

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 14th July 2014
Marple Library**

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

1.0 Apologies: Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:

Typo on item 4.0 Status of Funds – donation from Marple Business Forum was £100, not £10. On-line copy of minutes has been corrected. Otherwise minutes agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Registering as a charity

A full response was sent to the Charity Commission's questions on 11 June after consultation with the council. The CC have responded on 25 June with a further query about whether the group is relieving the council of any of their statutory obligations with regard to the provision and maintenance of recreational facilities.

It's the group's firm belief that this is not the case. However, as there are no formal agreements in place to clarify the situation Mark has written to Ian Walmsley, the council's Greenspace Manager, asking him to confirm what the council's statutory obligations are. Ian passed this onto the council's legal team on 25 June asking them to provide a response, which is currently awaited. It is hoped that once received this will enable the situation to be clarified to the Charity Commission's satisfaction.

Mark has made a provisional response to the CC explaining the above.

3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour / Additional CCTV Cameras

ABS Logs submitted since the last meeting covering 13 reported incidents were distributed with the agenda. An additional 3 have been submitted up-to today.

Recent incidents include:

- Graffiti to notice boards, lampposts and numerous benches.
- Climbing on the roof of the Scout Hut including vandalism with the badly damaged boiler flu being found near the bowling green.
- Further excursions on the Scout Hut roof with one youth being detained.
- Weekly collection of drug packets and paraphernalia from around the park.
- Reports of drug taking and dealing around the bowling huts area.
- Rowdy games of football in the car park and in front of library with no regard to damage to vehicles or property and youths on the police station roof.
- Vandalism to one of the log seats near to the tree sculpture.
- Tree broken and snapped off (now removed by park attendant).
- Scooter(s) and motorbike(s) being ridden in the park and on the bowling green (fortunate not to have done serious damage to the green.)
- Arson attack on Scout Hut – setting light to plastic covering damaged window.
- Reports that the area between Senior Citizens Hall and Scout Hut is being used as a meeting place for youths and drug taking.

- Deliberate damage to bowling green building roofs by aggressively kicking footballs at them to breaks roof tiles.

Reports of drug dealing in the park have been received from two sources and also youths have been witnessed visiting the park early in the morning to pick up “dumps” leftover from drug taking the previous evening. These reports have been passed onto the Community Safety Team. All ASB logs and reports are also being sent to Cllr. Martin Candler to ensure that Marple Area Committee is aware of the issues.

Mark has asked the Community Safety Team to provide a report on the effectiveness of Operation “Aventor” since it was introduced to the park – details of number of visits, what was found, actions taken, number of arrests etc. A response is awaited.

Marple Senior Citizens Association has confirmed that they will use the ASB Logs to record anti-social behaviour around the hall. Marple Bands have also confirmed that they will use the forms and advised witnessing drug dealing in the park at night.

The Bowling Club has also been asked to use the ASB logs and will be sharing the information on their notice board and encouraging members to use them.

It was noted by the group that installation of the cameras that we have proposed to cover the library front, bowling green and buildings, toilets, car park and Infants Play Area would be likely to deter most of this anti-social behaviour in these areas. It is felt that the £2,000 cost of installing these cameras would probably be a good investment when compared to the ongoing cost of repairs.

Adrian cited an example of council reluctance to install a £200 alarm system at Brabyns Park Depot several years ago that would likely have prevented over £40,000 worth of theft and damage at the depot. We hope the park will not suffer in a similar way due to the council’s short-sightedness and to work with them to find a way to fund our relatively inexpensive proposals to extend the Hollins House CCTV system.

3.3 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

Patrick has retreated all the benches that were subject to graffiti during last week and tackled all the rest of the park benches during the last task day on Saturday. He is very pleased with the new Summer Tan preservative.

Terry and Patrick have also repaired the faulty slat on the Costa Coffee bench near to the park entrance by swapping slats round and turning them over.

The Coronation Bench still needs to be cleaned up and painting.

Town Centre Benches

Patrick has now taken “before” photos of all the town centre benches and has started to prepare a risk assessment for doing the work with volunteers. He will share this for comments once drafted and the intention will be to seek insurance cover via the council by registering it as a task day on the council system.

3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Stabilisation of “Midnight” Tree Sculpture

Stockport Homes has at last sent a BACS transfer notification for our £1,000 grant award towards stabilising of the tree sculpture. Although we don’t have a bank statement with it on yet it should now be safe to proceed.

Mark has contacted Benring Ltd and is waiting for them to advise when they will be able to do the work. Several volunteers are interested in witnessing how the work is done, so Mark will notify everyone when a date is agreed.

Infants Play Area Fence

The inner blue and red fence around the swings was mostly painted during the 14 June task day and finished off on Saturday 12 July. We also began repainting the inner cream coloured fence around the swings too.

The outer fence will need jet-washing to prepare it for the Challenge Network task day on Monday 18 August – this will be done in stages over the next month or so.

Play Area Swings

Mark has written to the council about the condition of the plywood structural panels on the Infant swings and asked for them to be inspected and guidance to be given on their condition, which we think is in need of replacement or repair – we don't mind painting them but cannot take responsibility for their structural integrity. He has also had a site visit with Jane Bardsley to highlight the issue and reinforce the need for inspection to be carried out before an issue develops. *(Post meeting note: Due to Jane being off sick this has now been highlighted to Jonathan Long on 15 July 2014.)*

3.4 Park Buildings

Repairs

On top of the additional damage to roof tiles reported last month even more damage has been done by youths deliberately kicking footballs against them recently. There is also damage to gutters due to climbing on them by vandals still to be repaired.

Frustratingly the repair to the Mess Room window is still outstanding after months of requesting this to be done because it presents a security risk.

Tool Store

Painting of the Tool Store door is still to complete.

Library Notice Board

The notice board refurbished by the group a couple of years ago has been broken by vandals and needs a new sheet of 3mm Perspex. The cost of this is £21.14 but the council were asked if they were able to supply it on 11 June and we are still waiting for a response. A site visit has also been made with Jane Bardsley to show what is needed and to clarify that we just need to know if the council can supply or not!

3.5 Public Liability Insurance

Following our existing policy becoming invalid due to our income going over £10,000 PA a new policy has been obtained for a premium of £182.50, which is considerably better than the quote of £265 received last month. We've also received a refund of £10.91 against the old policy. The new policy covers us for attendance of local events organised by others and small events (up to 500 people) organised by us.

Mark has checked and confirmed that we will now be able to cover the Family Bike Ride charity event on the Middlewood Way in August with this policy.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

Minutes of the last skatepark meeting held on 12 June were distributed with the agenda and are also appended to the end of these minutes.

Fund Raising Status

Money needed:	£100,000 (approx)
Community Funding:	£16,743 (against a target of £20,000)
Commuted Sums:	£22,000
Total funds available:	£38,744
Funding to find:	£61,256

The lowlight is that our location is no longer eligible to allow us to make the planned grant application to the Veolia Environmental Trust because we are now half-a-mile outside of their qualifying boundary. This was a major setback to our strategy set out in November 2012, when the park was eligible based on location but we needed to raise 20% of the funds and to obtain planning permission. It means that we now need to find alternative funding opportunities to raise the £60,000 funding shortfall, either by large or small grants, community funding or a mixture of all of those.

Better news is that after working through a three-page list of alternative funding sources provided by Veolia to no avail, a new lead received from Entrust on an alternative scheme is looking more positive following a response received today.

Other actions taken so far to seek alternative funding and support include writing to Asda, two local registered landfill companies, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Local Councillors, Marple Vision Partnership and Marple Town Team. Sue Ingham has undertaken to contact owners of the Goyt Mill and Ardern Dies on our behalf.

Patrick has some contacts worth writing to, so Mark will provide some sample letters and details already prepared for him to use as a model.

We have a grant application in with the CDL Fund via Forever Manchester that will be considered soon and we've applied to the Vernon Building Society Jubilee Fund again.

Marple Hall School are still expecting to do some fund-raising, although it will probably be September before this happens now.

£155 was raised during Marple Carnival.

Marple Fire Station Open Day – Sunday 10 August

Marple Fire Fighters are holding an Open Day on Sunday 10 August and have invited us to join them. They will donate 30% of funds raised to the project, which is incredibly generous following on from their support they gave with the 10K run.

We will have a similar set-up to the carnival with 2 or 3 gazebos out in the yard. We need people to organise some games, competitions, cakes for sale and similar items to raise funds. A number of ideas were discussed like splat the rat and wheel of fortune. Everyone was urged to do what they can to help in advance or on the day.

Mark will contact Katherine Procter about the idea of a knitted Fireman Sam.

Family Cycle Ride along the Middlewood Way – Sunday 24 August

Jason's plans for a cycle ride along the Middlewood Way followed by a fun day at The Marple Tavern are now coming together and a date has been set for Sunday 24 August. Tickets will be £5pp or £15 per family of 4 and can now be purchased on-line.

We will also have the opportunity to raise funds at the event, so again, if anyone can help in advance or on the day it would be great. The event will raise funds for the skatepark and two other charities supported by The Marple Tavern.

Skatepark Design

The design consultation at Marple Carnival went very well and a strong favourite is emerging. There will be a full consultation with users on Thursday 17 July to formally score the tenders against the criteria specified in the design brief. Further criteria will then be considered with the council after which it should be possible to select a company to work with to develop the design in order to obtain planning permission.

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Possible Silhouette Art Project

Terry has made some good progress with identifying a potential source of help with the provision of metal plate and possible free or low cost laser cutting. The key to making progress will be to develop a detailed design of what we want and then we will be able to firm up if it is possible and how much it may cost.

It was suggested that perhaps we could make a full size mock-up in plywood, which would help to work out how to do the poppies and lettering. Mark will speak to Steve Abbott about the artwork side of this too.

WWI Guided Walks

A good meeting was had with Andy Cook and Marple Local History Society and it was agreed to jointly promote the walks and MLHS will provide insurance cover. The walk date have been set as follows:

27th July (16/30 booked) – special “premier” walk for MLHS and FoMMP members.

3rd and 17th August (23/30 and 5/30 booked)– first publicly advertised walks.

Future dates are set for 21, 28 September and 5 October. These may be repeats of the first walk or possibly an alternative route. This will be decided after the response to the first ones.

Two marshals will be needed and hopefully Terry, Mark and Mick will be able to cover this, although others are welcome to help too.

3.8 Task Days

Last Task Days – 14, 28 June and 12 July 2014

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence, lots of work on the flowerbeds, woodland area and preservation of benches have been completed during the last three task days.

Next Task Days – 26 July and 16 August 2014

Details to be decided nearer the time. Mark will send out parking requests and emails.

Special Task Day – Monday 18 August with Challenge Network

A special task day is 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 on Monday 18 August 2014.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014

Registered: 26 July, 16 and 30 August, 13 and 27 September and 25 October.

To register: 29 November and 27 December 2014.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are now registered on the council's system until 31 December 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.

Risk Assessments / Training

With 11 volunteers having attended the risk assessment training there are no more training requirements anticipated in the immediate future.

Risk Assessments were reviewed and updated for submission with the latest registered task days, which have been approved by the council.

Patrick's certificate for his RA training was handed over.

SSK Support for Task Days

Still no further news / progress from the Greenspace Forum on this, although there is currently an e-petition on the Council web site urging that support for task days should be reintroduced. Mark encouraged everyone to sign it.

A copy of the event insurance information that was shared at the Networking Day on 17 May is still awaited.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 20 June 2014 is £17,529.84

Income since last meeting includes:

- £10.00 Donation from Brian Lever.
- £32.02 Local Giving.
- £30.00 Donation from Inkbox of Marple.
- £155.14 Marple Carnival.
- £30.76 Collected in the park on 28 June 2014.
- £5.00 Donation (lost keys).
- £10.91 Insurance premium refund.
- £12.23 Collected in the park 12 July 2014.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

- £182.50 Public liability insurance.
- £100.00 Picnic bench and plaque material (David Lewis).

Expenditure pending (not yet claimed back):

- £71.40 Flagpole refurbishment and WWI flag.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £16,744 and Flowerbeds (Mrs Fielding) £165, leaving a working balance of £491.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Repairs to Flagpole and WWI Commemorative Flag

The order for the flagpole locking cover and the WWI flag was placed on 10 June but the supplier's performance has been appalling and they seem to have been confused where to send it, then claim to have sent it to the wrong address and the promised replacement has never arrived. Latest promise was today, when they said that they will put it in the post this evening. Mark will endeavour to recover the money paid if the order does not arrive in the next few days.

5.2 Food and Drink Day

The Food and Drink Day is on Saturday 13 September this year. Micaela plans to arrange the usual tombola and Mark will prepare a letter to help her with the collection of prizes from local businesses.

5.3 Fund Raising Walk

Micaela is continuing to look into the possibility of organising a fund-raising walk along the lines of the Mellor March. She is hoping to speak to Peter about the route as she would like to avoid crossing Marple Golf Course. It was thought that late September or early October would be a good time to do it.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 11 August 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library

Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):

11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Tuesday 12 June 2014
Marple Library

Present: Lewis Abbott, Ben Meek (Skate Park Users), Graham Clarke (MCS/MVP), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Jason Saenz (Skate Park User)
Richard Booker, Jane Bardsley (Council).

Richard Booker is leaving the council tomorrow for a new job and has sent his apologies and best wishes to the project for its future success. Jane Bardsley is taking over Richard's role but is currently on leave so also sent her apologies.

2.0 Skatepark Project Funding Strategy

Mark reported that we've had a setback with the proposed funding strategy established in November 2012. At that time, after several months seeking suitable funding opportunities, we identified the Veolia Environmental Trust's grant scheme as probably the best likely fit for our project to extend and refurbish the skatepark.

We submitted an initial enquiry in November 2012 and this confirmed that the park satisfied the trust's geographical location criteria but we were told we would have to secure 20% of the total funds needed and obtain planning permission for our project before we would be able to make a full application. Although there was no guarantee of success we decided that this was the best option available to us at that time and set out to raise £20,000; to consult with users and to develop a design that we could use to gain planning permission before submitting a full application to Veolia.

We've been working hard towards these goals for the last 20 months and have raised more than £16,500 of community funding towards our target. The council has also committed £22,000 of commuted sums to the project, which means that we were in very good shape on the financial aspects of Veolia's criteria.

We've also made great progress on the consultation with users and are currently out to tender with a design competition that should enable us to nominate a contractor to work with during the summer and then to develop a final design and obtain planning permission by around the end of October 2014.

Initial enquiries to Veolia are valid for 6 months. In anticipation of submitting a full application by mid November after obtaining planning permission, and with 6 months to go, we submitted a new initial enquiry to Veolia on 19 May 2014.

To our surprise and dismay, on 23 May our new enquiry was rejected by Veolia for the following reason: *"Due to Trust funding criteria, only projects located in areas within proximity of a qualifying Veolia facility are eligible for funding consideration. Unfortunately your project postcode is not located in an eligible area."*

As the response to our original enquiry indicated that the park's location was eligible we asked Veolia to double-check and they confirmed that the location criteria had changed since November 2012. Use of Veolia's on-line postcode checker reveals that now, although much of Marple still remains within the boundaries, the park itself is just half a mile outside the qualifying area. We didn't understand the reason for this change, so on 27 May we wrote to Veolia's Trustees asking if they would please consider reviewing the situation. MP Sir Andrew Stunell also wrote to Veolia in support of our request and asked the Trustees if they could look at our case sympathetically.

On 11 June we received a letter from Veolia's Executive Director advising that the Trustees had discussed our request at their board meeting on 9 June. Unfortunately they concluded that they are unable to accept an application from us whilst the park is outside of their eligible area. They explained the reason for the change is that since November 2012 the Landscaping facility at Hyde, against which we had qualified at that time, was no longer a qualifying Veolia facility. The Trust also advised that the facilities that create the eligibility are updated and amended on a regular basis to represent Veolia's operations across the whole country.

So it's possible that at some point in the future a new facility may come into play that makes the park eligible again. Whilst this is something that we can keep an eye on, we can't rely on it happening and it was agreed that we will have to pick ourselves up after this disappointing news and develop a new funding strategy.

It was agreed that we would continue community fund raising and consider increasing our target amount. It was also agreed to continue the tender process, consult on the designs, and proceed with the scoring and selection process with a view to choosing a contractor to work with to develop a final design and obtain planning permission.

In the short term we need to focus on preparations for the Carnival consultation.

We will seek support and guidance from Andy Bleadon, the council's Funding and Programmes Manager, who may be able to help identify suitable funding schemes.

We will also investigate the list of alternative sources of funds provided by Veolia.

3.0 Fund Raising Status

Community Match Funding raised since the last meeting on 8 May:

£100 from Marple Business Forum.

£30 from Inkbox of Marple.

This brings Community Funding figures at present to a total of £18,488 raised, less expenditure of £1,909 for our Marple Carnival Event in 2013, giving us a match funding pot of £16,579 against the target of £20,000 as of 12 June 2014. With the council's £22,000 from commuted sums, we have a total funding pot of £38,579.

Future community funding opportunities include:

Marple Carnival on 21 June. Gill is preparing a Guess the Sweets competition, Lewis will see if he can organise any raffle prizes. Jason is planning to raffle a choice of a girl or boys BMX bike. Mark will take care of setting up the displays.

Marple Fire Fighter's Open Day on Sunday 10 August.

Jason's Family Bike Ride event has been set for Sunday 24 August. This will be a ride up the Middlewood Way and back with refreshments half way. On return participants will receive a free burger at The Marple Tavern, where there will be activities ongoing.

Proceeds will be split 50-50 with two charities supported by The Marple Tavern.

Jason and Mark met with Jane on Tuesday to prepare the council application for using the Middlewood Way. Insurance, publicity and registration need to be addressed.

Marple Hall School have advised that they are discussing ideas to help raise funds and we look forward to hearing from them when their plans are firmer.

An application has been submitted to the CDL Fund via Forever Manchester.

An application to the Vernon Building Society Jubilee Fund has also been made.

Lewis will check out if Tarmac has any award schemes.

4.0 Letters of Support

A new letter of support has been received from St Mary's School.

Rose Hill, Ludworth and All Saints' have responded positively to our request asking if they could help us by doing some art / writing projects to support grant applications and we look forward to seeing the work that they produce.

Graham will discuss with Marple Hall School if they can do something too.

5.0 Design Competition Tender

The consultation meetings with tenderers went well and Marple Hall School students attended two of them. Several older users attended some of the others.

Tender returns are due tomorrow.

At the moment we have no idea how many will be submitted.

The plan is to display the designs at Marple Carnival and obtain feedback from users.

With Richard leaving and Jane on holiday, Jane has arranged for drawings to be collated by her colleagues and consultation sheets to be printed ready for collection on Wednesday next week. **Mark** will do this and set up the displays.

Following the Carnival consultation we need to make arrangements to score the tenders with the user group.

6.0 Other Items still to follow up:

Marple College Video.

Youtube Channel.

Street Lighting options.

7.0 Next Meeting

To be arranged.