

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2003 AT 6.00PM,
MARPLE LIBRARY**

Present: Cllr Shan Alexander, Cllr Chris Baker, Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Cllr Chris Elwood, Kay Gould-Martin(Business Forum), Diane Jackson (Business Forum), David Hoyle (Business Forum), Paula Kelly (SMBC), Alan Kennington (Business Forum), PC John Francis, Mick McPhee (Business Forum) Brian Nash (SMBC), Paul Whatmough (Business Forum)

Guests: Sue Shore (Crash)

Apologies: Cllr Hunter, Peter Clarke, Mark Whittaker, Judi Winterson, Greg Jackson, Philip Gould-Martin, Elaine Wilkinson

	Action
<p>1. Introductions HB made introductions. Due to a staffing restructure HB will no longer be working in Marple. Brian Nash will now be the main contact for Marple District Centre and the Partnership. HB is now the officer for Cheadle and Hazel Grove District Centres. Brian's contact details are: 0161 474 2628 or email brian.nash@stockport.gov.uk</p>	
<p>2. Notes of last meeting Accepted as a correct record.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising The spelling of Spreckley was incorrect in the last meeting notes.</p>	
<p>Donation from Civic Society to the Market St project was discussed. DH to write to Civic Society formally thanking them for the donation and advising on how to make the payment.</p>	BN/DH
<p>CE to chase up contact at the council for Springclean event. The Business Forum need advise on public liability insurance if they are to run a clean-up event.</p>	CE
<p>4. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horticultural Features 3 tiered planters are now in place which has had positive feedback.<p>Discussion followed on Hanging baskets. HB explained that each centre only gets a set number of baskets each year. So far they have always been located along Market St. Next year all agreed that there should be a more even distribution of baskets.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LTP / SEMMMS<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Street Lighting New street lighting has now been installed. Gateway infill panels which were designed by BN have now also been fitted. Gateway columns have yet to be painted black. BN to follow up.	BN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Memorial Park HB explained the some of the trunk from the largest horse chestnut tree has been retained. It was suggested that the Partnership work with art students from Ridge Danyers to use the wood for a community arts piece. BN to contact JM to discuss how to take this forward.	BN

- **Market St**

HB feedback to the group about the progress of the scheme. It is currently with Highways Designers who are working with Transportation and Health to discuss the best quality materials for the project. It is due on site in October.

DH asked if local members could use their influence to ensure that the scheme is on site in October.

Encroachment of clutter onto Highway

HB explained to the Partnership about an issue that CB had been working on to try and reduce the amount of clutter on the highway.

Discussion followed on the pros and cons of A-boards. All agreed that although it can be an effective method of advertising, thought needs to be given to where the boards are located on the highway to ease access around the centre for those with mobility problems.

All agreed that a letter from the partnership advising businesses to think carefully about where they located shop displays and signage, should be sent out to all businesses in the district centre.

Following completion of the Market Street / Derby Way project the issue can be re-evaluated and possible enforcement options looked at.

- **Hibbert Lane**

Susan Shore of Crash Investigation circulated plan of Hibbert Lane roundabout improvements and briefed the partnership about the issues of the existing road system in that area. An investigation by the Crash team led to the proposals that are soon to be put into place.

For further information on the scheme contact:

Tim Matthews (for information works taking place) on t: 474 4817

Tim Collins (the project officer) on t: 474 4869

Ken Harrop (Strategic Network) on t: 474 4818

HB to email PW and other affected groups, information on road closures and diversions.

For more information on the project visit www.stockport.gov.uk/districtcentres and click on Marple. Notices will also be put up in Marple Library.

DH asked about the possibility of having white lines repainted in that area.

- **Chadwick St Carpark**

The project is now programmed in for next year. Approval for consultation will be put to the September Area Committee. Consultation is scheduled to take place in October, the results of which will then be taken back to committee in November. Crash have not yet been requested to do a safety audit on this area.

• **Police Update**

JF listed the latest crime figures for both Marple Area and the District Centre area. The figures for June and July were very low.

Discussion followed on producing a press release based on low crime rates in Marple. JF to discuss idea with his sergeant.

SA suggested that the figures for Marple could be compared to previous years.

BN

HB

CE / BN

JF

- **Christmas Lights / Banners**

HB told the group about the purchase of new Christmas lights for the new lighting columns along Stockport Road. Images of the new Christmas lights which are being part funded by the Business Forum, were circulated.

All agreed that white lights would be most suitable. HB to contact PW with the final costs for new lights, installation and also the replacement of coloured lamps for the festoon lights.

HB

HB told the group about the idea for the purchase of banners to appear on lighting columns along Stockport Road. The design of the banners will be the same as the banners on The Hollins which were designed by art students at Ridge Danyers. Banners are to be ordered shortly but are to erected once the Christmas lights come down in January 2003. BN to contact JM to discuss publicity for this scheme nearer the time.

BN

5. Health Checks

- **Footfall Surveys**

PK explained to the group that Footfall surveys take place every 2 years in strategic locations in all district centres. A summary of the footfall results was circulated which compared 2001 figures with 2003.

- **Vacancies**

The district centre team monitors vacancy rates in the district centre on a quarterly basis. PK listed current vacancies. Although the rate seems to have risen, the actual number of long-term vacancies remains very low in comparison to other district centres.

- **Planning Applications**

The district centre team is also asked to comment on any planning applications that may effect the vitality and viability of Marple District Centre. PK listed several recent applications that the team has commented on.

6. Twinning

DH and PK told the group about the Twinning Initiative that the Business Forum is currently involved in. 2 representatives from the business community in Marple have been selected for a trip to Southern Spain on a 'Twin Town' campaign. Marple was selected from many large UK towns and cities to be twinned with another similar sized town in Spain. All agreed on what a positive step this was for Marple.

DH and Craig Wright of Harmony Décor are currently putting together a portfolio of Marple to be shared with other delegates in Spain.

JM invited DH to use information they have at Ridge Danyers.

PK / DH

7. AOB

The Partnership thanked HB for all her hard work in Marple.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th October Marple Library

Apologies from Cllr Baker, Cllr Alexander