

**MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2003 AT 6.00PM,  
MARPLE LIBRARY**

**Present:**

Cllr Shan Alexander, Cllr Mark Hunter, Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Peter Clarke (Marple Web Site), Kay Gould-Martin (Business Forum), Diane Jackson (Business Forum), Greg Jackson (Business Forum), David Hoyle (Business Forum), PC John Francis, Alan Kennington (Business Forum), Mick McPhee (Business Forum), (Business Forum), Jim Scotte (Marple Community Church), Brian Nash (SMBC),

**Guests:**

Ann-Marie McCullough (Environmental Health and Trading Standards)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Chris Elwood, Philip Gould-Martin, Janet Milligan, Paul Whatmough, Mark Whittaker  
Elaine Wilkinson, Judi Winterson,

**1. Introductions**

DH made the appropriate introductions and apologies for absence were received.

**2. Notes of last meeting**

Agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

- Stockport By Pass information. Consultation is ongoing, Stage 2 information has been sent to all households with exhibitions in the Library and Co op. BN stated that a further presentation would be made to the partnership in the new year.
- Memorial Park Entrance. All work now completed and the scheme has been well received by the partnership, traders and members of the public. It was noted that the scheme has prompted some improvements to adjacent properties, notably the Cinema gable wall, and the news of the empty Hanburys shop being leased by a furniture company.
- Friends of Memorial Park. 2 meetings have been held, the first well attended to establish whether there was support for the setting up of a group. The second was a workshop event to gauge problems, successes and ambitions and to establish a small committee to progress the group. The next meeting is to be held in the Library on 12th January at 6:30.
- The missing bus stop sign has been reported to the GMPTA although no replacement has appeared to date. BN will follow up

**4. Presentation**

Anne-Marie McCullough (Environmental Health and Trading Standards) a new initiative that is being explored within the district centres to encourage traders to sign up to a code of practice or a letter of commitment which would commit to responsible business practices in relation to its customers and the environment. The details of the project are yet to be finalised but the initial ideas relate to litter, recycling initiatives, advice on healthy food options, display of under age sales/proof of age information and the sharing of information between traders. In addition the Council would provide access to professional advice on a range of environmental health and trading standard issues. AM concluded that the intention is to pilot the scheme in 2 or 3 centres  
Discussion followed and the opinion was that the initiative was worthy of further consideration when more details of the scheme were developed.

**Action**

BN

## 5. Project Updates

- **LTP / SEMMMS**

- **Market St**

BN reported the first phase of the work had started on 28<sup>th</sup> October. This initial phase involves the provision of a new drain running virtually the whole length of Market Street and is on target to be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> November, despite the Contractor having to deal with many unforeseen obstacles, primarily the discovery of unknown / unrecorded services.

It was agreed that the contractor should be congratulated for carrying out the work quickly, with a minimum of mess, keeping disruption to a minimum and for being courteous towards traders and shoppers.

BN

- **Police Update**

JF listed the latest crime figures for both Marple Area and the District Centre area, Although there had been a recent spate of burglaries of business premises, there was a general downward trend in the number of other crimes reported.

Concern had been raised by a trader that the recently installed streetlights along Stockport Road were inadequate in terms of the lighting levels. General discussion ensued and the conclusion reached that the lights were to be welcomed as a great improvement on the original 'orange' lights not only giving adequate lighting where it is needed but also reducing the upward light pollution that is characteristic of the traditional 'orange' lights.

- **Twinning**

DH reported that Marple had been twinned with Motril, commercial town and port on the east Costa del Sol, Spain and also with Todmorden a 'canal' town more similar to Marple in terms of experiences, problems and solutions. A reciprocal visit from the Spanish delegates to Manchester is planned for early next year. A trip to Todmorden is arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> December. (stop press: visit cancelled due to illness).

A query was raised as to whether official signs were to be put up recognising the twinning with Motril. Councillor Hunter replied that this was not an official twinning, Stockport is officially twinned with Beziers and Heilbronn only. This twinning arrangement is an initiative organised by Manchester Metropolitan University for the exchange of ideas / experiences in smaller retail centres.

- **Christmas Lights / events**

The new Christmas decorative lights have been erected on the lampposts along Stockport Road and have been well received.

The festoon lighting and the additional two Christmas trees in Market street will be installed in the week after the road works have been cleared away and switched on along with the pea lights in Derby Way.

BN and DJ explained that arrangements were well advanced for the 6<sup>th</sup> December switch on event. A fairground organ, Santa in his grotto, Robinsons brewery horse drawn dray, Hawk Green Brass Band, a continental street café are included in the programme of events starting at 2:00pm and culminating with the switch on by the Mayor of Stockport at 4:30pm. DJ mentioned the numerous businesses that are giving support in terms of produce, goods, gifts, assistance and co-operation. All contributors will be acknowledged.

BN DJ PW

It was noted that the service at Marple Methodist Church is to take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. The service, organised by Marple & District Churches Together and Marple Community Council, will be followed by a procession to the Christmas tree on the Hollins, to switch on the Christmas tree lights

**5. Other Items**

• **Carparking**

Parking on Council car parks is free in all district centres on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Information is to be put on the pay and display machines, leaflets distributed and posters displayed. In addition Pure Radio is to run a series of adverts during November.

DH asked whether oversized car parking spaces should be provided in the car parks as Marple does appear to have a large proportion of 4x4 type vehicles. Concern was raised that this would mean a possible reduction in the number of spaces available. BN will pass this request on to the Transportation and car park officers who are currently reviewing the car parking provisions in the area.

BN

• **Tourism**

Next year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Marple locks, and also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the refurbishment of the locks. Local opinion is that a commemorative event should be held. Marple Partnership, Marple Business forum, Stockport Council and British Waterways are to combine to progress this tremendous tourism opportunity for Marple. DH to attend initial discussions.

DH

**6. AOB**

PC reported, for information, that the Iron Bridge, Brabyns Park project was progressing and the detail survey work is being undertaken

PC also raised the initiative by Marple residents and businesses to recognise the achievement of soldier, Chris Finney, awarded the George Cross for his courage under fire during the recent Iraq conflict. The last soldier to receive a bravery award in Marple was Private Joe Goodwin in 1916. Local residents at the time presented him with an inscribed gold watch and it is the intention to collect money, primarily through the web site ([www.marple-uk.com](http://www.marple-uk.com)), and present Chris Finney with an inscribed gold watch.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2004, 6.00- 7:45pm at Marple Library.