

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th January 2015
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O’Herlihy, Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Joyce Reed.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour / Additional CCTV Cameras

Summary of the last 12 months:

In 2014 there was a significant increase in anti-social behaviour in the park, with over 150 pages of log sheets and photographs recording 115 separate incidents (compared to 13 apparently reported the previous year for 2013).

These have included graffiti, vandalism, dug use, drinking and abuse of other park users. There has been damage done to park features, Bowling Green buildings, council offices, scout hut, toilets, play areas, senior citizen’s hall and the library.

There has been a particular problem with the Bowling Green area and bowling buildings with football being played on the green in a very aggressive way.

Bowlers and other park users have been abused and extensive damage has been done to buildings due to the aggressive kicking of footballs against them.

There has also been damage caused by riding motorbikes and scooters on the green and other grassed areas.

There has been extensive evidence of drug use collected from around the bowling buildings, the teen shelter and between the scout hut and senior citizens hall.

Drug dealing has been witnessed around the Bowling Green area and in the car park.

People are concerned about walking through the park after dark and frightened to challenge anti-social behaviour because they are likely to be abused.

We’ve been pursuing the installation of additional CCTV with the council for the last year with the following aims and objectives:

- To deter ASB; reduce damage to the buildings and other fabric of the park.
- To help police to catch and prosecute the culprits of these activities.
- To help make the park a safer place for all to use without fear of abuse.

Friends of the Park see the introduction of CCTV cameras as a key part of the measures needed to combat the ASB in the park for the long-term future.

Progress since the last meeting

Mark met with the CSU and SSK on 13 November 2014 in an attempt to ensure that a proper option study was available for the first working group meeting. Unfortunately this failed: all SSK submitted was a list of items and prices totalling £5,465+VAT with no details of how the scheme would work and how the cameras would be deployed.

The first working group meeting was held at Marple Fire Station on 8 December 2014 with Councillors Sue Ingham and Shan Alexander, members of the CSU and Police.

A series of actions were agreed at the meeting, the key ones being:

- A more robust and informative CCTV quotation was to be obtained with the aim of taking a final report to Area Committee in February 2015.
- A crime reduction Survey would be carried out (see below).
- A revised action plan would be drafted by CSU with liaison from the group.
- An operation partnership to be formed between CSU and Police.
- Revised ASB reporting – FoG logs to be submitted fortnightly.
- Marple Area Committee to consider funding CCTV when final quote is received.
- CSU / Police to consider match-funding cost of CCTV.

Since the meeting an updated quote with more detail has been received along with some estimates of maintenance and running costs. Now this is available there is concern that the proposed scheme does not address the priority areas and seems to be more focused on the car park and surrounds. There is also a concern that if the cameras were installed at only 3.5m as specified then they would be prone to interference and vandalism. Mark has responded to this effect with comments and questions and asked if we can have a presentation / discussion on the scheme.

(Post Meeting Note: A second working group meeting was held on 16 January that was attended by SSK. This revealed that a lack of understanding of the priorities and purpose of the cameras had arisen. It was agreed that the SSK Engineer would visit the park again with Mark and CSU to go over the areas of concern and priorities on Tuesday 27 January. Following this he will prepare prices for a range of options and solutions by the end of that week. This will be discussed at another working group meeting on 3 February for possibly taking to Area Committee in February or March).

Crime Prevention Report

A crime prevention survey has now been conducted and a copy was distributed with the agenda for review. A key recommendation suggests fencing off the bowling green, or the bowling green and buildings, or the bowling green and canopy of the pavilion building, or just the canopy. (Fencing off the pavilion building canopy with railings and gates is one of our project ideas and was originally suggested by the group.)

The survey has been passed to the Bowling Club and they will review it at their pre-season meeting in March and then give us their feedback on the suggestions.

Bob and Adrian advised that Holdsworth, Brinnington and St. Thomas's (South Reddish) have fenced-in greens and it may be worth having a look at these.

The general consensus of those present was that fencing of the size required is likely to be prohibitively expensive and ugly, spoiling the ambience of the park.

However, we will also seek the views of the Greenspace Team and discuss further when we have a response from them and the Bowling Club.

We would like to look further at the idea of installing gates and railings with a WWI art theme around the bowling pavilion canopy but we need to focus on completing current projects like the skatepark and WWI silhouettes first. Alan Burton, who helped us with the WWI silhouettes, has offered further help with this project if we go ahead.

Covenants and Bylaws

Jane Bardsley is still waiting for a response from Legal on whether it would be acceptable to install a better open and inclusive football provision in the park.

3.2 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

Council officers have responded on the damage to the new metal benches insisting that skateboarders have caused the damage and that the benches are not faulty. However, they have also said that they will purchase some brown Hammerite paint so that the exposed areas can be covered to prevent moisture seeping under the damaged coating and causing it to lift off.

Jane has ordered the paint and delivery is awaited.

Town Centre Benches

The council has reviewed and agreed our risk assessment for removing a bench and refurbishing it on private property with one minor comment: that we should display a sign explaining what we are doing so that passers-by don't think we're pinching it.

Jane has also queried if we will need vehicle access. Permission can be given if it will avoid double handing of the bench.

Patrick still needs to confirm if we have the correct tool for unbolting the benches from the floor and we really need better weather so that the bench is dried out.

Mark will discuss with Patrick to firm up details and make arrangements once we have better conditions for doing this work.

3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Awaiting better weather.

3.4 Commemorative Plaques

We are waiting for the Greenspace Team to draft a report for submission to Area Committee for comment / approval.

No further plaques will be installed until the outcome of this is known.

3.5 Park Buildings

Repairs

The metal grid has now been installed over the Mess Room window.

Gents' Toilets

There has been a problem with the gents' toilets for a while now. The flushing system has stopped working, which makes them very smelly. The auto-sensor that controls the flushing has been repaired but there is also a problem with the "spreaders" that deliver the water to the urinal. Greenspace are waiting for a surveyor from Carillion to inspect and advise what further work needs to be done.

(Post Meeting Note: 19/1/15: work is now in hand and should be completed soon.)

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

It was confirmed on Christmas Eve that apart from a few formalities the tender has been let to Canvas Spaces Ltd, the designer who achieved the best scoring during the selection process and was the users' preferred scheme. The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2014 can now be released and were distributed with the agenda.

We are now in the process of trying to get Canvas and the users together so that the design can be finalised and a planning application prepared and submitted. Once that is in place we will be able to make a grant application to the Landfill Trust.

A current application pack has been obtained and details of the Trust's 2015 submission dates are 16 March, 22 June and 21 August.

If we must have planning approval before a grant application can be submitted then 16 March will be too tight. Mark has contacted the Trust for guidance on this.

Fund Raising Status

Confirmed funding raised since the last meeting includes:

£147 at three Ring o' Bells Quiz nights in November. We also have another four quiz nights scheduled for Thursdays on 15, 22, 29 January and 5 February 2015.

Our share of the Rotary Club Christmas collections at the Co-Op in December is £792.55. A cheque will be presented on 27 January at a meal with the Rotarians at the Royal Hotel, Hayfield. Everyone who helped with the collections has been invited.

Peter Murray, owner of High Lane Garage, has donated a further £50.

Money needed:	£107,000 (including landfill taxes)
Community Funding:	£21,921
Commuted Sums:	£22,000
Total funds available:	£43,921
Funding to find:	£63,079 (proposed landfill trust grant application).

With these latest confirmed contributions we are only £79 short of our revised target of £22,000, however we have some pending items not included in the figures above that will see us pass that milestone shortly:

Di Jackson kindly asked for donations to the project in lieu of presents for her milestone birthday recently. So far £85 has been collected and more is expected.

MAD WI has not yet confirmed how well they did at the Christmas Cracker.

We will continue raising funds for the project until we make the grant application.

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Silhouette Art Project

The metalwork for the silhouettes at both locations were delivered by Alan Burton in November, including four unexpected stainless steel cut-outs of soldiers that we can possibly use elsewhere in the park. Mark has written to thank Alan and David Birch, MD of Advanced Engineering Techniques Ltd (AET) the company that has provide the laser-cutting service free of charge because they were inspired by the project.

Since receipt we've discovered that the inner black-painted mild steel core of the artwork is very prone to scratching and have decided to introduce an extra layer between this and the outer stainless steel layers to give a more durable surface.

Some small samples of black Perspex, frosted black Perspex and black Aluminium Composite have been purchased at a cost of £12.60 and some trials with graffiti removal fluid conducted. The frosted Perspex has performed best with the Aluminium Composite a close second. The normal Perspex did not perform well.

The cost of the frosted Perspex is around £250 for the 4 sheets we would need. We have also spent £5.23 on sample bolts and will need to purchase 130 security barrel nuts, bolts and washers at around £82 in total. A small quantity of larger security bolts will also be needed but are not yet priced up.

The total cost is likely to be around £350 to £400, which is fantastic value for what will be achieved and those present approved this expenditure.

Adrian suggested a trial of drilling the different sheet materials be conducted before making the purchase in case there were problems and this was agreed to be a good idea. (*PMN: No issues have been found with drilling any of the samples*).

Terry will make a small bench / platform to support the metalwork during assembly so that it does not have to be held in place by volunteers during bolting up.

Mick can borrow a sack truck to ease transport of the metalwork and Adrian advised that he has one that can be used too.

Installation targets of end of February for the front entrance and end of March for the rear entrance were agreed and we will press on with this as soon as we can.

Timeline Commemoration

The second man, Fred Riley, was added to the display for 20 December. Robert Speakman's card is prepared and is due to be added on 9 February 2015.

One of the cards was blown off in high winds during December. It was replaced but it has become apparent that the stickiness of the adhesive tape deteriorates over time. The cards then start to move and will eventually fall off.

Mark has sourced some plastic snap-rivets that should help to alleviate this problem. A small sample was purchased at a cost of £2.30 and tried on the first display card. Results look positive so 600 of the snap-rivets have now been ordered at a cost of £27.68. A corner cutter costing £7.95 has also been purchased to enable the corners of the cards to be cut away where the rivets need to pass through the laminates.

Stockport Council has advised that they are processing our grant application for the sum of £300 to cover the cost of materials for this project.

We now have the paint-stripper supplied by Greenspace to enable us to strip the handrails back to the galvanised finish, which will improve their tatty appearance.

Andy Cook has asked if we can also include the Marple family that was lost when the Lusitania was sunk on 7 May 1915 on the display. It was agreed we would do this.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Days – 29 November 2014

Lots of bulbs supplied by the council were planted. Work on the main flowerbeds and the canal woodland area were also continued. Silhouettes were delivered.

Next Task Day – 31 January 2015

Subject to weather but we hope to tackle pruning and stripping of handrails.

Parking has been arranged. Mark will send out the task day email.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2015

Registered: 31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 11 and 25 April 2015.

To register: remainder of 2015.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are registered on the council's system until 30 June 2015 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.

Tree Work Guidance

Anthony Crook will visit the park with us and give guidance on tree work. Mark has passed over some dates to him and one needs to be agreed. (PMN: 22/01/15 agreed).

Risk Assessments / Training

Risk assessments and training are currently up to date with 11 volunteers having attended the RA training. It is hoped for further training to cover power tools in the near future (see below).

SSK Support for Task Days / Competent Person Training

Mark, Patrick, Mick, Terry and Bernard have put their names forward to receive Competent Person Training to allow use of light power tools in the park. We await details of when the training will take place.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 December 2014 is £19,294.36

Income since last meeting includes:

- £43.03 Local Giving.
- £147.00 Ring o' Bells Quiz nights.
- £25.00 Bowling Club donation.
- £5.00 Barbara Mee donation for skatepark.

Funds received this year but not yet included in accounts include a £50 donation from the Thompson family (Mick and Lorraine) and £50 from High Lane Garage.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

- £7.95 Red Hammerite (for silhouettes).
- £5.23 Sample bolts and nuts.
- £2.30 Sample snap rivets.
- £7.95 Corner cutter.
- £12.60 Sheet material samples.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £18,579 and Flowerbeds £155 leaving a working balance of £560 at the year end (approx £574 now).

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 New Waste Bins

Jane has provided a plan showing all the bins that it is proposed to keep, replace or remove. Not all bins will be replaced, as new ones are larger capacity. The play areas will have only one large bin each. A new bin will be installed at the Garth Road end of the park and another near to the Bandroom. All existing dog bins and tulip bins will be removed. The group feel the latter is a bad idea, especially at the skatepark. Mark will ask if we can keep this tulip bin until the skatepark is refurbished / extended and if it will be OK for us to refurbish and relocate one of the old tulip bins near to the Bowling Green. The Bowlers have been asking for new bin here for at least 10 years.

5.2 Emptying of Green Waste Area

Several tonnes of waste have now been removed.

SSK will arrange for more to be removed over the winter.

5.3 Cargo Net in Junior Play Area

The cargo net on the climbing frame was removed several months ago because of wear and tear. The council is STILL waiting for a quote for replacement from SSK. It's now been suggested that maybe nothing will be done until the new financial year but we don't see why this would stop a quote being obtained even if the replacement has to be deferred until a new budget is available. The time it takes SSK to respond is very frustrating. In this instance it is due to a staff leaver not being replaced.

5.4 Remembrance Service

Mark has written to Democratic Services (who organise the service) to ask them to ensure that they make arrangements for the flag to be raised and lowered and the chains to the small memorial to be put out and taken in during future services.

In 2014 it only happened due to the FoG's intervention, which is unsatisfactory.

Democratic Services has replied indicating that they will make the appropriate arrangements in future and will liaise with Greenspace to sort out the details.

5.5 St Martins Christmas Tree Festival

The group congratulated Gill, Micaela and Lorraine for winning the "Best Tree voted by Visitors" at the St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival. The prize of a box of chocolates will be shared with volunteers at the next Task Day.

5.6 Volunteer Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch at the Ring o' Bells was enjoyed by all who attended.

Terry and Micaela will look at organising another social event, not necessarily Christmas related but over the next month or two.

5.7 Stockport Hydro Community Fund

Stockport Hydro has announced a small grant scheme with £1,000 to be shared by up to 10 Stockport projects. The scheme is not suitable for the skatepark project and Mark asked if anyone was interested in taking the lead on making an application for a new small project in the park as he does not have currently have the time to do so.

5.8 Marple People Community Action

We've been invited to a meeting of this new group at Marple Senior Citizen's Hall on Tuesday 27 January at 7pm. Unfortunately it clashes with the Rotary presentation on the same evening and we do not currently have anyone to attend. Mark will let them know and ask for any relevant feedback from the meeting.

Date of next Meeting

Monday 9 February 2015 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2015 (library booked):

9 February, 9 March, 13 April*, 11 May*, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November and 14 December 2015.

* Meeting room is booked by Reading Group so will have to use other space.

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 17 July 2014
Marple Library
(Public Release: 24 December 2014)

Present: Lewis Abbott, Ben Meek, Jason Saenz, Taylor Bray, Ellis Archer MacLean, Alasdair Halstead, Dom Jeffs, Robbie Cairns, Jack Axon-Logan + 2 others names not provided (Skatepark Users), Graham Clarke (MCS/MVP), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP) Ian Walmsley (Council - Greenspace Manager) Cllr. Kevin Dowling (Chair Marple Area Committee).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Jane Bardsley (Council - Greenspace)
Josh Andrew (Skatepark User).

2.0 Introduction

Mark thanked everyone for coming along and explained that the purpose of this meeting is to score the three tendered skatepark designs against the criteria that we included in the design brief. We will be focusing on Q1 of the Technical and Quality Assessment Scoring Matrix "*Does the design reflect the wishes of the user group and meet the key themes and criteria set out in the design brief (refer to Table B).*"

Round-table introductions were made and a document pack was distributed to everyone present comprising:

- A guide to the scoring system with examples.
- Technical and Quality Assessment Scoring Matrix (Table A in the tender).
- Table B from the tender – 24 detailed questions underpinning Q1.
- Results of Marple Carnival Consultation.
- Method statements provided for Designs A and B.
- The original Design Brief issued with the tender.

Tendered designs and documents have been redacted to remove contractor names and designated as Design A, B and C. This is to ensure judging is on merit only.

All drawings provided for the three designs were presented on display panels to aid discussion. It was noted that method statements have been provided for Designs A and B but not Design C. Scoring will be based on the documentation provided.

Q1 is worth 25% of the total points available in the overall scoring system and is the largest single element. The results of today's scoring with the user group will be weighted up with the other criteria in Table A to be scored by the Project Team and the Council to identify the overall winner of the tendering process.

It was highlighted that there will be an opportunity to tweak the winning design via consultation with the successful tenderer when the design is developed for planning permission and it is the intention to involve the user group in this process too.

3.0 News on funding strategy

Before proceeding with the scoring process it was highlighted that following the setback with our funding strategy caused by changes to Veolia's qualifying boundaries, we now have some better news. Another landfill trust has been identified and following an initial enquiry they have confirmed that our project and location are eligible for funding. There are no guarantees of success but having a potential source

of funds we can apply to is a big step forward from where we were following the recently discovered changes to Veolia's boundaries.

4.0 Scoring of tendered designs

Each question on Table B was discussed and debated between attendees present and scored for each design in accordance with the following scoring system:

Answer Quality	Description of Response	Score
Inadequate	Irrelevant content / not answered.	0
Poor	Relevant but lacked any depth of content.	1
Less than satisfactory	Relevant but superficial and / or failed to demonstrate depth of understanding required.	2
Satisfactory	Relevant and showed some understanding and / or meets base requirements for adequate performance with scope for further development.	3
Good	Answered the question and showed depth of understanding and knowledge / full possession of the requirements for effective performance.	4
Excellent	A comprehensive response which demonstrates in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject, full possession of the requirement, an innovative approach and flexibility for superior performance.	5

The results were as follows:

Table B from tender documentation

Key themes / criteria identified in the brief:

		DESIGN A	DESIGN B	DESIGN C
1	The skatepark should be designed as a destination facility for families and spectators to appreciate, as well as riders.	2	4	3
2	Provision must be made to avoid user conflicts within the space, such as including social / seating / viewing spaces that can be enjoyed by non-riders without obstructing the flow of the skatepark.	2	4	3
3	The design should avoid creating spaces that might encourage antisocial behaviour.	1	4	4
4	The design should also consider how pedestrians using the footpath and those using the neighbouring basketball area would be able to move around the facility safely.	3	4	2
5	The design should include strategically placed litterbins that are easy to use.	3	3	1
6	The design should show how the existing lighting columns have been either incorporated into the design or relocated. (This should also be itemised as a cost in the Pricing Schedule).	3	3	3
7	The design needs to cater for a wide age-range and level of experience and accommodate very young beginners (maybe with parents) without interfering with the more experienced users of the facility.	2	4	3
8	BMX, skate and scooter disciplines should be catered for.	2	4	4

9	The design is innovative and makes high-quality use of the space, topography of the site and budget available.	1	5	3
10	Elements included will offer multiple uses.	3	4	4
11	Rideable features will have accessible uses for beginners, facilitate progression, and offer interest to advanced riders.	2	4	3
12	The design should include a good balance of street elements.	3	4	3
13	The skatepark layout must allow for smooth and flowing riding with lines in frontside and backside directions, and potential for back-to-back trick combination runs.	2	5	4
14	Quality must be demonstrated in the appearance and richness of experience that the design offers.	2	4	4
15	A variety of complementary materials, colours and textures should be integrated into the design.	2	4	3
Specific elements / suggestions from user group				
16	A spine.	3	3	4
17	A jump box with good landing space.	2	3	4
18	An innovative, rideable signature feature that will make this skatepark distinctive.	0	5	4
19	Good transfer from one feature to another.	1	5	4
20	A good balance of street elements around the site that don't interfere with the flow.	4	3	2
21	Sub-boxes with long low edges to learn grinding.	3	4	3
22	Good inside and outside corner features, including a wall-ride.	3	3	3
Specific elements / suggestions from user group				
23	The average height of ramps/transitions should be 1.2 to 1.8 metres high with some elements up to the maximum 2.5 metres high.	1	4	3
24	Rails and ledges should generally be relatively easy to get on to, with some larger drop-offs provided.	2	4	3
Average Scores Q1		2.17	3.92	3.21

5.0 Conclusion

Design B was a clear overall winner in the analysis of the skatepark user group's views and everyone present was happy with the results, which are also reflected in the simplified consultation work done with 36 users during Marple Carnival.

Key observations were:

Design A: does not make full use of the space available on the site. It leaves in place the teen shelter and by shielding it with ramps will make it more prone to anti-social behaviour. The design is generally undersized and does not have a signature feature.

Design B: Makes maximum use of the site and its topography by refurbishing the existing features, which are popular with users, instead of replacing them. This allows greater investment in the extended area of the site and gives much more for our budget. The scheme is well designed and laid out, includes a good mix of features and

caters well for different disciplines and abilities. The proposed poppy signature feature fits in well with the facility's position in a War Memorial Park and is also very relevant to the present centenaries of WWI taking place between 2014-2018.

Design C: A design with some particularly strong features such as a good spine and a jump box with good landing space. The lock gate signature feature was popular and fits in well with the park's location next to the canal. Unfortunately the design was not supported by a method statement and may have suffered on its scoring for lack of explanation of the designer's intentions with regard to some of the scoring criteria.

The scores for Q1 will be carried forward into the full analysis of the tender.

Ian Walmsley (SMBC Greenspace Manager) and Cllr Kevin Dowling (Marple Area Committee Chairman) confirmed that they were satisfied with the way the scoring process was conducted and agreed that the results favouring Design B reflected the consensus of the users and skatepark project team present.

Ian and Kevin were thanked for their support by attending the meeting at short notice to ensure that council officers / officials were witness to the scoring process.

7.0 Any other business

Before closing the meeting the following events that will help to raise funds for the project were highlighted:

Marple Community Fire Station Open Day – Sunday 10 August 2014

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.
(Post meeting note: Event was cancelled by Firefighters.)

Family Cycle Ride along the Middlewood Way – Sunday 24 August

Jason is organising a cycle ride along the Middlewood Way followed by a fun day at The Marple Tavern. Tickets will be £5pp or £15 per family of 4 and can now be purchased on-line. The event will raise funds for the skatepark and two other charities supported by The Marple Tavern.
(Post meeting note: Event raised £380 for the project community funding.)

8.0 Next Meeting

To be arranged.

Note: Draft minutes were issued on limited distribution 20 July 2014 to those listed below pending completion of the tender process. Minutes released for general circulation 24 December 2014 after conclusion of the process.

M. Whittaker – Friends of Marple Memorial Park

G. Clarke – Marple Civic Society

I. Walmsley – Stockport MBC Greenspace

K. Dowling – Marple Area Committee

J. Bardsley – Stockport MBC Greenspace

S. Jones – Star Procurement