

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13th January 2014
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Adrian Ellis, Joyce Reed, Anne Frazer, Bob Wilson, Mark Whittaker, Patrick O’Herlihy (part-time).

1.0 Apologies: Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project

Anti-Skate Devices / Repairs

The skating wax was removed from the coping using the new Jet-wash won from Karcher and the anti-skate devices (skate-stops) were fitted by Patrick and Mark on 11 December. This should prevent further misuse of the dwarf wall by skateboarders.

The costs so far are £162.60 for 7no skate-stops and £24.56 for the 2-part epoxy resin used to fix them. Also £12.48 has been spent on 5 x 50mm replacement glass jewels and £10.99 on 6 x 40mm glass jewels. This gives a total cost of £210.63 so far. Further costs will include refitting of the jewels by Wayne Chaisty and possibly repairs and re-pointing of the coping. Mark will try to organise these.

Patrick suggested that several bricks missing from the main wall between the library and the car park could be replaced at the same time as the coping if practical.

Planting

The bed was replanted during the November task day. It has been walked on again since then but thankfully no serious damage has been caused at this time.

Vandalism / CCTV

Throughout December Council Officers continued to assert via email that it is not possible to extend the library CCTV system. However, at a meeting with them on Wednesday 8 January it was identified that it is possible to do this by replacing the existing 4-camera base unit with an 8-camera unit. It was also established that the Hollins House CCTV system has the capacity for an additional 4 cameras within the existing base unit currently installed there.

There was some concern from the library management over the potential increased use of their staff for reviewing recordings and transferring data to DVD. It may be possible to overcome this and even improve the current situation by increasing the recording capacity of the base unit from 7 days used at present to 28 days.

Council Officers are now preparing a report to cover all technical options for extending the CCTV at the library and Hollins House including all associated costs and details of any issues and concerns. This is due to be published on 27 January 2014.

In the context of vandalism to the Jubilee bed the proposed installation of Deployable CCTV has been a bit of a red herring. The council are seeking to install some in the park due to anti-social behaviour but it would need to focus on other areas of the park. They are having technical problems with using the lampposts, most of which are not tall enough, and are now looking at options to install them on park buildings.

The level of anti-social behaviour in the park seems to be quite high at the moment and it is important that we report all matters that we become aware of.

Mark has asked the Community Safety Unit to consider the possible removal of the Teen Shelter and they are going to discuss this with the Greenspace Team.

Anne queried if high frequency noise deterrent devices that are available were a viable way of protecting certain areas of the park from anti-social behaviour. It was thought that this had been discussed with the council in the past but Mark will check.

3.2 Park Benches

Picnic Benches

Postcrete for re-fixing of the vandalised benches outside the Infants Play Area is now available. The bench currently in the Bowling Green hut has been scraped and needs sanding and metal leg braces fitting. *(Post meeting note: Terry has now fitted the legs with his lads from the David Lewis Centre and also fitted new rods to the apple, pear and acorn sculptures ready for them to be re-installed on a task day).*

Extra Picnic Bench inside Infants Play Area

A second bench for this area has been ordered from the David Lewis Centre and will be made at the centre's convenience.

Town Centre Benches

We are hoping 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. Unfortunately this is proving difficult due to the constant wet weather.

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

General Bench Maintenance

Patrick has obtained a small tin of the darker brown wood preservative and we need to test it before asking Jonathan to order larger quantities for us.

Patrick will seek sponsors for the 3 concrete benches near the bowling green hedge.

3.3 Infants Play Area Fence

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

3.4 Treatment of Sculptures

The first two ground sculptures that were vandalised were refitted during the November task day. *(PMN: and the other three are now ready, see above.)*

The cost for doing all five with new threaded bar is approximately £50. An invoice is awaited from the David Lewis Centre to cover this.

3.5 Skatepark Development Project

The next skatepark meeting is Thursday 16 January 2014. (*PMN: Minutes appended at the end of this file.*) Highlights are:

Fund Raising Status (16 January 2014)

Money raised to date: £15,796
Money spent to date: £1,909 (Carnival Event)
Community Fund Award: £1,700 (See below*)
Funding balance: £13,887
Match-funding available: £12,187 (against a target of £20,000)

Total money raised since last meeting on 11 November is £5,063, which is a fantastic achievement! See appended skatepark meeting minutes for full details.

Our application for a FM Award of £1,000 from Forever Manchester was successful.

*We have also received £1,700 from the Co-Op Community Fund. There has been some confusion with the purpose of these funds because the Co-Op's committee reviewed and approved our original application that we withdrew instead of the revised version that was submitted in August. This means we are not sure if we can put the money towards the match funding or if we have to spend it on an event. Mark has written to the Community Fund to ask if we can use it for match funding.

The Christmas Collections with Marple & Goyt Valley Rotary Club went extremely well and several members (plus partners) who helped with the collections in December will be dining with the Rotarians at the Royal Hotel, Hayfield tomorrow evening, when we will collect a cheque for £850 toward the skatepark project.

3 more Ring o' Bells Quiz nights are set for 13, 20 & 27 February.

The council is considering our request to look at providing support for the project from commuted sums and we hope to have some news on this in the near future.

With funding-raising going so well, we now need to focus more effort on the design, consultation, planning permission and re-tendering aspects of the project.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge

Stockport Council's 2014 Fund has awarded us a small grant of £200 to cover our outlay on this project. There will be a photo shoot during the next task day on 25 January with Cllr Iain Roberts to help publicise our award and the scheme.

Primary Schools WWI Project

AN updated has been requested from Alan Chin.

3.7 St Martins Christmas Tree Festival

Well done to Micaela, Lorraine and Gill for their efforts on the Friends of the Park tree, which won us first prize in the adults category at St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival. The tree borrowed from Stationery Supplies has now been returned and we've had one donated to the group that can be used for future years.

3.8 Marple Christmas Cracker – 7 December 2013

The event went very well and £148 was raised towards the skatepark project.

3.9 Park Cottage

Work on the park cottage is now almost finished. They've done very well recently raising extra funds by obtaining sponsorship for individual roof tiles.

An official opening of the Bandroom is planned for Sunday 18 May, when both bands will take part in a "Brass in the Park" style concert.

3.10 Task Days

Last Task Days – Saturday 30 November 2013

Jubilee bed was replanted with perennials, two ground sculptures were reinstalled and lots of leaves picked up in various areas. Marple Allotment Association also attended and installed a paved path in preparation for doubling the size of their bed. Slabs were obtained free of charge from surplus stored at Etherow Park.

Nest Task Day - Saturday 25 January 2014

Hopefully we will re-fix the rest of the sculptures and the picnic bench. Also some work may be done on flower and shrub beds but all tasks will be weather dependent.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day email.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014

25 January, 22 February, 29 March, 12 & 26 April, 17 & 31 May, 14 & 28 June, 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 system until 30 June 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures. This means that we can do ad-hoc task days on any day at short notice providing one of the volunteers involved has been on the RA course or a suitable SSK employee is present.

With Micaela and Gill recently attending the RA course we now have 6 volunteers who can lead tasks. The others are Terry, Patrick, Mick and Mark.

Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration

Task Days up to and including end of March 2014 are registered and approved on the council web site. 2014 registered dates are 25 January, 22 February and 29 March.

Our general tasks, painting and wood treating RA's have recently been reviewed and Mark will register the next 6 months of task days in the near future.

SSK Support for Task Days

From April SSK will no longer be supporting task days and we will have to learn to manage without the excellent support that we've had over the last 10 years since the group was formed in 2003. The Greenspace Forum have recently sent out an email saying that they plan to oppose this decision and will be trying to get it reversed. Mark has responded to say that Friends of Marple Memorial Park will support this campaign but in the meantime we are in good shape to cope with the changes.

Even if the decision is reversed we will no longer have the great relationship we've developed with Bob and Adrian, both of whom are leaving SSK at the end of March 2014. They will be a big loss to the park; however, the good news is that Bob, who is taking early retirement, plans to return as a volunteer. This means that we will still benefit from his vast knowledge and experience of the park. Adrian also hopes to remain involved and continue acting as Chair, as he has done since 2009.

Building Access

Mark has been in discussion with Jonathan regarding access to the park buildings once we lose task day support. We currently have key access to our own small store at the end of the Bowling Club hut and to the Mess Room. SSK have said that they will no longer use the Bowling Pavilion store but will continue to use the Mess Room.

Our expectation is that we will continue to be able to use the small store and have shared access to the Mess Room, perhaps with our own lockable cabinet for supplies of tea, coffee and cups etc. In addition, we wish to take over the Pavilion store and become approved key holders. This will enable us to manage much better without task day support as we will be able to store and use larger equipment like wheelie bins, wheel barrows etc. Mark will try to firm up these arrangements with Jonathan.

It was felt that we would need to acquire more wheelie bins, as we will no longer have access to a council truck to transport green waste.

It was also remembered that soldiers returning from WWI built the Bowling Pavilion. It is thought to be officially registered as a war memorial but Mark will double-check.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 December 2013 is £14,009.97.

Income since last meeting includes:

£35.00	Easyfundraising
£100.00	All Saints Church
£500.00	House-on-the-Hill
£34.87	Marple Hall Review Day
£1,000.00	Forever Manchester FM Award
£8.95	Collected in Park
£37.00	Josh & Karen Andrew (Marple 10K)
£189.00	Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights
£147.71	Christmas Cracker
£200.00	SMBC 2014 Grant
£1,700.00	Co-Op Community Fund
£32.00	Recon Cycle Repairs
£200.00	High Lane Garage & Murson Cars
£100.00	Replacement cheque from Ian Moss (see below)

In October 2013 Ian Moss made a donation of £90 by cheque that was paid into the bank account on 31 October. The payment was not included on the November bank statement, so Mark called in at RBS on 28 November to find out why. The bank advised that they had made a mistake and did not process the transaction properly, so they did it again that day. Soon after, Ian Moss phoned to advise that he had changed banks and he did not expect the £90 to be paid due to the delay. So he sent a replacement cheque for £100 that was paid in on 12 December 2014.

On 3 December the bank wrote to advise that the £90 cheque had been returned unpaid due to the account switch but they had approached the new bank and represented it for payment – our December 2013 bank statement suggests that this was successful as there are two £90 credits but only one corresponding debit.

Mark has contacted Ian to check the situation from his point of view and is waiting for him to get back and confirm but it looks like we have £90 more than we should and we will need to refund the value of the original cheque to Mr Moss.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£175.08 Skate-stops, resin and 50mm jewels

£34.00 4 jars for guess the sweets competitions + sweets for Cracker.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £334 and the Skate Park Fund £13,037 leaving a working balance of £638 plus £90 owed to Mr Moss.

Income for the year ending 31 December 2013 is £13,275 with a fantastic total raised directly by Friends of the Park since 2003 breaking the £50k barrier at £52,673!

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

The finishing off of the slope that has replaced the Bowling Green steps is really poor.

It has now been fenced off with chestnut paling and it is understood that the council plan to seed it. It is felt by the group that it would be better to be laid with turf.

5.2 Street Lighting not working

Problems with street lighting in the park have become farcical. A total of seven lights have now been repaired but two of the original three reported are still not working.

The situation has been exacerbated by the fact that the lights in the park have been physically numbered differently to the council's database and drawings and repairers have apparently been checking the wrong lights and finding that they are working!

Jane Bardsley has been very helpful in trying to resolve this for us. Work orders have been issued to repair the two lights and to renumber all those that are incorrectly labelled. However, the work has still not been done and we are currently waiting for reports back via Jane from the Public Realm Lighting Officer.

5.3 Christmas Lunch at The Crown on 4 January

This was excellent and everyone thanked Micaela and Terry for organising it.

5.4 Oak Tree near Cinema

Mark will follow up with Anthony Crook on the oak tree that has still to be fully removed near the cinema and the stump grinding on the two trees that were removed last year that have also not been done yet.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 10 February 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):

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

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 16 January 2014
Marple Library

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

1.0 Absent/Apologies: None.

2.0 Fund Raising Status

Fantastic progress has been made since the last meeting in November 2013:

Local business House-on-the-Hill Software has donated £500.

High Lane Garage and sister company Murson Cars have donated £100 each.

All Saints Church has donated £100 taking their total contribution to £139.

The Friends of the Park won a £1,000 FM Award from Forever Manchester.

£189 was raised at the 3 Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights in November and December, taking their total contribution to £819. There are 3 more quiz nights scheduled for the Skatepark on 13, 20 and 27 February and the more teams, the better we will do.

£148 was raised at Marple Christmas Cracker.

Josh and Karen Andrew raised £37 sponsorship by taking part in the Marple 10K.

Marple Hall School pupils collected £35 at the school's Review Day. They also made contact with Richard Noble, a parent who has 20 years experience working in the Skateboard / Snowboard industry. Mark has spoken to Richard and it's hoped he may be able to bring in donations and sponsorship that will help to raise funds. Richard has a meeting with colleagues and contacts on 27 January and will get in touch after this.

Jason has donated a further £32, taking Recon Cycles' total contribution to £110.

Our support of Marple and Goyt Valley Rotary Club's Christmas collections went very well and a total of more than £2,600 was raised. On Tuesday night Friends of the Park had dinner with the club and received a share of £850 towards the Skatepark.

We have also received £1,700 from the Co-Op Community Fund. There has been some confusion with the purpose of the funds because the Co-Op's committee reviewed and approved our original application that we withdrew instead of the revised version that we submitted in August. This means we are not sure if we can put the money towards the match funding or if we have to spend it on an event. Mark has written to the Community Fund to ask if we can use it for match funding.

Total funding raised (16 January) is £15,796 with expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £13,887. Excluding the Co-Op Community Fund grant of £1,700 at present, this gives us a match funding pot of £12,187 against the target of £20,000.

The council is considering our request to look at providing support from commuted sums for the project and we hope to have some news on this in the near future.

3.0 Letters of Support

Graham and Mark have started seeking letters of support from local groups and businesses. If **anyone** can think of suitable groups to ask we have a standard letter that has been developed for this purpose. So far requests have been issued to:

Marple Local History Society (received); Marple Area Committee; Mellor Archaeological Trust; New Mills, Marple & District Rotary Club (received); Mellor Parish Centre; Marple Locks Heritage Society; Marple Town Team; Marple Civic Society; Marple Vision Partnership; All Saints' School; Marple NWR; Marple WI; Ludworth & Mellor WI; Marple Arts Group; Marple District Rambling Club (received); Romiley & Marple Lions.

Richard will seek a letter from Life Leisure (Marple Fitness Centre) and from the Council (probably the appropriate Exec Member – Stuart Bodsworth).

4.0 Skate Park Design / Consultation

As fund-raising is doing so well we now need to move the design forward otherwise it could become the critical path. Graham has agreed with Marple Hall School that we can hold meetings with the pupils on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings after school. A member of staff will be present so no need for CRB/DBS checks. However, we need to be clear what we are going to do before arranging the first session.

Two Skatepark companies have expressed an interest in helping with the design development through the Facebook page. These are: www.1skateparks.co.uk and www.canvasspaces.co.uk. **Lewis, Ben** and **Jason** to have a look at their web sites.

Richard advised that he has talked with Chris Smyton in SMBC Planning and it's felt likely our proposals to extend the skatepark would fall under Lawful Development, rather than need full Planning Permission. Key issues are height restrictions (4m?) and increased volume (200 cubic metres?) The only way to be sure is to get the process started, so **Richard** will begin putting together the application.

It was agreed that planning fees could be paid from the group's funds if the Greenspace Team cannot afford to cover them. **Richard** will advise.

Richard is also seeking advice from within the council regarding the best procurement strategy. He thinks at the moment that the best approach may be a design competition based on an updated brief. This would ensure that we get the best ideas from the Skatepark contractors, which could play a part in deciding which one to select. This was discussed at length and it was decided that **Lewis, Ben** and **Jason** would review the existing designs and ideas and put together some initial proposals that can be discussed and developed with users at Marple Hall School. **Mark** will get blanks layouts and existing designs to Lewis after the meeting.

We also need to decide the best way to make the application to Veolia – probably as a partnership between Friends of the Park and the Council.

It was suggested contacting other successful skatepark projects to establish the strategies that they used (Bollington, Macclesfield, Stoke).

5.0 Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold another meeting at **6.30pm on Monday 3rd February** in the Library to review progress on Planning Permission and Designs. *(Note we cannot get the main room so will meet in the exhibition area. The library closes at 7pm but we can arrange for "last out" to lock up with the Writers Group in the main room.)*