

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th December 2004
AT 6.00PM, MARPLE LIBRARY

Present:

Chair: David Hoyle (Business Forum),
Brian Nash (District Centres Regeneration), Jim Scotte (Marple Community Council), Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Mick McPhee (Business Forum), Paul Whatmough (Business Forum), Michael Whatmough (Business Forum), Patrick O'Herlihy (Business Forum), Carl Buckley (Stockport Rangers), Nigel Hyde (Stockport Rangers), Rick Hardisty (Marple Swimming Club), Nicola Alexander (Marple Swimming Club)

Apologies:

Councillor Mark Hunter, Councillor Martin Candler, Councillor Shan Alexander, Councillor Andrew Bispham, Councillor Chris Baker, Councillor Roy Weaver, Faith Yeaman (Marple Civic Society), Peter Clarke (Marple Web Site), PC. John Francis

1. Introductions

DH made the appropriate introductions, in particular welcoming Rick Hardisty and Nicola Alexander. Apologies for absence were received. BN apologised for the meeting clashing with two other Council events.

2. Notes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, and PB congratulated BN for their prompt circulation.

3. Matters Arising

• Hanbury's Premises

P. O'H reported back on the latest situation.

The owners were not allowing the use of the buildings by the restaurant/pub chain (Barracuda) as in their opinion

1) This A3 use is contrary to UDP policy.

2) This use would ultimately detract from the investment value of the whole block.

(A view confirmed by Patrick).

3) They are convinced that a retailer will come forward. (There are a lot of enquiries but all to date have not been progressed).

The possibility of letting the smaller unit (No 2) in isolation had been considered and a 'fast food takeaway' were interested. The feeling at the Partnership was that this was also contrary to UDP policy and was also the wrong type of use and could cause more obvious problems. The possibility of sub dividing the larger unit (No1) was discussed as another means of attracting suitable retailers.

The Coop estates have undertaken to improve the appearance of the building and to date have boarded up the ground floor windows and painted them grey. They

Action

<p>to date have boarded up the ground floor windows and painted them grey. They intend to board the upper level too and then paint all the boards black. Some concern that this creates a blank canvas for graffiti, fly posting etc, and so would need a to be closely monitored.</p> <p>The Coop have also confirmed that they are to completely relinquish their involvement at the end of the current leases (No 1 in 2007 and No 2 in 2005) and are not interested in taking any future short term lease.</p> <p>The Owners are also to undertake a comprehensive programme of refurbishment of the whole block including the upper floors.</p> <p>Although no nearer to having the premises occupied, at least the premises are being improved and the prospect of the total refurbishment is encouraging. Everyone is hopeful that at least in the long term when the leases have expired there will be a greater likelihood of retailers coming forward.</p>	<p>P O'H</p>
<p>Patrick was thanked for his continuing efforts.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas 2004 <p>PW confirmed the arrangements for the Christmas Carol Service event. Publicity has been organised in conjunction with Marple Churches Together, and a flier is being distributed throughout Marple. The attractions are to be held, on Saturday 11th December, around the large Christmas tree located at the junction of Market Street and Derby Way.</p>	<p>PW</p>
<p>The 'star' lights on the street lights together with the festoon and pea lights have all been erected and illuminated. In addition it is still intended to provide 3 small Christmas trees, one located at each end of Market Street and Derby Way. BN has confirmed that these will be in place by Saturday. The pea lights, formally on the trees in Derby Way, are to be used on the 3 small trees if possible.</p>	<p>BN</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter <p>DH advised the missing bin from Market Street is now in place. However, the situation around the Hollins is still causing much consternation. CB as part of his duties is collecting several bags of litter from the main 'hot spots' including the car parks. The need for additional bins, not only on the Hollins but also adjacent to the main bus stops, was identified. Greggs have provided their own small bin adjacent to the shop door. The Council is initiating a major campaign 'Drop trash - lose cash', with fines imposed on those dropping litter. The Rangers are to be given training in enforcement.</p>	<p>CB/NH</p>
<p>DH explained his strategy to make stronger and more public stance by declaring specific areas as a special 'Litter free Zone' and to concentrate all publicity, patrols and enforcement within these areas to make a big impact on the problem.</p>	<p>DH</p>
<p>BN is to contact the appropriate Council officers to promote this, and to ensure a co-ordinated approach with the Councils own proposals, with Marple being a pilot scheme.</p>	<p>BN</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti. PC Francis reports that 'NAK' has been found, apprehended, cautioned and is now understood to have left the area completely. <p>4. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility in Marple The consultation period has ended and over 100 responses to the questionnaire have been received. The responses are now being analysed and assessed with a report being taken to the Marple Area Committee in the new year, and will be presented to a future partnership meeting. The work is now expected to begin early in the new financial year. • Police Update John Francis (although unable to attend the meeting) reported that Marple remained stable with reported incidents remaining low. The Partnership commented on the apparent low visibility of the Community Support officers, and DH advised that 1 officer had just left and the second post was vacant. It is hoped replacements will be soon found. JS noted that a meeting was to be held with GM Police at the Safer Stockport Partnership meeting in the Senior Citizens Hall on Tuesday 14th December at 7:30 and he would ensure the matter was raised • Ranger Service Carl Buckley introduced Nigel Hyde, as the new Ranger for Marple, although currently being trained in Bramhall he is to move to Marple on the 17th January. <p>Litter remains the main issue that the CB has to deal with. It was agreed that education within schools was needed and more specifically an approach to Ridge College was needed to raise awareness and change attitudes to dropping litter. (Enforcement relates to item earlier in the meeting).</p> <p>5. Other Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marple Swimming Club RH and NA gave a brief history of the Swimming Club. The building was built in 1931 and the club itself formed in 1932, and consequently is thought to be the oldest baths and oldest established club in Stockport (and probably the smallest pool in Stockport). The baths were built by a local firm (Swindells) who are still in existence and built with local assistance (McNair Trust). <p>The intention is to celebrate the 75th anniversary in 2007 with a number of events. Initially the desire is to gain as much historical information as possible, including any memories, photos, awards and other such memorabilia. NA has produced a poster asking for any such information and is to be widely distributed. Fund raising events are being considered in order to finance the 75th anniversary celebrations. David Hoyle thank both for attending the meeting and confirmed that the Partnership would be very keen not only to assist with the 75th anniversary</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>ALL</p>
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<p>celebrations but also to include the club in future promotional activities of Marple.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Review Stockport Council is undertaking an Improvement Review of Partnerships and a 'Visioning Workshop' was held on 6th December at Stockport County. The review enables the organisation, employees and stakeholders the opportunity to investigate and monitor how well service delivery is performing against objectives. The workshop provided the opportunity for partners to share their views with the Council on what is currently working well, what not so well, what is adding value to the quality of life of the citizens and what is not contributing to this. DH, PB and BN attended to represent the Marple Partnership and were able to promote the success of projects achieved through the Marple Partnership. The way forward DH suggested that consideration should be given to the future objectives of the Partnership and that he regarded tourism and marketing as the main priorities. It was agreed that now was the appropriate time to review the Marple Action Plan. <p>6. Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marple Memorial Park BN reported that the Park had achieved a Green Flag Award and a formal, well attended, 'flag raising' ceremony had taken place on Thursday 2nd December. A copy of the certificate is displayed in the Friends of Memorial Park notice board. Helen Winterson's success Congratulations to Judy, David and all the staff for winning the prestigious award 'Independent Womenswear Retailer of the Year' at a glittering ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London, beating competition from such places as Edinburgh, Harrogate and Windsor. <p>Date of Next Meetings Monday 14th February 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library. Monday 18th April 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.</p>	ALL
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