

**MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004**  
**AT 6.00PM, MARPLE LIBRARY**

**Present:**

Chair: David Hoyle (Business Forum), Brian Nash (District Centres Regeneration), Councillor Chris Elwood, Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Kay Gould-Martin (Business Forum), Diane Jackson (Business Forum), Greg Jackson (Business Forum), Mick McPhee (Business Forum), Jim Scotte (Marple Community Council), Michael Whatmough (Business Forum), Paul Whatmough (Business Forum), Bruce Farrow (Business Forum), Faith Yeaman (Marple Civic Society), Chris Parr (Marple Civic Society).

**Apologies:**

PC. John Francis, Philip Gould-Martin, Elaine Wilkinson, Alan Kennington, Janet Milligan, Councillor Mark Hunter, Councillor Shan Alexander.

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Introductions</b> DH welcomed Faith Yeaman (Chair) and Chris Parr (Secretary) from Marple Civic Society and the appropriate introductions were made. Apologies for absence were received.</p> <p><b>2. Notes of last meeting</b> DH congratulated BN on the minutes and agenda being issued on time, and requested that if anyone had any items to put on the agenda they should be given to DH. The minutes were accepted as a correct record.</p> <p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stockport in Bloom</b> BN reported that progress had been made and details of the route and the timings were being finalised. The date of the judging has not been finalised but expect the North West in Bloom to be in July, and the Britain in Bloom in August. (Stop Press: Britain in Bloom confirmed as 12<sup>th</sup> August 2004). Information leaflets publicity is being prepared and the Partnership expressed a keen interest to contribute and be actively involved. It was agreed that Councillor Ingrid Shaw be invited to the next meeting to progress involvement and understanding.</li><li>• <b>Street lighting on Stockport Road</b> 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>BF reported on the remaining concern over the uneven spread of light and the perception that the lighting levels are still inadequate, and has compiled information and evidence to substantiate these issues. BF wished to stress that he was appreciative of the efforts of Councillors and had been treated fairly by Council</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p><b>BN</b></p>

<p>Officers. After much discussion it was agreed that the Street Lighting Engineer (Les Bennett) be invited to the next Business Forum meeting to discuss the remaining concerns and to progress any further actions.</p>	<p><b>BN Business Forum</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Car Parking Decriminalisation</b> BN reported that the current timetable is for the Council to take control of the enforcement of on street parking in April 2005. Further information will be available as systems and procedures are developed towards the end of the year.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CCTV</b> BN has spoken to the Control Room and confirmed that the current system is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and any incidents are reported directly to the Police who respond accordingly. The Police often request surveillance of a particular location at a specific time in response to a particular problem. The Control Room frequently provide camera footage of incidents on request by the Police. However the meeting felt that the system was not delivering the service that was promised at its inception.</li> </ul>	
<p>M McP related a number of incidents, including disturbances and vandalism to the phone boxes /bus shelters, had occurred recently without any apparent action by the CCTV and Police. The opinion was that the cameras seemed to be static and were ineffective in responding to incidents actually taking place.</p>	
<p>It was agreed to invite the CCTV supervisor to the next meeting to discuss concerns.</p>	<p><b>BN</b></p>
<p><b>4. Project Updates</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Market Street / Derby Way</b> Work is still progressing well, despite a number of uncharted underground services being discovered, and the scheme is currently anticipated to be on target for completion at the end of May. Bollards were now installed at the Stockport Road end of market Street and seating and trees are to follow. Discussion followed on the reappearance of 'A boards' along Market Street and it was recognised that the Council would need to address this issue through the emerging signage strategy. BN to investigate the progress being made on this strategy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>BN</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Twinning</b> DH reported back on the reciprocal conference that had taken place on 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April in Manchester and York. DH reiterated that the workshops were interesting and had many useful ideas and concepts that could benefit Marple but the undoubted value of the event was the contacts made with the Town Centre Managers and Traders from other UK towns. The delegates from Motril (our Spanish Twin) presented DH with a very comprehensive information pack and it is intended to make use of this in the form of a display in the Library. DH and BN will ensure a similar information pack on Marple (and Stockport) is sent to Motril in due course as it is felt important to continue the dialogue with Motril despite the formal project through the Manchester Metropolitan University coming to an end.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DH/ BN</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 March remain relatively low.</li> </ul>	

In relation to the proposed restructure of beat areas and responsibilities, the GM Police senior management have indicated that the community beat officers will be remaining in post and their duties will remain as at present (i.e liason with groups such as the Partnership)

JF also wished to add to the CCTV debate that the system is just one means of combating crime and anti social behaviour, and requested that anyone witnessing or are victims of crime should report all incidents to the Police.

#### **5. Other Items.**

- **Marple Locks Bi-centenary Celebrations**

BN updated the Partnership on the good progress being made for the celebration event on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2004. The events programme is being finalised and a publicity leaflet is being produced for distribution in the area. (Copy enclosed)

- **Planning Applications / Vacancies**

The protracted negotiations on the former Hanburys unit and the adjacent unit have now stalled with the prospective retailer withdrawing all interest.

However negotiations are currently taking place with another 'well known clothes retailer' interested in opening in Marple.

General dismay at the long period the premises have been vacant and the increasingly dilapidated appearance of the building.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

PB wished to point out the Red Cross are holding a First Aid Course comprising 2 sessions on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May to be held at the Glengarth Evening Centre, 62 Station Road, Marple (details from Mrs E Worrall 0161 427 5355).

MMcP wished to point out the growing problem of litter. Despite the presence of the street cleaner and litter bins, generally the amount of litter especially from hot food takeaways is becoming a nuisance. BN to contact Street Cleansing and Waste Disposal officers to determine what measures can be taken.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2004 at 6:00pm in the Library, Memorial Park, Marple.

**BN**

