

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 21st May 2007
Marple Library

Present: Dave Burrows (Acting Chair), Bill Ardern, Sue Caldicott, Chris Armitt, Brian Nash, Peter Bardsley, Brian Pendlebury, Micaela Wood, Jay Havoleana, Robert Wilson, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 BBC Breathing Places

Jay has been advised by telephone that the Breathing Places grant application to create a reading area in the woodland to the rear of the library has been successful. A letter explaining what happens next should arrive soon. An ad-hoc meeting may be required to kick the project off.

In the meantime the Big Lottery Fund have asked for a statement giving the groups' reaction to the news. Jay & Mark will prepare a response on behalf of the group.

Dave advised that Rebecca (Landscape Officer) would be able to start the ball rolling on the project by going out for quotes commencing 11 June.

The Friends have committed £485 of match funding to the project. Mark will apply for a Green Space Development Grant to cover this in the hope of preserving the groups' existing funds.

Sue mentioned that a 'Big Wild Rhymes' reading event involving children from local schools is due to take place in the park on 31st July and wondered if the reading area would be ready for this. Timescales are not known yet but it was felt that this was unlikely. However, the Tree Sculpture may be completed by this date and this would make a great location if the event is held outside.

3.2 Task Days

3.2.1 Last Task Day

The last task day on Saturday 28th April was well attended. The remainder of the rockery stones were returned to the Memorial flowerbeds and the shrub bed near the sundial was partially mulched. There was also a visit to view the inside of the park cottage.

3.2.2 Future Task Days

The next Task Day is on Saturday 26th May. Tasks will include soiling up the Memorial flowerbeds with new topsoil to prepare them for planting. Bob advised that there were also plenty of other jobs to be tackled.

The following Task Day will be on 30th June, the day before the Locks Festival, when the Youth Offending Team will join us. Bob to consider whether there are any particular tasks that need to be done to help prepare for the festival.

Brian Pendlebury thanked the group for allowing the Youth Offending Team to contribute to the task days in such a positive way.

3.2.3 Advertising of Task Days

Richard Booker has provided laminated posters advertising the May Task Day and Micaela and Jay will distribute around the usual outlets.

Larger A2 sized posters are needed to make better use of the A-Frames provided by the Carnival Committee. The Friends will produce a design and Dave will see if he can arrange for them to be printed and laminated.

3.3 Teen Rotator

Dave advised that Gareth (Playground Maintenance) is meeting with the installation contractor next week to finalise arrangements. The funding has been sourced for this project.

3.4 Basketball Court

Following the approach by Patrick O'Herlihy (District Partnership Chair) last month and subsequent discussions with some of the youngsters in the park, it has been identified that there are three desirable improvements to the basketball area that should be made, subject to funding being found. These are resurfacing of the court, the addition of a fence on at least two sides to prevent repeated loss of the ball down the incline towards the canal and chain basketball nets to replace the string ones that have disintegrated.

A set of chain nets have been purchased at a cost of £26 from the Friends' account and fitted by Adrian and Mark last week.

Rebecca has provided some provisional costs for the resurfacing and fencing. The fencing price only includes for a 2m high fence and it is felt that 3m will be required behind the "goal" area to prevent the ball going over. Rebecca will be firming up the prices to include for 3m sections in the near future but it is already clear that the costs are significant, at more than £10,000.

Brian N confirmed that the Regeneration Partnership does not have funds anywhere near the level needed to pay for this, although they would possibly be able to make a contribution.

Options were discussed and it was agreed that when the new information is available from Rebecca the details should be forwarded to Richard Booker and Des Oakley to seek their advice on sources of funding.

Brian P advised that certain types of grants might only be available if the youngsters themselves make the application and this is an area that needs to be considered.

3.5 Beech Tree Sculpture

Funding has now been received from the Stockport Voluntary Arts Grant and from the District Partnership. The group thanked Brian Nash for the Partnership's contribution.

The balance of £358 secured by Dave still needs to be paid into the Friends' account.

The consultation process is well underway with more than 30 responses from the library drop-in box, including several drawings and designs from local children. There have also been a handful of on-line responses, although not as many as anticipated. Mark thought this might be due to the young age group being targeted. Sue will try to encourage more of the young children using the library PCs to complete the questionnaire on-line and also some of the librarians were keen to take part.

Following the deadline of end May the results of the consultation will be analysed and forwarded to Andrew Frost to consider as he finalises the designs. *(Post meeting note: They would also make a good display in the library as a follow up to the consultation and during the Carnival).*

Marple Locks Heritage Society has responded positively to the idea of timing the sculpture work so that it is underway during the locks festival on 1st July. Andrew Frost was also receptive to this but as his wife is due to give birth in June any arrangements will have to fit around the timing of the new arrival. Mark will get in touch with Andrew at the beginning of June when the results of the consultation are available and see if it is possible to firm the dates up.

3.6 "Lock 17" Flowerbed

The application to Area Committee by Marple Locks Heritage Society last month was successful and a "Kick Start" grant of £200 received. This has

been earmarked to cover the cost of planting up the display. The funding to cover the cost of the replica lock gates has also been secured.

In addition, Mark advised that Marple Promotions / The Marple Website have made a donation of £500 to Marple Locks Heritage Society to cover the cost of a suitable plaque to dedicate the display to Gordon Mills. This should also cover any ancillary costs, meaning that all necessary funding is now secured.

Dave advised that Planning Permission is required for the display and an application was finalised and submitted last week. It is not clear how long it will take to receive permission but Dave will endeavour to steer it though as quickly as possible.

It was felt that it was unwise to place an order for the replica lock gates until Planning Permission is received. It was agreed that Mark will advise Wayne Chaisty of the situation so he is aware that the project is going ahead and he will receive an order once permission has been granted.

3.7 Infants Play Area

Rebecca has provided the web links to a variety of different equipment suppliers as promised. As many members of the group do not have Internet access Mark has obtained a set of brochures from these suppliers.

It was agreed that the best way forward was to set up a separate sub-group to narrow down the options to a selection suitable for development into schemes that can be used in a consultation process with the local community. Jay, Micaela, Peter, Bob and Mark will meet in the library staff room at 6.30pm on Tuesday 5th June to start this process.

It was noted that several parents have identified that the main item the children are missing is the play house, although unfortunately any new work will have to include the provision of a new "wet pour" safety surface to replace the bark chippings in the old paddling pool area.

Mark asked Dave to investigate what funding was available from within council budgets towards the cost of replacement equipment and the new safety surface.

3.8 Council Offices

Dave has so far been unable to obtain a forecast completion date for the works to the roof of the council offices but it is now highly unlikely that it will be complete before carnival day. Bill and Chris will therefore look into the implications of this for the carnival committee.

3.9 Free Picnic Bench

The bench has still not been picked up from Peter Bardsley's home yet. Dave to expedite a little harder than last month!

Brian P mentioned that the YOT were looking at a scheme that would allow them to make equipment such as benches and litterbins with the young offenders. The group agreed that they would be interested in such items and the park needed more litterbins.

Dave advised that the Probation Service run a similar scheme and offered to show Brian their catalogue of items. He also mentioned that Charis, who run the Community Bus, run a scheme where they restore pushbikes and loan them out to other children.

3.10 Newsletter

1,000 copies of the newsletter were printed last month and these have now all been distributed to homes surrounding the park with just a few remaining in the library.

Thanks once again to Brian Nash and the District Partnership for their support in obtaining the copies.

3.11 Woodland Trust "Tree for All"

The Woodland Trust "Tree for All" scheme is an opportunity to seek up to £100 of funding for a tree-planting event during the winter of 2007/8. The grant could cover the purchase of trees, planting materials and publicity costs for a community tree-planting event in the park.

Bob Wilson has done some work with Jacky Budd and the Tree Officer to identify suitable trees but these unfortunately do not fall within the scheme's guidelines for broadleaf native trees costing less than £5 each.

The scheme's guidelines have been attached to the minutes and further investigation is required to see if proposals can be developed to comply with these guidelines. The group can then decide if we wish to go ahead at the next meeting. Micaela's suggestion of tying the event to an anniversary such as the 100th year of Marple Scouting still needs to be considered too.

If we want to proceed, the first stage will be to fix a date and register our event. Applications must be submitted by 31st July or 31st October and the grant be spent by 31st March 2008.

3.12 Green Flag Award Judging

Dave advised that the Green Flag judging for 2007/8 took place on Thursday 17th May and appeared to go well. The formal results will not be available until August but Dave is optimistic about the outcome.

3.13 Status of Funds

Two cheques for £1,000 each have been received from the Stockport Voluntary Arts Grant and the District Partnership for the Tree Sculpture.

In addition, Mark advised that Marple Promotions / The Marple Website have made a donation of £500 to the Friends of the Park. This is primarily to pay for a replica of the commemorative WW1 stone in the tool shed / pavilion near the Bowling Green and interpretation for the sundial and Oldknow's Shuttle Stone, in similar style to that provided for the stocks.

Mark's colleagues at work have also donated a further £100 from their football competition following the end of season prizes.

This gives us a bank balance of £4,508 with commitments of £3,485 leaving a current working balance of £1,024.

4.0 Monthly Park Report

- Bob's Guided Walk down the locks on 7th May was very popular with between 57 & 60 people taking part.
- The biggest area of work recently has been preparation for the Green Flag Judging last Thursday but there remain plenty of outstanding jobs for future task days.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Green Space Forum

The group have been invited to send two representatives to attend a Green Space "Networking Day" at St. Paul's Church, Compstall on Saturday 9th June. As nobody else was able to attend due to existing commitments Mark will represent the Friends.

5.2 Pothole on entrance road

It was agreed that Bob would carry out a temporary repair of the pothole before carnival day.

5.2 Notice Boards

Mark pointed out that the notice board at the main entrance was looking the worse for wear compared to the new one near the library and asked if it could be refurbished. Dave will speak to Playground Maintenance about this.

Micaela asked if another new notice board could be placed near the entrance from the canal near lock 10, so that the Friends could reach even more users of the park. Dave felt his budget would not stretch to this at the present time but it could possibly be placed on a longer-term schedule of work. Mark asked Dave to obtain a price for a new board so that the Friends could consider if they would like to pay for one.

5.3 Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights

Peter & Sue at the Ring o' Bells have kindly agreed that the Friends of the Park will be the beneficiary of two more quizzes this year, to be held on 19th and 26th September 2007.

5.4 Stall at Carnival & Locks Festival

Micaela agreed to put together a stall for the Friends at the Carnival and Locks Festival. Chris Armitt advised that the group would be able to have a free pitch, or squeeze in with the Marple Website tent.

Bob undertook to speak to Richard Booker about providing display boards and equipment.

5.5 Commemorative Trees

Earlier this month a Mrs Robinson, who was interested in planting a commemorative tree in the park, contacted Mark and he passed on the Parks & Recreation contact details. Dave & Bob confirmed that Mrs. Robinson had been in touch and she had been provided with an information pack about how to arrange for the planting of a tree.

5.6 Park Cottage

The repair to the flat roof on the cottage is still outstanding after several months of repeatedly raising the issue. Dave will raise this with his line-management at the council to try and resolve.

Dave advised that there has been some new interest in the cottage from an Early Learning Group who may be able to attract the sort of funding that would be needed to facilitate the repairs and refurbishment required. The type of use was thought to be a Pre-school drop-in centre.

The Friends agreed that this was good news and hope to learn more details in the near future.

5.7 Risk assessment training

Mark advised that he was the only current member of the group who had attended the council's risk assessment training and felt that it would be advantageous if more members could undertake this. Jay, Chris and Peter expressed an interest and Mark will forward their names to Richard Booker,

who will organise the training once a list of 10 or more participants is reached.

5.8 Child Protection Policy / CRB Checks

A lengthy discussion took place about a child protection policy for the group and the need for members to be CRB checked. These are becoming increasingly important requirements, especially if we wish to work with youngsters to access funds that may only be available to them.

Dave has obtained a copy of an existing policy from another community group but is not happy with it, so he will seek further advice from within the council. Mark should also learn more at the Networking Event on 9th June as it has a topic on the agenda about these kinds of activities.

It was agreed that the process of obtaining CRB checks for members should be started and Dave will also find out the best way to go about this.

5.9 Painting of the Skate Park

Brian P advised that the YOT has an artist who could work with the Friends to facilitate the painting of the skate park by local youngsters, which has been a project that the group have talked about for some time.

It was agreed that there were too many things on the go already to try and kick this project off at the current time. However, it was seen as an ideal opportunity once Child Protection Policy and CRB check issues are resolved and one or two of the ongoing projects are completed. An ideal time to start planning and consultation for this would be at the turn of the year, so that the actual painting could take place next spring, and this was agreed as a provisional target.

7.0 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25th June 2007 at 6:30 in Marple Library.



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Events grants

Grant Information and Terms and Conditions:

The Woodland Trust Community Tree Planting Grant is open until the **end of January 08** - so it's not too late to apply for a grant of up to £100 for your community event.

What is it?

The Woodland Trust is offering grants for community tree planting initiatives for the winter of 2007/8. If your community group is holding a tree planting event this winter we can offer funding to help carry out your project. To be eligible you have to first register your event with us [here](#).

How much is available?

Each group can apply for one grant of up to £100 for a tree planting event. If you are organising more than one event you can apply for another grant, however the application will need to be submitted in a different quarter as we are only accepting one application per group per quarter. We would also prefer you to contact us directly to discuss multiple projects.

Who can apply?

Community groups, associations and not for profit organisations, for example; a community action group, local residents group, environmental action group, scouts, brownies, etc. (Please note this fund is not open to schools - however you may be interested in one of our free tree packs specifically for schools, please go to www.woodland-trust.org.uk/hedge)

What type of projects are applicable?

Tree planting projects organised by the community. The project should involve the planting of primarily native broadleaf trees, and are on sites that have all the necessary consents from the landowner for the planting activity.

What project costs does the grant cover?

The grant covers costs directly related to the tree planting project. For example;

- Purchase of native trees (preferably small transplants rather than larger specimen trees)
- Maximum cost per tree of £5 (or contribution towards each tree purchased)
- Purchase of other tree planting materials
- Publicity costs

Criteria Checklist

Please ensure you meet the following criteria:

- You have registered your event with us - [link](#)
- You are a constituted community group
- You have a bank account
- You have insurance cover for your activities
- The event will involve the planting of primarily broadleaf trees (70%)
- You have the landowner's consent
- It is on land suitable for tree planting
- You have a plan for the maintenance of the trees once planted

Timescales

Applications will be judged monthly and decisions made soon after. Successful applicants will receive a grant cheque one month before the date of your event . The grant will need to be spent by 31st March 2008. The grants are offered on a first come first serve basis. Reporting procedure.

Reporting procedure

When the event has taken place we require a short report (no more than one sheet of A4) summarising:

1. What the money was spent on and what happened at the event.
2. Number of people involved and trees planted
3. Copy of receipts for the items purchased.
4. Photos of the event would also be welcome.

Please submit reports no later than 4 weeks after the event has taken place.

For further information or any queries you have on the grant please contact the Woodland Trust on 01476 581155

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