

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park AGM
Monday 13th December 2010
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Jonathan Long,
Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O’Herlihy, Adrian Ellis, John Wright.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Carver Commemoration - The group approved the rough draft of the Carver display panel subject to a couple of minor changes. It has also been reviewed with Marple Local History Society. The display will be dedicated to the late Peter Bardsley, who was a member of the Friends Group and also co-wrote the history of the Hollins Mill and the Carvers that the display is based on. Acknowledgements of funding contributions from District Partnership and Paul Howard Menswear will be included.

Jonathan agreed that the Parks & Recreation Team would be able to install the new display at no cost to the group.

The best quote for the display plus artwork is from Shelley Signs at £2140 +VAT + delivery. Mark will send them the rough artwork and firm up the price. It is proposed to place the order through the Council to save the group having to pay the VAT. *(Post meeting note: Price has been confirmed and a request for the council to place the order was issued on 17 December 2010).*

A full-size final proof of the artwork will be available for the group to approve before sign-off and it will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Drainage Improvements – Three options have been identified to deal with the drainage problems at the entrance to the park:

New gulley with mains connection:	£5,422.50 + VAT
New gulley with soakaway:	£1,839.50 + VAT
Adjust existing gulley:	£566.00 + VAT

Jonathan advised that the new gulley with soakaway was the preferred option. He asked the group to wait until the new financial year when he will endeavour to find the necessary funds to undertake this.

Existing Notice Board – The existing notice board will be removed and refurbished. The group would like to put it near to the park cottage but it

may interfere with access for the building works to be undertaken by Marple Bands, so the new location will be firmed up later.

3.2 Treatment of Benches and Sculptures

Not discussed at this meeting. Survey to be arranged next year.

3.3 Task Days

Previous Task Days

27 November 2010

Very cold but attendees warmed up quickly by clearing leaves from the hedges along Stockport Road / Garth Road.

Next Task Days

29 January 2011

The first task day of the New Year will be weather dependant so we'll decide what to do on the day. Emails and parking request will be sent out early in January.

3.4 Park Cottage

Not discussed at this meeting.

4.0 Funding

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance: £4,166

Committed Funds: £2,140 (Entrance Display Panel*)

Working balance: £2,026

* delivery charge will also need to be covered.

Income since the last meeting is £4.27 commission from Marple Wine Club. Expenditure since the last meeting was £11.85 on another tin of Hammerite for painting of the Bowling Green handrails.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Not discussed at this meeting.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Pride in Marple Awards 2010

The group were presented with a runners-up award and certificate in the "Pride of Marple Awards 2010" Environment Champion category.

Micaela, Terry and Gavin received the award at a presentation evening held at High Lane Village Hall on 23 November 2010.

6.2 Marple Civic Society Design Awards 2010

The park has been nominated for Civic Society Design Awards in two categories. The park as a whole has been nominated in the Urban Landscape category and the Tree Sculpture has been nominated in the Public Art category. Some posters about the awards and the exhibition linked to them in January (14th -21st) will be put in the park notice boards encouraging park users to vote for the park in both categories.

6.3 Crocus Sign Erection

The sign provided by New Mills, Marple and District Rotary for display with the crocuses planted near to the library was reviewed and a brief site visit held after the meeting to identify possible locations that it could be installed in. Jonathan took the sign away to discuss the practicalities of adapting it for these locations with the Council's Engineers.

6.4 Green Flag Awards

Mark queried what the Park's official Green Flag status was now, as it could no longer be found on the Green Flag web site. Jonathan explained that the council was still working to Green Flag standards but conducting its own internal assessments against these in its parks that have previously received the award. Only parks that have not won the award before in Stockport were entered for 2010/11. Jonathan also advised that the Green Flag Award organisers were having difficulties with the numbers of judges and suggested that the longevity of the scheme may be limited in the current financial climate. The council is still discussing options and alternatives to submitting parks to the scheme every year.

Officially therefore, Marple Memorial Park will no longer be a Green Flag park from the end of 2010, which is very disappointing. In the short-term it was agreed to leave the 2009/10 flag flying but alternatives uses for the flagpole may need to be considered in the future.

6.5 Park Toilets

There was an article in the local papers recently announcing the closure of the park toilets. Unfortunately this was followed by them being closed due to problems caused by the freezing weather. They have now re-opened following repairs and are expected to remain in use at least in the short-term. Cllr. Martin Candler has emailed the following clarification of the newspaper article:

As part of general improvements, what is being suggested is that public toilets in Marple be brought into the Stockport Community Toilet Scheme, which is already operating successfully elsewhere in the borough.

Under this scheme the Council will aim to find three partners for each public toilet who are willing open their facilities to the public in exchange for a small fee to cover their costs. An agreement will be entered into

which will ensure that members of the public will be able to use the facilities freely without being required to buy anything.

Marple councillors have alerted the Executive Councillor for the Environment, whose responsibility this is, about the possible risk that we may not be able to find three suitable partners for the toilets in the Memorial Park. In the meantime the status quo will remain.

Mark has requested assurances that the status quo will be maintained permanently if alternatives cannot be found and Cllr. Candler has undertaken to follow this up as the budget process unfolds and to keep the group informed.

6.6 New Year Dinner

Venue of Hare & Hounds at Mill Brow for 8th January 2011 is still proposed. Micaela will contact members with more details once she has confirmed that she can get that day off from work. It was agreed to change the date if this is not possible.

7.0 Date of next Meeting:

Monday 10th January 2011 at 6pm in Marple Library.

The library has been booked on the second Monday of each month for the Group's meetings throughout 2011 and the dates are:

10 January
14 February
14 March
11 April
09 May
13 June
11 July
08 August
12 September
10 October
14 November
12 December