

## MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

### NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2004 AT 6.00PM, MARPLE LIBRARY

**Present:**

Chair: David Hoyle (Business Forum), Brian Nash (District Centres Regeneration), Councillor C. Elwood, Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Peter Clarke (Marple Web Site), Kay Gould-Martin (Business Forum), Diane Jackson (Business Forum), Greg Jackson (Business Forum), Alan Kennington (Business Forum), Mick McPhee (Business Forum), Jim Scotte (Marple Community Council), Michael Whatmough (Business Forum), Paul Whatmough (Business Forum).

**Guests:**

Steve Burns, Head of Regeneration

**Apologies:**

PC. John Francis, Philip Gould-Martin, Elaine Wilkinson, Councillor Hunter, Councillor Alexander

**1. Introductions**

DH made the appropriate introductions and apologies for absence were received. Steve Burns Head of Regeneration would be arriving later, to give a presentation on Business Improvement Districts.

**2. Notes of last meeting**

BN apologised for the late distribution of the minutes and would ensure they are sent out within 2 weeks of the meeting. In addition the agenda for future meetings would be distributed at least a week before the meeting.  
The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising****• Stockport in Bloom**

BN reported that progress had been made and details of the route and the timings were being advocated. To date the intention is for the judges to begin at the Town Hall, visit a number of sites in the town centre, travel to Vernon Park, Arden Primary School, Oldham Drive Housing Estate, Chadkirk Chapel, Marple town centre, Brabyns Brow, Town Street Marple Bridge, Etherow Country Park. In total a 4 hour trip.

BN explained the time allocated to Marple was restricted to a 'drive through' with a presentation on the activities of regeneration through partnership given on the bus. The meeting agreed that this 'drive through' would not do justice to the achievements of Marple and it was agreed to write to the organisers of the event to express this opinion and to request the judges spend some time in Marple town centre.

**• Funding for the public art**

Funding regimes and opportunities are being investigated through the Councils Resource procurement team.

**• Christmas Events**

A small group is to be formed to begin the planning of the Christmas event in 2004. In response to the request on the feasibility of providing permanent holes in place to take Christmas trees, BN explained this could be done as part of the current repaving work. Discussion followed on the potential location and it was agreed the junction of Market Street and Derby Way was the most suitable, and could be easily accommodated in the area of the possible mosaic.

The current Council policy is to move away from 'cut' Christmas trees and to utilise 'growing' Christmas trees, or established trees with pea lights. The possibility of planting a

**Action****BN****DH/BN****BN****Business  
Forum**

<p>tree in the required location is to be investigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Street lighting on Stockport Road</b> In response to pressure from the Partnership, Business Forum, Councillors and individual members of the public, the Councils engineers have been investigating the inconsistent lighting levels. To date the lamps have been replaced, the glass globes replaced and the main source of the problem has been identified as being within the control equipment. Alterations have now been made and a noticeable improvement has been achieved. The engineers are continuing to monitor the lighting levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Market Street / Derby Way</b> Work is progressing with well, and the scheme is currently on target for completion at the end of May. The new look paving is now evident towards Stockport Road, and is being well received by shoppers. The contractor has recently undertaken to carry out the paving at the entrance to shop units on Sundays, this is greatly appreciated by the Partnership as it does keep the disruption to trading to a minimum.</li> <li>• <b>Twinning</b> DL reported back on how the twinning with Motril (Spain) and Todmorden could be beneficial to Marple. The forthcoming reciprocal visit of the partners is to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April in Manchester and although there are reservations on the benefits to be gained from Motril (Spain) the links with Todmorden and a number of other UK towns was potentially mutually beneficial. A visit to Todmorden on the 1<sup>st</sup> March provided an insight into a number of initiatives and ideas that could be applied in Marple.</li> <li>• <b>Police Update</b> JF sent the partnership an update of incidences of crime in Marple District Centre, essentially no change with the figures for February remain relatively low. Discussion followed on the restructure of beat areas and responsibilities with the potential loss of the close contact with the local officer that has been established over the years. DH to contact JF to express the Partnership's view and if appropriate to write to the Chief Constable. M.McP raised concern due to the 2 recent robberies, and the apparent failure of the monitoring procedure of the CCTV system.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Other Items.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marple Locks Bi-centenary Celebrations</b> PC updated the Partnership on the good progress being made for the celebration event on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2004. A formal group has been established including representatives from many local groups, businesses and residents together with support from Stockport Council, British Waterways. Activities include boat gatherings, displays, commemorative plaques, Quiz, music by local bands, fair rides for children, traditional craft stalls, and an evening supper event, to name but a few.</li> <li>• <b>Planning Applications / Vacancies</b> Plans received for the new retail store for the former Hanburys unit and the adjacent unit (1 and 2 The Hollins), although protracted negotiations are still progressing between the Co-op, the building owners and the new retailer.  Building work is under way at 17 Stockport Road, creating the new offices for local solicitors.  2 businesses have recently closed at 130 and 138 Stockport Road.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Any Other Business</b> DH raised concerns of the Business Forum with respect to the number of vehicles that are</p>	<p><b>BN</b></p> <p><b>DH</b></p> <p><b>BN</b></p>
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parking all day irrespective of the time restrictions that apply, particularly on Derby Street. The on street parking is the responsibility of Traffic Wardens under the control of the Police, and currently resources dictate only minimal enforcement. However the situation should change with the decriminalisation of parking, which will bring the on street parking and traffic wardens under Stockport Council control. BN to report back on progress.

**BN**

M.McP drew attention to the current practice of Stockport Council vehicles parking for varying lengths of time on Bowden Lane very close to the junction with Stockport Road, causing congestion and danger to other road users. BN to follow up.

**BN**

### **7. Business Improvement Districts.**

Steve Burns gave a presentation on a new government initiative that could be appropriate to businesses in Marple. A B.I.D. is a business led partnership which comes together to agree, cost, raise finance and implement improvement proposals for the area. This mechanism puts business ratepayers in control, with the finance raised by a levy based on an agreed % of Rateable Value. The Local Authority can only advise, help and support. A future presentation to Marple Business Forum was agreed to be the appropriate way to progress the initiative.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is **Monday 26 April 2004.**

### **Provisional dates for future meetings are :**

Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> April
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup> June
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup> August
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> October
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> December
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2005
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup> March

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