

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 8 June 2015
Marple Library

Present: Lewis Abbott, Jason Saenz, Millie Saenz, Ben Meek, Graham Clarke (MCS/MVP), Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Mark Whittaker (FoMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Jane Bardsley (Council).

2.0 Lafarge-Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund Application

The meeting was called to review the way forward on the Skatepark Project following notification that our grant application to the Lafarge-Tarmac LCF was not successful.

Unfortunately the fund does not give feedback on reasons for decisions, which is not very helpful to us going forward. They've also stated that we cannot apply again for 2 years. The rejection is disappointing, as we felt that our bid was a strong one and we are not sure what else we could have done.

We have managed to get a little more feedback from the Derbyshire Environmental Trust, who administer the fund but were not at the meeting when the fund's committee made their decisions. We can draw some comfort from what they said:

"Your application was well put together and contained the information needed to make an informed decision. The demand for funding from L-T far outstrips the monies available and difficult decisions are often necessary."

3.0 The way forward

We have two main options: to give up or to carry on fund raising while we look for more suitable grant funding opportunities that may be out there.

Nobody wants to give up yet and we must remember that we've done extremely well to raise the funds we have so far, to have consulted with users and developed a great design, to have selected a contractor to work with and obtained planning permission.

Potentially, we could also downgrade our plans and settle for a lesser refurbishment of the skatepark using the money that we've raised. It was agreed that this was an option that we do not want to pursue at the moment but it is a way forward that could be considered in the future if all else fails.

Some key factors to be taken into account are:

- The current planning approval is valid for 3 years, so we must begin construction before 30 April 2018 or we would need to reapply.
- Canvas's tenderer was valid for 12 months, so it will no longer be valid in a few weeks. This shouldn't be a major issue as long as Canvas still wish to work with us but costs are likely to escalate with inflation, materials and labour all increasing over time. Mark has asked **Jane** to inform Canvas of the situation and ask them if they have any suggestions for suitable funding streams.
- It's essential that the commuted sum of £22,000 currently allocated remains ring-fenced for the project. If this were no longer available it would be a setback that we could not overcome. Mark has asked **Jane** to check that this will remain secure and also to enquire if there may be any more available.

(Post meeting note: Mark has also spoken and written to Cllr Martin Candler to ask if the skatepark can be borne in mind for further funding from commuted sums, especially any arising from new developments such as Hibbert Lane.)

4.0 Funding status

The total project cost is currently **£100,000**.

If we seek landfill funding from any qualifying scheme we will also need a Third Party Contribution (TPC) of 10% of any grant amount that we are awarded from landfill.

We have raised a total of **£23,753** community funds from a great variety of sources.

Additions since our last skatepark meeting include:

£53 from Marple Hall sponsored silence.

£19 donation from Alex Waddington (then bringing total to £23,000 exactly).

£240 royalties from "A Man of Insignificance" donated by K. C. Dowling.

£402 raised by the Julian Wadden Treasure Hunt in the park on 30 May.

£78 miscellaneous donations via Local Giving.

We have **£22,000** allocated from commuted sums, taking total to **£45,753**.

This means that we still need to find **£54,247**.

Cautionary note: Mark has spoken to Forever Manchester about the CDL fund grant of **£2,500** that they are currently holding for the project pending us finding the balance of money that we need. They've agreed to extend the deadline from May 2015 to 17 December 2015 but after that it will have to be withdrawn. It is therefore possible that we will lose this funding, reducing our total to **£43,253**.

5.0 Grant funding opportunities

Small grant applications have been submitted in the last week to:

- Vernon Building Society Jubilee Fund.
- Gascoigne-Halman Community Challenge.
- Persimmon Community Champions.
- Nationwide "Nominate a Charity".
- Stockport Homes Community Count.
- Skipton Building Society.

It's unlikely that all these will be successful and possibly none of them.

Mark has met with Asda head office management representatives in the park recently. They seemed supportive and have passed on contact emails for the store's Community Champion Laura and manager Peter Dewsnip. *(Post meeting note: On 9 June Mark wrote to Laura and Peter asking if they would be prepared to meet up and discuss ways that the store may be able to support the skatepark project.)*

Via Social Media and the Internet we've also been encouraging people to nominate the project on the Asda Marple web page, where you can nominate a cause. Hopefully we'll have a big enough response to show that the project is well supported.

Additional help seeking funds

A local lady whose job involves finding funding for large projects has been in touch via Face Book. She is currently on maternity leave and has offered to try and give us some support in seeking suitable sources of funds. Mark and Di Jackson, who would also like to help, will be meeting the lady to discuss this further on Friday.

(Post meeting note: Alex Waddington, who has been busy raising funds for Marple Carnival 2015, has also expressed an interest in helping too once the Carnival is over for this year. It's really encouraging that new people are interested in getting involved as we will need all the help we can get.)

Local fund raising ideas discussed

Lewis will be doing a sponsored "Beard Off" to raise funds. He also advised that All Things Nice has expressed an interest in supporting the project too, possibly by taking part in the Etherow Raft Race or maybe something else.

We need to see if local schools can give more fund-raising support, especially Marple Hall, which has probably the biggest number of skatepark users. **Graham** will try getting in touch Kirsty Pierce and **Mark** will get in touch with the primary schools.

We need to try and encourage more local businesses to get involved in the way that Julian Wadden has recently. We can also look to see if any of the larger chains with a presence in Marple have community-funding schemes that may be suitable.

We need to write to existing donors to update them of the current situation and see if they may be able to offer further support or encourage others to help.

Ben suggested that Red Bull and Monster Energy drinks might have schemes.

Jason will speak to Farmer John and see if there is any way he can help or we can be involved in his events to gain more support. He will also ask Craig Wright if he would be able to get involved in fund-raising for the project and speak with members of Lazlo Baby, who have previously offered to put on a musical event.

The Social Forces Club was suggested as a good event venue.

Jason suggested contacting Martin Prophet at Moss Bank Housing Association.

Lynne Arnold was also suggested as a good contact for help with fund-raising events.

Event ideas suggested included a Promises Auction, Brass Band Concerts, music festival or jazz event (Mick may be able to get a jazz band to play for free).

Ben mentioned that there is a new landfill operation in Hayfield that may be worth investigating to see if it gives us any new eligibility.

6.0 Marple Carnival – 20 June | Locks Festival 5 July

We have a stall booked at Marple Carnival and also at the Locks Festival. We had hoped to be announcing better news but will go ahead to raise more funds.

Mark and Gill will organise a Guess the Sweets Comp and Splat the Rat.

Mark will also update the displays to provide the latest information.

We need others to get involved and help on the day too.

Jason will hopefully be able to bring a bike to raffle.

Lewis will look at selling some of his photos and also look at holding an exhibition.

Joyce will be able to help with setting up and Mark will ask other Friends volunteers.

7.0 Next Meeting To be arranged.