



MARPLE *in* ACTION UPDATE

September 2011



15 August 2011 - FROM A STUDENT AT MARPLE COLLEGE

Comments: I personally believe that a large supermarket would severely damage the economy of the town. It would draw people away from well established shops, thereby breaking down the centre of the community. I am a student at the college, and would not feel comfortable carrying out my studies opposite a large and busy shop. Aside from anything else, the large influx of traffic combined with the movement of hundreds of students will not mix well. The governing body needs to ask itself which it puts first, it's students or large corporations.

14 August 2011 - STATEMENT FROM GOVERNORS

Lawrence Grant, Chair of the Governors admits that they are failing to manage the finances of the College and require a quick fix in the form of a £12 million sale of the Hibbert Lane site. He claims that "who will buy the site and what use the planners will ultimately approve is up to them" but he knows that the planners will refuse an application for retail development. The planners have no choice as the land is outside the area zoned for retail. Will he undertake to withdraw the whole scheme if the Planning Committee turns his application down? Perhaps he will let us know.



13 August 2011 - MARPLE SPEAKS!

Another 1,000 plus people in Market Street today signed our petition to say NO TO A SUPERMARKET ON HIBBERT LANE.

12 August 2011 - DAN BANK BANNER

Marple in Action welcomes visitors to Marple but NOT the planned supermarket development on Hibbert Lane as can be seen by the banner now hung at the gateway to Marple on Dan Bank.

10 August 2011 - ANDREW STUNELL MP JOINS US!

Hazel Grove MP Andrew Stunell met a delegation from Marple in Action yesterday and pledged his support to our campaign to stop the supermarket plans on Hibbert Lane from ruining our community. He feels strongly that "the College must think again".

09 August 2011 - ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Members met at 6pm outside the College to prayer-walk the site.

08 August 2011 - 500TH SIGNATURE ON-LINE!

Well done KEV FROGGATT, five hundredth signature on the on-line petition.

07 August 2011 - 1,000 SIGNATURES ON

SATURDAY! MARPLE SAYS "NO" - in a few hours over a thousand people signed a petition in Market Street.

06 August 2011 - DONATIONS MADE TO MARPLE IN ACTION!

DONATIONS to Marple in Action of £100 each have been received from Mick McPhee's newsagents and Viv and Dave at the Rolling Pin Bakery, both on Stockport Road. Viv and Dave's came with a note "please let residents know that we small businesses are behind them". We have also had great help from HB Printing, Main Marketing, the Marple Review, The Marple Website, Stationery Supplies, Helen Wintersons and the list is growing daily thank you!

04 August 2011 - COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROWS!

MARPLE BUSINESS FORUM last night pledged their full support behind the Marple in Action campaign to stop the development of a huge out of town centre supermarket on Hibbert Lane. At a packed meeting the members, who are mostly residents as well as business owners, strongly felt that the development would ruin Marple and will campaign to fight it.

MARPLE CIVIC SOCIETY have declared that they "fully supports MIA in opposing a supermarket on the CAMSFC Hibbert Lane Site".

31 July 2011 - GOVERNOR RESIGNS OVER COLLEGE PLANS

CAMSFC Governor Stephen Downs has resigned from his role as governor at the college as he disagrees 100% with the college's plans to sell the Hibbert Lane Campus site to a supermarket chain.

27 July 2011 - MARPLE AREA COMMITTEE

Representatives of Marple in Action today attended a meeting with Ms Cassidy (Principal) and Mr Hubert (Finance) of CAMSFC. We were told that they have considered many options for the sale of the Hibbert Lane site and that YES they were now only considering the supermarket option. They would not disclose which supermarkets have made bids but confirm there are two in the running and they have a "favourite". The sale will be subject to planning permission for both the supermarket on Hibbert Lane AND the redevelopment and extension of the Buxton Lane campus but they expect to sign a contract mid-October after their next Governors Board Meeting.

Apparently they have taken advice on the likelihood of obtaining planning permission, bearing in mind the site is currently zoned for residential use, and have been advised by their legal team that this change of use would not be in breach of planning law.

Following on from this, we attended the Marple Area Committee meeting and were amazed by the turnout from local residents. Approximately 300 people forced the Councillors to abandon the Senior Citizens Hall and hold their first ever open air meeting in Memorial Park.!

Thanks to those who gave up their valuable time to voice their concerns over this most important and now most urgent of local issues. You, the people of Marple, have delivered a clear message to the Councillors that MARPLE is indeed IN ACTION!!!



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF MARPLE IN ACTION :

- To raise public awareness of the issues
- To ensure that the community is represented at all levels of negotiations via MIA and is consulted with throughout
- To persuade the Principal and Governors to reconsider selling the land to a supermarket
- To ensure that the College has a long-term commitment to Marple
- To persuade the Principal and Governors to consult with the community on an acceptable alternative
- To show the developers that a supermarket is not welcome on Hibbert Lane site
- To persuade the Council to reject the proposal and any appeals

WHY WE ARE OBJECTING:

Marple in Action thinks that a large retail development on this site would be disastrous for Marple in many ways:

Residents - especially elderly living adjacent and close to proposed development and along the routes into Marple will be adversely affected

Quality of life and house prices in the immediate vicinity will be affected

Environment – more traffic congestion

Will need drastic changes in the road system

Is not in character of the village – lose uniqueness and distinctiveness

Runs counter to the 'Vision for Marple' already supported by SMBC

Local Economy – money spent in local shops stays in local economy longer than money spent in supermarkets

Loss of jobs and business closures - will affect the vitality and viability of the town centre

Marple in Action is a community group formed in response to the threat of a proposed supermarket opening on Hibbert Lane

Many strands of the community are represented and supportive

- Residents of all ages
- Business - retail and non-retail
- Marple Civic Society
- Marple Business Forum
- Marple Community Council
- Churches Together in Marple
- Additionally the local Conservative, Green Party, Labour and Lib Dems have all pledged support



WHAT IS HAPPENING NEXT

Marple in Action are holding a Rally in the Park at 2pm on Saturday 10 September. Please be there if you can, we need your support to show that people in Marple are not in favour of this development.

Marple Area Committee is arranging an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss this issue. We have asked that it be held as soon as possible and in Marple, not at the Town Hall as was suggested by the Councillors. We are waiting for a date and venue. We hope this is when we will get to meet the Governors and Principal and will let you all know as soon as we know.



www.marple-in-action.org.uk
Action Helpline: 07790 419494



WHY HAS THIS HAPPENED

The current situation has arisen because Cheadle & Marple Sixth Form College want to sell the Hibbert Lane Campus to a major supermarket. The Governors say that the eventual use of the site will depend on the planners. The planner say planning permission will be refused as the site is outside the area zoned for retail.

MARPLE IN ACTION SAYS

The Governors should accept that refusal now and announce that the plans are withdrawn. They should look again at alternatives uses of the site. The town of Marple, its residents and small businesses should be considered, before corporate greed.

Marple in Action is NOT against another supermarket opening in Marple, but think that it should: Be of a suitable size to serve the population of Marple. Be located in the town centre, where it would be more appropriate and benefit our local shops. We feel that there must be better uses of the land that would benefit the whole community of Marple, such as affordable housing for young families or retired people, a community centre and/or health centre, more facilities for the youth of Marple.



An ariel view of the college which shows it's possible to fit 4 stores the same size as the CO-OP onto the site.

MARPLE IN ACTION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO:

Persuade the College that there are alternative uses for the site.

Stop a supermarket buying the land and sitting on it until they gain planning permission by showing that public opinion is against it NOW before it gets to planning application stage.

Keep our local shops because if we lose them we lose part of our community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We would urge you to sign up to the petition and write to the College, MP, Councillors and Stockport Planning Department.

Attend public meetings and join in our protest.

Make a donation to the Marple in Action Fighting Fund. Marple Civic Society, Registered Charity 236593, are acting as banker for donations towards the Marple in Action Campaign.

- Offer specialist help - We will welcome help and support from anyone who has an interest in this but if you have special skills that could be of use to our campaign, like a solicitor or planning expert, then please get in touch via the website or helpline.
- Display our poster in your window or garden - Wherever you live but especially if you live near to the college. Download a poster yourself from the website or call our hotline. Please leave your name, telephone number and a brief message and someone will contact you back and will keep you informed.
- Write letters and emails voicing your objections in your own words - Personal letters explaining how a giant supermarket on Hibbert Lane would effect you and your own personal views about this matter will have far more impact than standard letters. However, we will provide some guidance if required

• Write to the College Principal and the Board of Governors - We do not have private addresses for for the Governors so write to each c/o the college marking the envelopes "Private and Confidential":

CHEADLE & MARPLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Marple Campus, Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport SK6 7PA

Current Governors

(as published on the CAMSFC web site)

Lawrie Grant	Chair	l.grant@mmu.ac.uk
Trevor Jones	Deputy Chair	
Christina Cassidy	Principal	
Adrian Clare	Governor	a.clare@mmu.ac.uk
Ian Doughty	Parent	
Stephen Downs	(Resigned in protest at College's plans)	
Sandra Dunn	Staff	
Anand Dutta	Governor	
Mike Gledhill	Governor	
Margaret McLay	(Resigned)	
Phil Masey	Student	
Karen Moore	Governor	k.moore@mmu.ac.uk
Ian Powell	Staff	
Richard Young	Governor	

Write to our local MP:

Andrew Stunell MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, enquiries@andrewstunell.org.uk or <http://andrewstunell.org.uk/en/contact/constituency-office>

Write to our local Councillors:

Councillor Shan Alexander

1 Crown Street, Hawk Green, Marple, SK6 7JH
Phone: 0161 427 4419
Fax: 0161 449 8095
Email: cllr.shan.alexander@stockport.gov.uk

Councillor Andrew Bispham

5 The Close, Marple Bridge, Stockport, SK6 5HB
Phone: 0161-427-1786
Email: cllr.andrew.bispham@stockport.gov.uk

Councillor Martin Candler

38 Turncliff Crescent, Marple, Stockport, SK6 6JP
Phone: 0161-427-6824
Email: cllr.martin.candler@stockport.gov.uk

Councillor Susan Ingham (Chair)

3 Badger Close, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7LG
Phone: 0161 449 9484
Email: cllr.susan.ingham@stockport.gov.uk

Councillor Craig Wright (Vice-Chair)

10 Manor Road. Marple, Stockport, SK6 6PW
Phone: 0161 449 7354
Mobile: 07790 539826
Email: cllr.craig.wright@stockport.gov.uk

Councillor Kevin Dowling

99 Station Road, Marple, Stockport, SK6 6PA
Phone: 07876-568902
Email: cllr.kevin.dowling@stockport.gov.uk



WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

27 August 2011 - LABOUR SUPPORT MARPLE IN ACTION

Marple Labour Party last night voted unanimously to oppose the proposed Hibbert Lane supermarket development.

24 August 2011 - MARPLE IN ACTION AT THE MARPLE AREA COMMITTEE

Marple in Action was invited by Cllr Ingham to present its aims and objectives to the Councillors during the Open Forum session at the Marple Area Committee.

At the conclusion Cllr Ingham, Chair of the Area Committee said an Extraordinary Meeting of the Area Committee would be arranged. Marple in Action considers this to be a major breakthrough, - but we need to keep the pressure on. The college must be persuaded to look at other options and consider the Marple community in their plans. Please watch for the date - we need a huge turnout to impress on everyone that the community of Marple does not want this supermarket development.

23 August 2011 - MISSING GOVERNOR

Margaret McLay's name has disappeared from the list of governors on the CAMSFC website. Has she resigned? MIA are trying to find out.

21 August 2011 - MARCH FOR MARPLE A HUGE SUCCESS!

THANKS TO EVERYONE who turned out for Marple. Over 1,000 people showed their determination not to accept a supermarket on Hibbert Lane. Thanks go to Police Sgt Chris and also to Jonathan Brown in the Traffic Management Dept.

THE ONLINE PETITION - gained it's 1000th signature.

20 August 2011 - MARPLE IN ACTION IS NOW BEGINNING A POSTER CAMPAIGN.

We have a large number of stakes, boards and posters and we need permission to place them in peoples' gardens. We particularly need access to gardens along the main routes into Marple and approaching the college. Would people living on Hibbert Lane, Windlehurst Road, Strines Road, Stockport Road, Station Road or Arkwright Road please get in touch with Rick, phone the hotline and provide your name, address and telephone number. Rick will call to you to arrange to install the poster.

17 August 2011 - "TESCO" VANDALS!

The saboteurs have turned their attention from away from ripping up "NO SUPERMARKET" posters to spraying graffiti on business premises in Marple. If you witnessed anything, please get in touch. We will not be intimidated.

16 August 2011 - GREENS JOIN CAMPAIGN!

Local Green Party activist Maggie Preston commented: " It's pleasing to note the strength of potential local opposition to a development which I feel would destroy the local shops and the village atmosphere which we all cherish in Marple."

MARPLE IN ACTION ON PURE RADIO

Chairman David Hoyle has done an interview with Pure Radio's Pete Liggins.