

- **Marple Locks Bi-centenary Celebrations**

The event was a great success despite the heavy showers/ strong wind and occasional sunshine.

The Marple Locks Heritage Society are now looking positively at continuing activities in the future, and are to hold public meeting in the Autumn to progress ideas. Initial thoughts are to hold a Locks festival on a Sunday (possibly on the day after the Carnival) to enable businesses to be more involved.

4. Presentation

- **Accessibility in Marple**

Sarah Farmer (Faber Maunsell Consultant Engineers) presented the drawing of the draft proposals for the Chadwick Street Car Park. The plan is a modification from the scheme considered last year. It is now the intention to undertake a formal public consultation in September following approval by area committee. Sarah outlined the proposal for the rearrangement of the car park, with specific mention of separating the car park entrance from the access to the Post Office Depot. The intention is to provide vehicular access to the car park from Stockport Road along Trinity Street (one way) and exit via the service road (one way) onto Church Lane. Access into the car park will be also be possible from Church Lane via Chadwick Street, but the exit onto Chadwick Street will be closed.

The bus stops along Stockport Road are to be improved to provide level access onto the buses. The bus stop at The Hollins is to be realigned in order to provide the proposed turning lane into the car park.

Measures are also to be taken to improve and strengthen the pedestrian link between Market Street and the canal.

5. Project Updates

- **Market Street / Derby Way**

Market Street complete apart from minor 'finishing off' works. The Derby Street car park is reported 90% complete, just awaiting the height barrier, pay and display machine, and white lining.

Paul Whatmough reported that the Business Forum wished to thank the contractors, Council officers and Councillors for all their efforts. The scheme has been well received and been achieved with disruption kept to a minimum and with the interests of the businesses remaining uppermost.

A formal letter of thanks to be sent.

- **Police Update**

John Francis reported that Marple remained stable with reported incidents remaining low. A recent successful initiative has been to remove drinking of alcohol on the streets (specifically Stockport Road). Groups keep congregating within the park but this is easier to control and causes less of a nuisance. The lighting improvement scheme through the park has been agreed and is to be implemented.

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<p>• Ranger Service</p> <p>Brian Lomax is now operating 5 days a week between 9:00am and 5:00 pm. and is based in the library. He reports that 75% of problem/issues reported were acted upon. Graffiti has been a growing problem but prompt action from the graffiti removal team is keeping the impact to a minimum. Brian has made contact with a number of businesses whilst on his patrols. His duties include litter picking and he has already identified a number of areas that require constant attention. Discussion followed on the scope of the duties; these are to be clarified at the next meeting.</p> <p>6. Any Other Business</p> <p>Christmas initiatives are being co ordinated by the Business Forum. It was agreed that this year the 'switch on' event should be co-ordinated with the main Christmas tree switch on organised by the Churches Together. The lights on the street lighting columns, festoons and pea lights will be utilised again this year.</p> <p>The Banners along Stockport Road were generally agreed to be losing their colour and impact. It was agreed to take them down.</p> <p>Copies of the new shopping guide 'A taste of Stockport' are now available in libraries and information offices and can also be distributed from shops and businesses. BN has a supply, so if you want some just ask.</p> <p>The Red Cross are holding a First Aid Course comprising 7 sessions (7:30 and 9:30) between 8th September and 27th October.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 18th October 2004, 6:00pm Marple Library.</p>	<p>BL/KB</p> <p>Business Forum</p> <p>BN</p> <p>BN</p>
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