

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18th April 2005
AT 6.00PM, MARPLE LIBRARY

Present:

Chair: David Hoyle (Business Forum),
Brian Nash (District Centres Regeneration), Councillor Shan Alexander, Jim Scotte (Marple Community Council), Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Mike Spreckley (Business Forum), Mick McPhee (Business Forum), Faith Yeaman (Marple Civic Society), Peter Clarke (Marple Web Site), PC. John Francis, Paul Whatmough (Business Forum), Michael Whatmough (Business Forum), Greg Jackson (Business Forum), Di Jackson (Business Forum), Kay Gould - Martin (Business Forum), Patrick O'Herilhy (Business Forum), Helen McLardie (Stockport Youth Offending Team), Kay Blair (Stockport Youth Offending Team), David Burrows (Stockport Parks and Recreation), Jackie Hay (Marple Local Action Team).

Inspector Suzanne Keyworth (GM Police)
Bob Ashley (Stockport Council)

Apologies:

Nigel Hyde (Stockport Rangers), Philip Gould -Martin (Business Forum), Alan Kennington (Business Forum), Alan Dewsnap (Co-op), Alan Cleasby (GM Fire Brigade).

1. Introductions

DH made the appropriate introductions, in particular welcoming Inspector Suzanne Keyworth (GM Police) and Bob Ashley (Stockport Council).
Apologies for absence were received.

2. Notes of last meeting

The minutes were then accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

• Car Parking Enforcement

A fruitful and beneficial meeting was held between BN PW and Stephen Thompson (Car Park Manager) and the situation with regard loading and unloading was amicably clarified. It was agreed to monitor the new system and ST would attend a future Partnership meeting as required.

4. Police, CCTV and other Crime issues

The main agenda item was an open forum to discuss issues relating to the situation in Marple and a full and beneficial discussion took place. The following is a summary of the issues.

Inspector Keyworth outlined the background to and the current arrangements for Policing in Stockport.

Stockport previously 2 areas, is now under one operational Commander (Chief Inspector Neil Wain) and is sub divided into 4 areas, each with an Inspector responsible for the management of resources for that area. The boundaries of the areas now follow Ward boundaries, a change that assists in correlating statistics together with other services and agencies. Inspector Keyworth is responsible for the East area including Bredbury, Hazel Grove, Offerton, Werneth and Marple and has the flexibility to locate officers to any area as required. Statistics are collected and reports produced every 2 weeks in order to allocate resources to the appropriate areas. In addition daily reports are used to validate where resources are placed. A meeting is held every 6 months, with all the relevant agencies, to review the strategic situation.

Marple currently has 5 Police Officers in the response unit and 3 Community Beat Officers. These are supplemented by the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), currently 3 in post 1 in training, 1 to be transferred from another area, and 1 post vacant.

The flexibility of allocation of officers means there are 17 Police officers available throughout the east area.

999 calls are graded and response times are set at

- 1- emergency requiring immediate response
- 2- response with in 1 hour
- 3- response within 4hours

The Police receive a lot of 'inappropriate' calls to the 999 number.

Currently recorded crimes are down in Stockport overall and specifically in Marple.

Period Jan 04 to 18 April 04 –1276 reported crimes in Marple.

Period Jan 05 to 18 April 05 – 988 reported crimes in Marple.

Factors contributing to this

- Improved officer skills
- Officers in the right place at the right time
- CCTV provision

Discussion on CCTV, initial perception is that CCTV is ineffective, does not help to 'catch people in the act', often unhelpful after the event. This was proved to be unfounded and that CCTV is not only a deterrent but is effective in detecting and providing information on incidents.

The main problem appeared to be in communication between the public, the control centre and the Police.

The Public can call direct to the control room using 0161 718 3117.

The Police can be called through 999 or by the general number 0161 872 5050 (delays have been experienced in getting through to this number and being put through to the local police station).

It was pointed out that there was a growing trend of break in and theft from Schools. Schools have become an obvious target with the amount of computer equipment now common place. Regular incidents often lead to the incident not being reported to the Police. The damage is repaired and new equipment ordered. However it was stressed that all incidents should be reported to the Police as

<p>resources are allocated to areas based on recorded crime statistics.</p> <p>Discussion around the situation in the Memorial Park. Generally no serious vandalism problems were being experienced, mainly due to the presence of Council staff and regular visits by the Police especially on evenings over weekends. It was expected that the newly installed lighting through the park would also increase safety and help to reduce anti social behaviour. The Park tended to be the place for groups to gather, and the feeling was that this is preferable to groups gathering on the streets where the potential for damage to property and nuisance to the public is greater.</p> <p>The greatest number of recorded incident in Marple are youths causing nuisance and anti social behaviour, and are usually aged 13 to 15 but can also be 17 to 20. The main problem is the drink and drugs culture for young people that is being experienced throughout Stockport. A number of agencies are involved in a variety of projects and schemes including the Police, the Council, Marple Local Action Team, Youth Offending Team and local church groups.</p> <p>Through these agencies and through contact with youths the main reason and cause for such behaviour is boredom, nothing to do, need somewhere to meet, and somewhere to relax. The main obstacle to resolving these issues is the difficulty in finding suitable premises.</p> <p>Volunteers from 4 local churches are providing one recent initiative. A bus has been purchased and is used to visit Memorial Park on two evenings a week to engage the youths and to date has been very successful.</p> <p>The general conclusion reached was that education was the way to deal with growing problems, and initiatives are being undertaken to visit schools and to educate children not only to the implications of their actions but also to the potential dangers of smoking, drinking and drug taking.</p> <p>Similarly the meeting agreed that there was a need to engage the youths within the decision making process either through informal meeting or through attendance at the Partnership meetings. This has proved successful in the Bredbury and Romiley Partnership where a number of youths are fully integrated into the activity of the meeting.</p> <p>To give a sense of ownership and involvement is seen as the way to reduce crime and anti social activity in Marple.</p> <p>5. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ranger Service <p>Nigel Hyde was unable to attend, but had forwarded his report. In consultation with Streetscene, Nigel has agreed a rota for 'litter picking' and to date is working well. The only area of concern is the Hollins, not from litter on the pavement but from the fact that by mid afternoon the 3 bins are overflowing. BN to investigate new larger replacement bins similar to those on Market Street.</p>	<p>BN</p>
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A number of drug paraphernalia items have been found, however no syringes.

A Phone box was vandalised in February, Nigel reported it and it was duly repaired later the same day.

Nigel continues to visit traders regularly and has received number of complements from members of the public.

DH commended the work Nigel was doing and acknowledged the difference he was making to the appearance of Marple.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th June 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.

Date of Future Meetings

Monday 15th August 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.

Monday 24th October 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.

Monday 5th December 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.

