

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting

Monday 12th February 2007

1.0 Present: Dave Burrows (Chair), Jay Havoleana, Robert Wilson, Bill Ardern, Chris Armitt, Adrian Ellis, Cllr. Andrew Bispham, Brian Nash (Regeneration), Brian Pendlebury (YOT), Mark Whittaker.

Apologies: Micaela Wood, Peter Bardsley.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Task Days

During the last Task Day on Saturday 20th January levelling-off of the Locks Flowerbed was completed. The stonework and other items are now in storage ready to relocate the display to Oldknow Gardens if the "Stockport Fund" application is successful.

The second new interpretation panel, featuring the canal and locks, was installed near the entrance into the park from the canal towpath at lock 10.

Next Task Day

The next Task Day is scheduled for Saturday 24th February between 10am and 2pm. The main task will be removal of old shrubs from the beds around the War Memorial, which will be replaced with new planting. Several young people under the guidance of the Youth Offending Team will help the Friends with this task.

Mark passed around posters publicising the Task Day and Bob and Jay agreed to distribute them for display locally. Mark will also pass some to Micaela in the hope that she will be able to distribute them too.

Future Task Days / Advertising

Dave Burrows suggested that the group consider the calendar for future task days, perhaps setting a regular day each month to hold them. He also handed out an events publicity pack that may help with ideas for advertising the task days for members to review. It was agreed to consider this and hopefully set regular dates at the next meeting.

3.2 Youth Offending Team

Brian Pendlebury of Stockport Youth Offending Team advised the group on the ongoing measures being taken to deal with the young offenders who have been involved in the recent troubles in the park. It was not considered appropriate to record these in detail for the minutes; however, it was acknowledged that they have had a positive effect.

It was reported that the young offender spending time working in the park with Bob Wilson appeared to have had a positive outcome. This was considered to have been a success and worth repeating.

Brian also gave a presentation that explained how the YOT work with young offenders on a variety of different tasks across the borough and highlighted several successful projects that had been of benefit to local communities, as well as helping to rehabilitate the offenders.

It was noted during Brian's presentation that there was a strong emphasis on art and that it may be possible to involve the YOT in resurrecting the plans to decorate the skate park. This needs to be followed up in the future.

It was agreed that a group of five young offenders, with two supervisors, would take part in the next Friends' Task Day on 24th February. The only concern expressed by the group was that it is important to ensure that there is plenty of work for them to do.

It was also agreed that the group will feedback their views on how successful the young offenders' involvement in the task day is to Brian via Dave Burrows at the next meeting.

3.3 Green Flag Application

Dave Burrows confirmed that the Green Flag Award application has been sent off.

3.4 Removal of old flagpole

Dave confirmed that the council has now placed an order for the removal of the old flagpole.

3.5 'Teen Rotator' for the park

Dave passed round a specification sheet for the teenagers' equipment that was too large for Bruntwood Park, and advised that it was known as a "Teen Rotator". Dave believes it will require a safety surface surrounding it, rather than grass, and that there is a potential site near the skate park. He will obtain an installation price from the

Playground Maintenance team and then the group can consider the costs and location in more detail.

3.6 Copper Beech Tree - Sculpture

Dave confirmed that the remains of the Copper Beech tree were suitable for a sculpture and Bob Wilson explained the guide prices he had been given by Andrew Frost of www.treart.co.uk. These were:

Between £1,500 and £2,000 to create a sculpture featuring animals and birds from the forked stump, after reducing it to a height of approximately 9 feet.

Between £2,000 and £3,000 for the above plus the creation of ground sculptures (animals, fruit, toadstools or similar) from the surplus limbs.

It was agreed that this was a very desirable project that would deliver a positive outcome from the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the tree's removal on safety grounds.

The Friends do not have sufficient resources to fund this project themselves at the present time and Cllr. Bispham suggested that the group make an application to Marple Area Committee for help towards the costs. Mark agreed to do this and also to seek the support of the council and other local community groups.

3.7 Brabyns Park group

After consultation amongst the members it was agreed that the proposal to consider amalgamating with the new Brabyns Park group should not be pursued any further at this time. This was primarily due to concerns that it would result in conflicts of interest and risk the group losing its focus.

Mark recently met with Jackie Collins of Bridge in Bloom (part of the Marple Bridge Association) who is hoping to form a Friends of Brabyns Park sub-group, and conveyed this to her. It is still hoped that the two groups will be able to work closely together where their interests overlap and Mark advised that he had offered Jackie the benefit of our experience wherever it may help; e.g. constitution, equal opportunities policy and sources of funding.

3.8 Marple Locks Flowerbed

The Community Foundation has acknowledged the group's application to the "Stockport Fund" for £1,485 towards the cost of replica lock gates and a commemorative plaque and have advised that it is being processed for review by their panel at the end of this month.

Cllr. Bispham confirmed that he has received the Foundation's request for his input as our referee and that he has returned this to them.

Jay has come up with the excellent idea of calling the display "Lock 17" and the Friends agreed that this name should be adopted for the project.

Mark proposed that the display should be dedicated to the memory of Gordon Mills, who sadly passed away as a result of a stroke just before Christmas. Gordon was widely known for his involvement in the resurrection of the canals and locks, his interest in photography and local history, his walking guides and his fundraising efforts on behalf of the British Heart Foundation. This was unanimously agreed and Mark will take this up with Marple Locks Heritage Society and Gordon's family to seek their agreement.

3.9 Infants Play Area

Dave advised that Vanessa Brook of the Parks & Recreation Landscape Team was organising for a selection of schemes to be developed for replacing the Infants Play Area. These would be suitable for putting out for consultation and would allow costs to be developed so that the amount of funding required can be identified.

Mark has identified a possible source of funding for this from the 'Playful Ideas' Big Lottery scheme. A pre-application who have to be made once proposals for the new play area are sufficiently developed.

Mark highlighted to Dave that the 'Playful Ideas' guidance document placed a big emphasis on funding innovative and creative projects and asked him to convey this criteria to Vanessa.

4.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob Wilson reported that:

- The young person doing community service in the park has completed his allotted period.
- Removal of the old lampposts is due to commence.
- The flat roof on the annex to the Park keeper's cottage is badly damaged and the fixing of a metal sheet roof is to be investigated.
- Main tasks at present are general maintenance, weeding & hoeing.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Yellow Lines

Cllr. Bispham raised the issue of the yellow lines near the main entrance from Stockport Road, which still need to be extended following the resurfacing some time ago. Brian Nash agreed to follow this up.

5.2 Breathing Places

Mark advised that the Park was now included on the BBC Breathing Places web site and was currently the only place in Cheshire or Greater Manchester that was using the 'events' feature, which included the next task day and the carnival. Details about the locks festival would be added once more details were received from Malcolm Allcard.

The pages can be found using the link on the Friends' web site at www.marplememorialpark.org.uk or by using the direct url:

www.bbc.co.uk/apps/ift/breathingplaces/places/showrecord?12148

5.2 Newsletter

Jay handed over an article about the Breathing Places project for the newsletter and contact details for the carnival PR representative.

Mark advised that compilation of the newsletter might have to take a back seat to any work required on funding applications in the next few weeks.

5.3 Green Space Development Grant

The next Green Space Development Grant deadline is the 1st Friday in June.

6.0 Date of next Meeting (AGM).

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on Monday 12th March 2007 at 6:30 in Marple Library.

An Agenda for the AGM is attached to these minutes.

Friends of Marple Memorial Park – AGM

Venue: Marple Library

Date/Time: Monday 12th March 2007 6.30pm

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

3. Annual General Meeting

3.1. Chairman's Report

3.2. Treasurer's Report

3.3. Election of Officials:

3.3.1.1. Chairman

3.3.1.2. Treasurer

3.3.1.3. Secretary

3.3.1.4. Committee (minimum 5 members).

4. Matters arising

4.1. Task Days

4.1.1. Last Task Day (Report back to YOT)

4.1.2. Future Task Days

4.2. Teen Rotator

4.3. Beech Tree Sculpture

4.4. Marple Locks Flowerbed

4.5. Infants Play Area

5. Park Report

6. Any Other Business

7. Next meeting