

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE 2003 AT 6.00PM,
MARPLE LIBRARY

Present: Peter Bardsley, Peter Clarke, Cllr Chris Elwood, PC John Francis, Kay Gould-Martin, Philip Gould-Martin, David Hoyle (Chair), Greg Jackson, Alan Kennington, Paul Whatmough, Judi Winterson, Robert Hughes, Mike Streckley, Adrian Taylor, Paula Kelly

Guests: Sue Stevenson (Stockport Council), Sarah Farmer (Faber Maunsell consultants)

Apologies: Cllr Hunter, Cllr Shan Alexander, Mark Whittaker, Dianne Jackson, Mick Mc Phee, Elaine Wilkinson, Hannah Bowker

| | Action |
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| <p>The Chair welcomed Mike Streckley as Churches Together representative and conveyed the Partnership's sincerest wishes to Rob.</p> <p>1. Notes of last meeting Accepted as a correct record.</p> <p>2. Matters Arising All items covered on agenda.</p> <p>3. Progress Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market Street / Derby Way <p>Progress regarding the scheme was outlined.</p> <p>Specific issues raised by the group included:</p> <p>When will it start? How long will the work last? (Christmas trading impact should be considered) How will it be phased? What location would be the starting point? Who will be carrying out the work? Are there any significant design improvements/changes to what has previously been agreed?</p> <p>SS responded that it is hoped that work would commence towards the end of the Memorial Park contract although this could not be confirmed at this stage as work on the detailed design for the scheme may throw up some technical difficulties, which could have implications for both timing and design.</p> <p>Other issues discussed included: Derby Way car park access - the Partnership welcomed the proposed improvements Rear Service area at Church lane end of \market street Wardens preventing people from loading/unloading on service areas (?)</p> <p>The Partnership requested a detailed programme covering the above details by the end of July.</p> <p>RH offered a contribution of £1200 from the Civic Society and McNair Trust but raised concerns about the use of wooden seats and referred to examples of metal seats in Strathclyde and Windsor. However the general feeling of the group was to keep with the design already agreed and as used on the Hollins, but to ensure more effective maintenance.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">SS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PK / HB</p> |

The Partnership thanked the Civic Society for their much-appreciated contribution.

- **Memorial Park**

Letters had gone out to Partnership members outlining arrangements for implementation of the scheme, which is due to commence next week. A number of concerns were raised about the proposed use of the Hollins `back street' for vehicular egress. It was thought that there was potential for clashes with parked and delivery vehicles and also pedestrian safety.

SS informed the Partnership that a prohibition of parking order would be put in place. Consideration also to be given to temporary closure of the pedestrian access to the Co-op Car park.

SS

PK reported that there was a public information board in the library and the information was also available of the Council's District Centres web site. The information will also be forwarded to the Partnership web site.

HB

PK also reported that as part of the scheme we are seeking to retain the large horse chestnut tree with a view to using it in a public art scheme. The Partnership welcomed this idea.

HB

- **Other access/transportation schemes**

This item was introduced by SS and focussed on improvements to access and parking at Derby Way and Chadwick Street car parks. Plans showing the proposals were circulated at the meeting.

The proposed improvement schemes form part of larger overall accessibility study and objectives (including the above mentioned schemes and other public transport, pedestrian and cycling initiatives)

The Partnership welcomed the proposed improvements to Derby Way car park.

The majority of the discussion focussed on the more significant changes proposed to the access and parking arrangements for Chadwick Street car park and a number of issues and suggestions were raised by the group. These particularly centred around the various one-way and two-way access elements of the scheme, possible conflicts with service vehicles and the impact of the access arrangements on traffic at the signalled junctions on Stockport road at the Hollins (and also at Hibbert Lane)

SS / SF

SF explained some of the context and justification for the proposals including the desire to take traffic off church Lane; the links with anticipated changes to bus facilities on Stockport Road; the anticipated car park capacity and usage figures (which don't suggest a likelihood of traffic backing up); the business servicing survey which had been part of the considerations; etc as well as some further considerations which could be incorporated e.g. keep clear road markings, changes to traffic light sequences if necessary and appropriate.

The Partnership welcomed the opportunity to comment on the proposals and overall felt that improved access would help to make more efficient use of the car park but that they had certain reservations regarding access and traffic movement arrangements.

SS explained that the draft proposals as tabled would be presented to the Marple Area Committee seeking approval for a wider public consultation to then take place. Cllr.E expressed the need for a direct consultation with the residents of Chadwick street.

SS

- **Police Update**

JF gave an update on the latest reported crime figures for a range of crimes including 3 shop incidents. Car crime figures appeared quite low although it was acknowledged that this may not be a true reflection as the figures only related to reported crime and often car crimes don't tend to be reported.

JF went on to discuss the positive impact that the CCTV had on assisting crime detection in respect of a recent serious incident. The Partnership had found the CCTV presentation at the last meeting very enlightening and encouraging. However the importance of respecting both Civil Liberties and police arrest and conviction procedures were paramount.

- **Operation Spring Clean**

PW gave a report. HB had supplied him with a 'litter pick starter pack' and he had liaised with MS (Marple Churches Together) and Mark Cotterill (Stockport Council) about organising an event.

MC can supply the necessary equipment but an issue had arisen regarding Public Liability Insurance. This needs to be resolved before the matter can be taken any further.

AT explained that this was also an item on the Marple Community Council Agenda and that they had been focussing on identifying problem areas.

It was agreed that a joint effort would be more efficient – also to possibly include Rotary Club, schools, colleges and general public.

Subject to insurance issue being resolved a date and place to be agreed and all formal local organisations to be invited to take part.

AT to report back to Community Council (next meeting Monday 30th June).

HB

4. **Other News Items**

Twinning Project

PK reported back on the recent success of a joint bid by Marple Business Forum and Stockport MB Council to be selected to take part in a town-twinning project. Marple had been selected as one of only 14 towns/cities across Britain to be part of a retail network-twinning project with towns/cities in Andalusia, Spain.

The project forms part of a European Funded Retail Enterprise network Programme being led by Manchester Metropolitan University, which aims to enable local retailers to share and learn from the experiences, successes and failures, of their respective retail centres in the face of changing shopping patterns and competition from out of town centre developments.

PK felt that Marple's success is probably a reflection of the well-organised nature and commitment of the Marple Business Forum and also the specific retail business support work already initiated by the Council.

A survey of Marple businesses will commence on 2 July in order to gather more detailed information and also to ensure the best 'partner' match.

The Partnership was very pleased with the success and looks forward to some very positive outcomes and linkages being developed. The retailers present offered their full support and co-operation in the project.

PW

AT

- **District Centres staffing resources**

The Chair raised an issue of support resources to the Partnership. PK explained that whilst some changes had recently been approved which affect Council staffing resources in relation to the District Centres work across the Borough, every effort would be made to ensure that this did not adversely impact the current level of support to the Partnership.

Next Meeting

Thursday 14th August 2003 6.00pm.

Note: **See below:**



Meeting Agenda

Date: 14 August 2003

Venue: Marple Library, Memorial Park

Time: 6.00pm

Chair: David Hoyle (Marple Business Forum)

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1. Apologies and Introductions
 2. Notes of Last Meeting
 3. Matters Arising
 4. Project Updates
 - Horticultural Features
 - LTP / SEMMMS projects
 - Street Lighting
 - Memorial Park
 - Market Street / Derby Way
 - Hibbert Lane
 - Chadwick Street Car park
 - Police Update
 - Banners / Christmas Lights
 5. Health Checks
 - Footfall Surveys
 - Vacancies
 - Planning Applications
 6. Twinning
 7. Date of next meeting – Monday 6 October 2003