

MARPLE DISTRICT CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 January 2003 AT 6.00PM AT
RIDGE DANYERS COLLEGE**

Present: Peter Bardsley, Hannah Bowker, Cllr Chris Elwood, PC John Francis, Wendy Griffiths (Marple Libraries), David Hoyle, Paula Kelly, Mick McPhee, Janet Milligan, Paul Whatmough, Rob Wilson

Guests: Sue Stevenson (SMBC Transportation & Health), Sarah Farmer (Faber Maunsell), Sam Chapman (Youth Offending Team)

Apologies: Mark Whittaker, Peter Clarke, Robert Hughes

1. Notes of last meeting.

Accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

ACTION

2. Matters arising.

Christmas Lights

MM read out letters that appeared in the press relating to the Christmas lights.

British Waterways / Tourism Links

PK fed back to the group about her meeting with the tourism officer at SMBC.

3. LTP / SEMMMS Update

SS gave an update on the progress of the SEMMMS projects in the area. She outlined the 2 types of project SEMMMS is funding.

- i. By-pass schemes
- ii. District Centres schemes

Following discussions covered:

- Quality Bus Corridors – of which Marple is one of 8 in Stockport.
- SEMMMS spend – In the first year there was £3million for Stockport. £1.25 million was put into District Centre regeneration. Half of this was then allocated for maintenance and street lighting in the district centres. This year would be funding some quick hits in some areas and some 'joined up approach' which included Marple.
- Accessibility issues – particularly in the Memorial Park, which has been identified as having a need.
- The plans for the Memorial Park were then discussed.

SF from Faber Maunsell (consultants employed by SMBC). Talked to the group about plans for improving the accessibility and movement around the centre including bus stops, crossing points, widened footpaths, traffic lights (and new technology helping to sort out traffic jams locally). SF also explained that as part of the studies they would be looking at all types of access to the car parks (vehicles, pedestrians, security etc).

MM and RW sought clarification of the boundaries of the study.

SF tabled a conceptual plan and referred to the blue area (around the Hollins). The area around the bus stop opposite the Hollins on the

same side as Mackays was mentioned as a particular problem area for the movement of pedestrians.

Councillor Elwood expressed concern over whether money was needed to spent in this area and whether it would be better spent elsewhere.

Different accessibility options were then discussed.

DH explained the Partnership's aspirations for Market Street/Derby Way. SS explained that proposals for this area would need to be incorporated into the thinking for the whole area and be affordable. DH whilst appreciating this hoped that the overall design would be OK and not abandoned or seriously changed. He also asked if Marple was getting 'anything concrete' - SS replied that new street lighting and the Memorial Park scheme were in the Programme.

There followed considerable discussion about car parking access arrangements. RW led a discussion about the car park and accessibility around the Methodist Church and theatre. SF acknowledged the comments made. DH referred to the pedestrian/car conflict associated with the Hibbert Lane car park.

PW questioned the impact of extra flow on Stockport Road, which could result from new arrangements.

SF explained that car park usage surveys would be carried out. PW raised issues of Memorial Park planting (PK had spoken to Craig Horabin); 'downgrading' of the by-pass schemes and questioned the cost of all the historical data collecting.

SS explained this cost was not significant and the Council's commitment is to the overall transportation strategy package – the Council is not able to choose just the elements it wants.

Any other issues / comments to be given to HB or PK who will then pass them onto SF.

DH asked about timescales for these studies. SF believes they should be able to come back to the Partnership in two months time with some conclusions.

Discussion followed on the Memorial Park scheme and in particularly lighting through the Memorial Park from the train station. The specific problem with lighting and youths in the park was discussed. This lead onto the next agenda item:

A copy of the Memorial Park Entrance Scheme was displayed at the Partnership meeting and is also currently on display for public consultation in Marple Library. It also available to view online at www.stockport.gov.uk/districtcentres.

4. Crime

Sam Chapman from Stockport Youth Offending Team introduced himself to the group and discussed the different issues affecting youths in the area.

The cost of lighting columns was discussed.

SS told the group that the cost of a lighting column was approximately

All to
HB / PK

SS/SF to
note
comments
raised.

£1,000.

MM stressed that the lighting in the park was an issue now and that if it is left any longer, then the nights would become lighter and the problem would be forgotten about until next winter.

SS said that she would look at other schemes to see if there's going to be any underspend that could be put into lights in the Memorial Park lighting otherwise it would have to go in next year's Programme.

SS

SC went on to talk about the Youth Offending Team. Because there used to be many different groups working in this area, communication between the groups became a real problem. YOT was born out of this need to merge all the groups and tackle the problem of communication.

Discussion followed on how useful YOT has been since its establishment.

Discussion followed on what the youths felt about the park and what issues they had themselves about the area.

SC welcomes comments and information from the partnership and will continue to be keep in touch with us through meetings and correspondence.

ALL

PC John Francis gave the crime figures for January, which were similar to December and were lower than figures for November.

JF also reported that they would shortly be getting another uniformed member of staff on board although they were not a police officer, it would help with patrols in Marple.

5. Websites

HB fed back to the group about the progress of both the Partnership website and the District Centre webpages on the council site.

Unfortunately, although the Marple Website team were happy to have been invited to join the partnership they were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Progress is going well and the site is looking really good. Mark or Peter from the Marple Website who are putting the Partnership site together will try and attend a meeting soon to demonstrate the work they have done.

Good progress has also been made on the Marple pages of the Council's District Centres site. HB handed out samples of the pages and response was very positive.

6. Future Projects

HB handed round a list of possible projects for Marple next year, which was taken from a range of previous discussions and the 'brain-storming' session at the last meeting.

As well as continued improvement of Christmas Lights and Derby Way/Market Street improvements the following ideas were especially well received:

- Promotional Leaflet
- Summer Event
- Fun Run

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| <p><u>Derby Way</u> PK reported on progress regarding Derby Way. Additional elements now incorporated into scheme had raised cost estimates, which had implications for the Market Street element of the scheme for which funding had not yet been identified. In addition, the scheme needs to be considered in relation to the overall study of accessibility/movement referred to above. PK explained that the impact of this had been a delay to the start of the scheme but was still optimistic about the scheme going ahead.</p> | |
| <p>Cllr.E and DH expressed their extreme disappointment and this was very much echoed by the rest of the Partnership.</p> | |
| <p>7. AOB MM reported that the transformers from the Christmas pea lights needed taking down. PK explained that SDS were aware of this and were currently sorting it out. HB to follow up.</p> | <p>HB</p> |
| <p>HB asked the group if they would be prepared to write a letter of support for the Iron Bridge project for the Marple Website group. All agreed. HB to draft letter for DH to sign.</p> | <p>HB</p> |
| <p>Possible dates for next years meetings were discussed. HB to circulate a list of the dates with meeting notes.</p> | <p>HB</p> |
| <p>8. Date of Next Meeting Monday 17th March 2003 at Ridge Danyers Conference Room</p> | <p>HB</p> |

BF = Business Forum