

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

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

1.0 Apologies: Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour / Additional CCTV Cameras

ASB logs submitted so far this year were distributed with the agenda. These include:

- Collection of drug packets and paraphernalia with marked increase in NOS use.
- Waste bins set alight.
- Takeaway meal smeared inside Wendy House in Infants Play Area.
- Graffiti to Scout Hut, temporary entrance sign board and two benches.
- Bottles and broken glass strewn around bowling green and building.

Progress since the last meeting

Copies of quotations and recent correspondence were distributed with the agenda.

A working group meeting on 16 January was attended by SSK. This revealed they had a lack of understanding of the priority areas and the purpose of the cameras. It was agreed that SSK would revisit the park with Mark and the CSU on 27 January 2015.

The site visit on 27 January went well and SSK now have a better understanding of the issues and problem areas that we have been trying to address. A new quote was received and a follow-up meeting arranged for Tuesday 3 February.

The new quote was technically compliant with the requirements identified during the site visit and gave options for between 1 and 3 cameras. There were issues with the costs, as when added together they were £1,360 more than the quote for 4 cameras.

The new quote also included an additional option requested by CSU for a deployable camera to be installed on a concrete base and post as a temporary measure that could be used to confirm that there is a benefit / need for a camera in the park.

The follow up meeting on 3 February was also attended by an officer from Public Realm as they are taking over responsibility for cameras in public places next FY.

Public Realm's position was that no more permanent cameras can be installed anywhere until they have developed a policy based on new government guidelines, which they thought would take 4 to 6 months. They were supportive of the deployable camera option (which would not come out of their budget).

CSU could not guarantee the availability of a deployable camera, so potentially the money spent on a base and post and power supply could be wasted if there was perceived to be a greater need for the camera elsewhere in the borough. Additionally, deployable cameras do not provide identification quality images.

Mark advised that he, Cllr Alexander and Cllr Ingham, who have both been attending the working group meetings, felt strongly that at least one permanent camera should be installed to monitor the Bowling Green and buildings as soon as possible.

Cllr Alexander and Cllr Ingham agreed to put the case for a single camera to Cllr Roberts, Exec Member responsible for Public Realm, and ask him to grant an exception to the current ban on new cameras. Cllr Ingham phoned on Friday 6 February to advise that Cllr Roberts has agreed to grant an exception in this case.

Council officers will now prepare a report to go to Area Committee on 11 March requesting approval / funding to proceed. It is expected that there will be at least one more working group meeting before the AC to make sure everything is in order.

Myers Tree Care has agreed to remove free of charge a tree on the corner of the shrub bed that will obstruct the view of the camera. This is a continuation of the generous support that David Myers has given the Friends Group over many years.

Mark has chased up the signs to go on the Bowlers Hut and at park entrances that were ordered several months ago. It has turned out that the order was not processed properly after being issued by Greenspace and has only just been issued to SSK.

Crime Prevention Report

The survey has been passed to the Bowling Club and they will review it at their pre-season meeting in March and then give us their feedback on the suggestions.

It has also been passed to Greenspace and they have been asked for their views.

We can discuss the issues further when we have responses.

We'll look further at the idea of installing gates and railings with a WWI art theme around the bowling pavilion canopy once the workload of ongoing projects reduces.

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

Paint for the metal benches is still awaited from the council. *(PMN: now delivered.)*

There is graffiti to be removed from two benches, one near Costa Coffee and the other opposite the Senior Citizens' Hall. Patrick will tackle these.

There is also a slat broken free from one of the benches near to the library. Mark will deliver the slat to Terry so that he can look at repairing it in his workshop.

Town Centre Benches

We have agreement from the council that we can take a bench off site for refurbishment and were waiting for better weather. However, Patrick would now prefer to wait until we've received the competent person training that should allow us to do it in-situ. The rest of the group were happy to go along with this.

3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Awaiting better weather.

3.4 Commemorative Plaques

We are waiting for the Greenspace Team to draft a report for submission to Area Committee for comment / approval.

No further plaques will be installed until the outcome of this is known.

3.5 Park Buildings

Gents' Toilets

We're currently waiting for an update on the repairs to the toilet "spreaders".

(PMN: We've been advised that this work has been done, however, Rob has advised that there are still problems with leaks and he has reported this to his bosses.)

Tool Store

Patrick proposed a tidy-up of the tool store and will take the lead on this.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

A skatepark meeting was held on 19 January to get things moving again. The minutes were distributed with the agenda. Key developments are:

We do not need planning approval at the time we submit our grant application but we do need to include timescales and have it approved before the grant decision is made.

We have set targets to make a planning application by the end of February and the grant submission before the 16 March deadline. This should give planning permission by end of April in good time to be fed into the grant funding body before they make their decision in late May 2015. The timing is very tight but Canvas is on board with it and hopefully we will not hit too many snags.

If our application is successful we could probably start to build around June or July and Canvas have advised that it would take around 10 weeks to construct.

We met with skatepark users and Canvas Spaces Ltd at Marple Hall School on Thursday 5 February and had a site visit with them afterwards. There was a good discussion with the users and Canvas will be tweaking the design so that we can share it with users again via a 3D on-line viewing system. Minutes are attached.

Fund Raising Status

Confirmed funding raised since the last meeting includes:

£173.50 from the four Ring o' Bells Quiz nights in January and February.

We've had a £10 donated from Ray Noble.

Diane Jackson's birthday contribution has increased to £223, which is fantastic, and we collected our cheque for £793 from the Rotary Club the week before last.

Money needed:	£107,000 (including landfill taxes)
Community Funding:	£22,328
Commuted Sums:	£22,000
Total funds available:	£44,328
Funding to find:	£62, 672 (proposed landfill trust grant application).

We are still waiting for MAD WI to confirm their Christmas Cracker contribution.

We will continue raising funds for the project until we make the grant application.

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Silhouette Art Project

This is progressing well with a lot of spending recently:

£138 on 2 x sheets of frosted Perspex.

£53 on 130 x M5 security barrel nuts.

£31 on 2 x boxes of 100 M5 security bolts and driver bits.

£6 on a box of 10 6.3mm drill bits.

£50 on 10 x M8 security nuts and bolts, driver bit and socket.

Most of the preparatory work has now been done for the first sign.

There was a hiccup when we peeled back the protective coverings on the Perspex as this revealed that one sheet had a glossy finish when it should have been matt / frosted. After discussions with the supplier it turned out that one sheet was glossy on one side and frosted on the other, which was not correct but we could accept.

Terry will get the support bench to aid installation completed as soon as he can.

(Post Meeting Note: the front entrance sign was installed on 18 February.)

Timeline Commemoration

Robert Edward Speakman was added to the display in time for today.

The snap-rivets have worked really well and all existing sheets have been re-fixed using these. The cost was £23 for 600, not £27.68 as recorded last month.

Stockport Council has issued the WWI grant of £300 for the project.

It was agreed to add a dated photo of Brabyns Military Hospital staff on the 100th anniversary of it being taken on 26 February 1915.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Day – 31 January 2015

Cancelled due to snow but some of us did have a very pleasant lunch at the Navigation with several members of the allotment association.

Next Task Day – 28 February 2015

Subject to weather but we hope to tackle pruning and stripping of handrails. We should be able to start some of the 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.

Tree Work Guidance

Patrick and Mark met with Anthony Crook in the park and walked round the woodland areas with him. Anthony gave some good guidance on the work that the group could do to maintain trees and undergrowth and it was very productive.

Anthony was also supportive of the idea that we could create a bird hide along the woodland walk route and suggested contacting Etherow Park as a potential source of willow in the short term and growing our own in the longer term.

Anthony also undertook to supply beech saplings to fill gaps in the perimeter hedge.

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.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The end of year accounts have been submitted to The McInnes Partnership for audit. Current bank balance is approximately £20,553.

During preparation of the accounts submission Mark realised he has not claimed back the costs of materials for the outside tap and security box installed last April / May totalling £47. It was agreed that these could be claimed this accounting year.

Income since last meeting includes:

£223.00 Di Jackson birthday donations.
£300.00 2014 WWI Grant.
£793.00 Rotary Christmas Collections.
£173.50 Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights.
£10.00 Ray Noble donation.

The group also thanked Mick and Lorraine for their donation of £50 last month.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£278.03 Silhouette items listed on page 4.
£5.40 8 packs of seeds.
£23.07 600 x snap rivets.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £19,828, Flowerbeds £150 and WWI Display £167 leaving a working balance of £408.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 New Waste Bins

Jane has taken on board our comments on the waste bin proposals and put forward requests for the tulip bin at the skatepark to be left in place until the skatepark is refurbished and extended and then for it to be replaced with a Broxap bin; and also for a new Broxap bin to be installed near to the Bowling Green.

5.2 Emptying of Green Waste Area

SSK will arrange for more to be removed over the winter.

5.3 Cargo Net in Junior Play Area

Jane has checked the manufacturer of the cargo net that was removed and enlisted the help of Richard Booker (who has returned in a new Play Equipment role for the council) to seek a replacement. SSK have been instructed to obtain a price.

5.4 Marple People Community Action

Anne attended the Marple People meeting on behalf of the group and has provided an emailed report, which Mark read out. The event was well attended. Its main purpose seemed to be to develop community initiatives to reach out to the lonely and elderly.

Ideas and suggestions were discussed in groups and collected for review.

It is not clear how our group might fit in with all this. An as yet undefined community event will probably be organised for the summer, which we could possibly attend to promote the social element of being a "Friend of the Park".

5.5 Strimming of small saplings

Mick raised the issue of strimming back small saplings in the woodland areas.

This is quite laborious, ideally we would use a powered strimmer but the issues around use of power tools preclude this at the moment. It was agreed that it might be worth investigating the cost of special tools like a sickle, a scythe or special shears.

Date of next Meeting

Monday 9 March 2015 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2015 (library booked):

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

* Meeting room is booked by Reading Group so will have to use other space.

**Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Tuesday 19 January 2015
Marple Library**

Present: Lewis Abbott, Jason Saenz (Skate Park Users), Graham Clarke (MCS/MVP), Jane Bardsley (Council), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: None.

2.0 Recap / Catch-up

At our last meeting on 17 July 2014 we applied the formal scoring process with the Skatepark User Group to score the 3 submitted tenders and identify the design preferred by users. Shortly after the remaining criteria was scored with the council. There was a clear winner but due to complications in obtaining a parent company guarantee the formal tender process has taken longer than expected to complete.

On Christmas Eve the tender was finally let to Canvas Spaces Ltd and was accepted by them at the start of the New Year. The formal "seal of deed" is still outstanding but this does not prevent us talking to the designer. Canvas will now work with us at their risk to help us obtain planning permission and to seek the full funding needed to complete the project. Feedback has been given to the unsuccessful tenderers.

3.0 Fund Raising Status

Fundraising has continued since the summer with the following successes:

£380 from the Family Fun Day Cycle Ride along the Middlewood Way.

£2,500 grant pledged by the CDL Fund / Forever Manchester (this money is held by Forever Manchester until we can demonstrate that we have the balance of funds).

Another £50 from Jason at Recon Cycles, taking total contribution to £210.

Another £250 from Romiley and Marple Lions, taking their contribution to £500.

£864 raised at the Marple Food and Drink Festival by Friends of the Park.

£147 from Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights in November, taking total to £1,147. A further series of four quiz nights are currently raising funds for the project.

£124 donations and Gift-Aid via local giving.

£5 donated by Barbara Mee in the park.

Another £50 from High Lane Garage, taking their contribution to £250.

£792.55 from the shared Christmas Collections at the Co-Op with the Rotary Club.

This brings Community Funding figures at present to a total of £23,831 raised, less expenditure of £1,909 for our Marple Carnival Event in 2013, giving us a match funding pot of £21,921 against our revised target of £22,000. With the council's £22,000 from commuted sums, we have a total funding pot of £43,921.

Total project costs are expected to be approximately £107,000 so we will need to make a grant application in the order of around £63,000.

In addition to the above Di Jackson, a supporter of FoMMP, asked for donations to the skatepark instead of presents for her milestone birthday recently. She has raised around £170 + some local giving donations. The total is still to be confirmed.

Marple and District WI also raised funds for the project at the Marple Christmas Cracker and we are waiting for confirmation of how much this achieved.

We've received an excellent letter of support from Marple Hall School. The school has advised in the past that ideas to help raise funds are being discussed and we need to follow this up with them in the near future: **Graham / Mark**.

4.0 Design and Planning Permission

We can now talk to Canvas Spaces designer John Flood about finalising the design and preparing a planning application. Jane is contacting him to find out his availability.

Idea timing for us would be during week commencing 2 February 2015 as Lewis is off work all week and most others attendees are fairly flexible.

Ideal venue is Marple Hall School but Marple Library would be a suitable alternative. **Graham** will contact the school and **Mark** will check availability at the library.

As soon as John's availability is known we can finalise details and communicate to users – we will need a bit of time to do this successfully though.

Richard arranged payment of planning application fees by Greenspace (approx £400) last year. **Jane** will check / confirm that this is still available.

5.0 Grant Application

New forms have been obtained from the Landfill Trust. 2015 submission deadlines are: 16 March (decision late May), 22 June (late August) and 21 August (early Nov).

If our application were successful the earliest of the dates would give us the best opportunity to build the skatepark in good weather.

Mark has confirmed with the Trust that we do not have to have planning approval in place before we can apply but we must include timescales and the committee are keen to focus funds on projects that are in a position to proceed. So to be safe we would have to have approval by the time the committee meet to make a decision.

With straightforward planning approval normally taking 8 weeks it was agreed that we would target the March deadline with the following key dates:

Planning Permission Application:	End February
Grant Application submission:	Before 16 March
Planning Permission Granted:	End April
Decision:	Late May
Start (if successful):	June / July

Amongst the documents that we will need to submit with the application are the successful tender document and a tender assessment report.

Jane advised that the council are not allowed to share the tender document because it is confidential, so we will need to ask Canvas to give us a copy for this purpose.

Jane will forward a copy of the report to Exec / Councillors to Mark for incorporation into the tender assessment report.

Mark will send the video from Stockport College to Lewis and Arthur Procter to see if it can be opened on a Mac as it will not play on a PC.

7.0 Next Meeting

To be arranged.

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 5 February 2015
Marple Hall School

Present: Lewis Abbott, Jason Saenz, Alasdair Halstead, Dom Jeffs, Taylor Bray, Tarik Bowgan, Liam Carter, Brandon Bagnall, Josh Andrew, Mattias Svensson, Ben Meek, Charlie Brown, Dylan Pybus (Skate Park Users), Kirsty Pierce (Marple Hall School) Graham Clarke (MCS/MVP), Jane Bardsley (Council), Mark Whittaker (FoMMP),
Part time: John Flood, Todd ? (Canvas Spaces Ltd).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Cole Moulton, Ellis Archer MacLean (Skatepark Users).

2.0 Welcome / Introductions

Mark thanked everyone for coming and supporting the Skatepark Project. He also thanked Marple Hall School for providing the venue for this meeting.

After round-the-table introductions it was explained that the main purpose of the meeting is to review and develop the design that won the scoring process conducted with Users and the Project Team in July 2014. Canvas Spaces Ltd, the contractor who submitted the winning tender, has now been engaged by the council to support our planning and grant funding applications (at their risk) and will build the skatepark if and when we manage to secure sufficient funding to allow us to proceed.

Unfortunately John and Todd from Canvas Spaces Ltd were delayed due to traffic on their way from Bristol but joined the meeting in time to review the design.

3.0 Funding status update

Since fund raising for the project began in November 2012 we've raised over £22,000 within the community from a diverse range of activities and great local support.

Stockport Council has also allocated £22,000 of Commuted Sums, meaning that we have £44,000 of funding in place towards the project at the moment.

The total cost of the project is approximately £107,000, which includes £100,000 for the skatepark build tendered by Canvas and between £6,000 and £7,000 needed to cover a 10% landfill tax that will be payable on a successful grant award.

Our plan is to submit a grant application for the balance of funds needed, around £63,000, to a Landfill Trust in the very near future.

Fund-raising by the school

Although we now have sufficient funding to support a grant application it's our intention to continue fundraising until the application is submitted, as the less money that we have to ask for the better chance we are likely to have of success.

We are also keen to widen the diversity of our funding even further, as we believe this will be one of our key strengths. To this end it was asked if the school / pupils who are skatepark users could possibly raise a contribution over the next few weeks?

A variety of ideas were suggested a brief discussion ensued.

Kirsty agreed to try and develop this further with the school's skatepark users at a lunchtime meeting on Monday and see if they could come up with something suitable and then agree it with head teacher Mr Barker. Anything that is agreed will need to be implemented before the grant application submission (w/c 9 March 2015).

4.0 Timescales and deadline targets

The Landfill Trust's 2015 submission deadlines are: 16 March (decision late May), 22 June (decision late August) and 21 August (decision early November).

Assuming our application was successful, the earliest of these dates would give us by far the best opportunity to build the skatepark in good weather.

We've confirmed with the Trust that we do not have to have planning approval in place before we can apply but we must include timescales in the bid and, as the committee are keen to focus funds on projects that are in a position to proceed, we would need to have approval by the time the committee meet to make a decision.

Straightforward planning approval normally takes 8 weeks and it has been agreed that we will target the March deadline with the following key dates:

Planning Permission Application:	End February
Grant Application submission:	Before 16 March
Planning Permission Granted:	End April
Decision:	Late May
Start (if successful):	June / July
Finish:	Start + 10 weeks (estimated by Canvas)

The first key stage in this process is to finalise the design and submit a planning application by the end of February.

When John and Todd arrived they were given a quick run through the funding status, timescales and deadline targets. They felt that Canvas should be able to support a planning submission by the end of the month, that a June / July start would fit well with their current workload (subject to change) and they would expect the construction period to be around 10 weeks from start to finish.

5.0 Design discussion with Canvas

Copies of the tender drawings were reviewed and discussed by skatepark users collectively and in small groups prior to Canvas's arrival. Further copies were distributed by Canvas when they joined the meeting and a detailed discussion ensued between John and the users with various other breakaway discussions taking place at the same time on different topics.

Jane and Mark highlighted that the Poppy feature has been very well received and people like the link to the park's origins as a War Memorial. However, the RBL has asked if it is possible for the poppy to be coloured red. John will take this on board.

John made a series of notes about the changes that were suggested and discussed with users on a layout drawing. After revising and updating the design he will make it available for further review via an on-line 3D viewing system.

The Project Team will share this with users to seek agreement and / or make further comments. This may be sufficient to finalise the design or it may be necessary to have a follow-up visit from Canvas before the planning drawings can be produced.

6.0 Any Other Business

Canvas agreed to supply a copy of the tender for inclusion with the grant application.

Following the design discussion the meeting broke-up and the Project Team made a quick visit to the park with John and Todd.

7.0 Next Meeting To be arranged.