-day and a cycling event on the Middlewood Way to raise funds. The possibility of two separate events is developing.

**3.0 Letters of Support**

No new letters of support have been received since the last meeting.

**Richard** will follow up his request to Life Leisure (Marple Fitness Centre) and Exec Member Cllr Stuart Bodsworth.

**Graham** will follow up with Marple Hall School, Marple Vision Partnership and All Saints' School and **Mark** with as many others as possible.

#### **4.0 Planning Permission**

The Planning in Principle application has been put on hold at present because Veolia require full planning approval before a grant application can be made. We need to decide if there is any potential benefit from making an "in principle" application first or if we should wait until we are in a position to prepare a full planning application.

#### **5.0 Design Consultation / Design Brief**

The meeting with skatepark users at Marple Hall School on Monday 17 March went well. We presented the draft design brief and received some good feedback during the meeting from school students and from older college students who attended too.

We've since received more feedback on the brief via one of the older students, who have been talking to other skatepark users about steps and pole jams. It was agreed to make further amendments to incorporate this advice into the design brief too.

We made provisional arrangements to have the students join us for meetings with the skatepark tenderers in April and for help with scoring of the tenders, probably in late June or early July. Details to be firmed up via Ms. Canham when dates are known.

In addition to discussing the brief and what happens next we showed the students a letter recently received from a local resident complaining about litter at the skatepark. We explained that most objections to the project would probably be on the grounds of anti-social behaviour, graffiti and litter. The students acknowledged the negative impact these things could have on the project and were receptive to trying to improve the situation and to the suggestion by Ms. Canham that they could do a school assembly on the topic to raise awareness of the issue. One student also mentioned that he had actually helped a lady pick up litter in the area recently.

We've also added requirements to the design brief asking tenderers to try and avoid creating areas that might encourage anti-social behaviour and to endeavour to make it easier for users to dispose of litter with strategically placed and easy to use bins.

Ms. Canham also suggested to the students that they approach Mr Barker, the Head Teacher, about ways that they could raise some funds for the project at the school.

#### **6.0 Tender Document / Re-tendering**

Comments on the full tender document were reviewed. **Richard** will issue an updated version incorporating comments and latest design brief changes for final review.

The tender budget was discussed and it was agreed to amend this to £100,000 but to direct tenderers to include suitable contingencies within their bids.

**Richard** will target with the Council's Procurement Department to issue the tender on The Chest by the end of the month. Target date for bids returns will be 13 June 2014. This should allow us to review the tenders with Marple Hall School users before the end of term. We should also be able to display the designs at Marple Carnival on 21<sup>st</sup>.

We have a list of 10 potential skatepark contractors – **Richard** will contact them all to make them aware of the opportunity once it's on The Chest. We will also publicise this on the web site and Facebook and other contractors will be able to bid too.

## **7.0 Other Items**

Mark repeated previous concerns about who will Project Manage the building of the skatepark on behalf of the council if we are successful in our bid to Veolia and whether we need to include for this in the total project costs. Richard advised that he would expect the project to be managed between himself and Gareth Davies, SSK's Engineering Services Team Leader (Playground Maintenance). These services would not be charged, so we may be able to allocate them as additional match funding for the purposes of our grant application.

We need to have a think about how donations and contributions to the skatepark funding can be acknowledged permanently when the new facility is built. A display panel like at the Jubilee Bed or something similar is one possibility.

**Richard** will seek advice for Jason on applying to use the public highway / road closures for the potential cycling event at The Marple Tavern / Middlewood Way.

**Richard** will discuss with Streetlighting the opportunities for modifying the existing lights to take floodlights and how easy it will be to move the one in the grass bank.

**Richard** will issue Mark and Graham with a copy of Veolia's grant application form.

We **ALL** need to have a think about what we will do for Marple Carnival this year. We would prefer not to eat into our match funding so will need to keep costs down. Perhaps a big "Free Jam" with prizes. It will also be a good opportunity to display and consult on the tendered designs.

## **8.0 Next Meeting**

Monday 21 April 2014 6.30pm at Marple Library.