

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27th June 2005
AT 6.00PM, MARPLE LIBRARY

Present:

Chair: David Hoyle (Business Forum),
Brian Nash (District Centres Regeneration), Emily Brough (Transportation and Policy), Councillor
Chris Baker, Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), Mike Spreckley (Business Forum),
Mick McPhee (Business Forum), Faith Yeaman (Marple Civic Society), Paul Whatmough
(Business Forum), Michael Whatmough (Business Forum), Kay Gould -Martin (Business Forum),
Alison Allcard (Marple Locks Heritage Society), Malcolm Allcard (Marple Locks Heritage
Society), Peter Dewsnip (Co-op), Alan Cleasby (GM Fire Brigade).

Apologies:

Councillor Shan Alexander, Jim Scotte (Marple Community Council), Peter Clarke (Marple Web
Site), PC. John Francis, Greg Jackson (Business Forum), Di Jackson (Business Forum), Patrick
O’Herilhy (Business Forum), Nigel Hyde (Stockport Rangers), Philip Gould -Martin (Business
Forum), Alan Kennington (Business Forum), Sandra Dunn (Ridge College).

1. Introductions

DH made the appropriate introductions, in particular welcoming Peter Dewsnip
(Co-op) and Alan Cleasby (GM Fire Brigade).

Apologies for absence were received.

2. Notes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

• **Police, CCTV and other Crime issues**

DH requested a list of appropriate contact phone numbers be listed:

Police - Emergency Calls	999
- general number	0161 872 5050
- Stockport East	0161 856 9973

CCTV control room	0161 718 3117.
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4. Presentation - Draft Footway Policy – Emily Brough.

A copy of the draft policy was distributed and members of the Partnership were
asked to note the proposals and direct any comments they might have back to EB
at Environment and Economic Development Services, Hygarth House, 103
Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK1 3TT. The presentation outlined the aims &

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<p>objectives and targets of the proposed policy.</p> <p>The reasons for the policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the conditions of the footways and the suitability of the surfacing. • Improve the quality of footways in high usage areas. • Improve the pedestrian environment across the Borough. • Reduce the number of Trip claims made against the council. <p>The main objectives of the policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footways should encourage people to walk by providing a safe, pleasant environment. • Footways should be safe, uncluttered and appropriately lit. • Footways should be well maintained with no tripping hazards. • Surfaces should be of appropriate quality relevant to the surrounding area. • Footways should be kept clean and gritted as appropriate. • Footways should be kept free from obstruction <p>A general discussion continued with the following points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft report will be reported back to the Council (including Area Committees) in September. • A budget of £30m over 10 years has been allocated. Currently claims against the Council are £2m -£3 m per year. The expectation being that the scheme will be self-financing. • Problems with footways need to be identified, reported and work prioritised. • Parking of vehicles on pavements causes damage and obstruction. It has become common practice especially in residential areas for cars to be parked on the pavement so not to cause obstruction to other vehicles using the road. Such obstruction is a matter for the Police to enforce and is subject to resources and priorities. Stockport Council has now taken over responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions. The Council's parking attendants now enforce all yellow line and other waiting restrictions throughout the Borough • Obstruction of the footway with 'A boards' is an issue that is cause for concern that requires clarification and should be included in the policy. The opportunity for on-street cafes in appropriate pedestrian areas are welcomed but the expansion of shop displays is less appropriate. The Council has recently produced an Outdoor Café Design Guide (for the Town Centre) to give guidance as to what is acceptable. • Litter is a constant problem, although the work of the ranger has greatly improved the situation within the main shopping areas, however other areas, including the rear of premises and side streets/alleyways require more attention • Weeds growing on the footways, although treated by the Council, can detract from the appearance of the area, and may require more frequent treatment. Confusion over the cleaning schedule Councillor Baker to clarify. <p>5. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranger Service Nigel Hyde was unable to attend, and no report received. 	<p>BN</p> <p>Cllr CB</p>
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DH again commended the work Nigel was doing and acknowledged the difference he was continuing to make to the appearance of Marple.

MS commented that the litter bins in the Park were the small type with no lid and consequently litter was often strewn around. DH responded that the Friends group had recently made a number of improvements in the Park including the provision of additional large bins with lids, and the replacement of existing bins could only be achieved as funds became available.

- **Police**

PC John Francis was unable to attend but had indicated that 'everything was in order' as nothing out of the ordinary for this time of year was occurring.

Peter Dewsnip commented that they were experiencing problems with youths gathering around the shop late in the evenings. Company policy dictates the late night opening hours and consequently staff are experiencing problems on leaving the store. The store recently had a small fire started in the rear storage area of the premises and was currently being investigated by the Police.

6. Information Updates

- **Marple Carnival**

Another successful event held in glorious weather on 18th June with large crowds. AC explained the traditional involvement of the Fire Service, who give demonstrations on chip pan fires and car cutting (to release persons trapped after an accident).

- **Marple Business Forum**

PW gave an update on the activities of the forum focussing on membership recruitment (including the benefits available to members), marketing (web site production and the forthcoming Marple Guide).

- **Marple Locks Heritage Society**

MA and AA gave a review of the events included in the Locks Festival to be held on Sunday 10th July between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

- **Friends of Memorial Park.**

DH noted the new children's play area was now under construction and the Park had recently undergone the annual inspection for the Green Flag Award.

7. Any Other Business

- Councillor Shan Alexander, as Mayor of Stockport, and has identified the 2 local charities which she wishes to support in her year of office – Alziemers Society and supply of a Heart Monitor for Stepping Hill Hospital. DH is very keen for the Partnership to support these charities and will welcome any ideas towards this.

- BN explained that the proposed Accessibility improvement scheme (funded by SEMMMMS) for the Chadwick Street car park is now unlikely to commence this year due to funding problems. However DH and BN have looked at what could be done to improve the appearance of the car park in the short term. 2 changes are proposed.

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<p>1. To relocate the Recycling facilities from the main car park area near the entrance to a location near the exit, as this would free up 6 spaces in the most popular area of the car park.</p> <p>2. To reduce the height of the hedge along the edge of the car park alongside the service road. This would make the car park more open and visible and so give a better sense of safety and security.</p> <p>These changes have been agreed, in principle, with the car park manager and officers from the recycling service.</p> <p>The suggestion was made that the upper area of the car park, currently under used, could be used for long stay parking only with either a special rate or permit. This would encourage all day parking (shop and office workers) who may be causing problems elsewhere. A meeting with Stephen Thompson is to be arranged in order to progress this matter.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 15th August 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.</p> <p>Dates of Future Meetings Monday 24th October 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library. Monday 5th December 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.</p>	<p>BN</p>
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