

## Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2004

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Peter Clarke, Sally Curley, Dave Burrows, Adrian Ellis, Jay Havoleana, Chris Armit, Cllr Chris Baker, Bill Arden, Brian Nash

**Apologies:** Mark Whittaker

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

#### **1. Matters Arising**

The bank account is now sorted. Administration is a slow process but the account details should be through any day now.

Peter attended the Marple Area Committee with the groups funding application. The Committee awarded £400 to Friends, which was very gratefully received. Cllr Baker said the Friends could go back to the Area Committee to ask for more funding for specific projects.

The website was up and running and that there had been some response to the on-line questionnaire. Peter had brought a laptop so the committee could have a look at the website.

Letters to schools and other stakeholders had been sent out and that he has a meeting scheduled with Andrea Nyland (Youth Service) this week.

Peter had amended the draft action plan from the last meeting and this was circulated.

Peter discussed some of the feedback from the on-line questionnaire. There had been a suggestion for a bandstand as well as a request to possibly move the dog waste bin at the entrance so it wasn't the first thing to be seen when entering the park.

Peter also reported that he was waiting for Diane Inglis to return from leave so he can contact her about group publicity.

Dave Burrows proposed the minutes as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. Seconded by Jay.

#### **2. Funding**

Area Committee funding as stated above.

Peter explained that he had received an application for the Living Spaces and had been completing the sections. He re-capped about applying for match funding towards the new junior play area. He also stated that there was an opportunity to increase the match funding from the Living Spaces with the funding for the proposed

access improvements to the park. This would enable the Friends to make further improvements in the park. The proposed access improvements are still under discussion with the local members.

There was some discussion around further improvement projects for the park. Other suggestions included restoring the putting green, Multi-Games Area, increasing the flora and tree planting. Cllr Baker suggested that there could be an area within the park that is landscaped for seating and formal gardens and that the group could use the funding to bring in a landscape consultant.

Chris Armitt asked about lighting through the park. There was some discussion around the proposed SEMMS access improvements through the park – this would include lighting. Peter said that he thought the proposals would be a good idea and that it would only benefit the park. Cllr Baker said that there would be further discussion and that it would be on the Agenda at the next Marple Area Committee Meeting.

### **3. Advertising**

The Friends now have some funding for advertising and promoting the group. There was discussion around the best way to promote the work of the group including posters and flyers as well as an article in the local papers.

**Action: Peter to contact local papers**

**Action: Sally to produce posters and flyers – to speak with Peter.**

Peter mentioned that the Friends might be able to get a notice board from Parks and Recreation.

Sally said that we could produce a display, similar to one produced for the Friends of High Lane Parks, to promote the Friends that could be put up in the Library.

**Action: Sally to produce display**

Jay mentioned that Pure Radio were keen to speak to the group.

**Action: Peter to contact Pure Radio**

### **4. Task Day**

Peter suggested that the group have a task day in the Park and everyone agreed. It was proposed that it take place before the carnival, probably sometime in May. Aidy said that he would provide any equipment needed and insurance would be covered provided he was present. Peter has been on risk assessment training.

Peter asked about possibly removing brambles where litter gathers near to the towpath. He expressed concern that if that area is cleared on the task day, then it could expose a gap onto the canal that could be dangerous. The council does not have any resources to erect new fencing so it could be something that the Friends

fund raise for. Cllr Baker asked whether it could be included in the Living Spaces application. This is a possibility.

**Action: Peter to get a quote for the cost of fencing to see how much funding is required.**

Dave Burrows advised about contacting British Waterways if the group plans to work around the canal area. He updated on proposals by the Waterways for that area. Peter suggested that a sign is erected on the canal link to the park and that British Waterways could sponsor it, although this may create issues relating to Stockport Council's Corporate Signage Strategy. It was suggested that a sign could go on Waterways land (with their permission), which would also help towards Green Flag.

**Agreed day for task day is Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2004. Publicity to be organised nearer the time.**

## **5. Secretary**

As the group still has no official secretary, Sally and Peter asked if anyone would be willing to take on this role. No one was forthcoming so this item will be carried forward to future meetings.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Bill mentioned that there was a problem with people burning materials in the area behind the cinema. This is not part of the park but impacts on the park and is very unsightly. Jay said that she was concerned as to what they were burning. There was a request to contact the Environmental Health Dept. Cllr Baker volunteered.

**Action: Cllr Baker to follow up this issue of burning and contact Environmental Health.**

Sally mentioned about other sources of funding the group could apply for and passed information to Peter.

Dave said that the action plan for the park was now in place incorporating actions relating to the Green Flag.

**The date of next committee meeting will be Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6.30p.m at Marple Library.**