

MARPLE CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th February 2005 **AT 6.00PM, MARPLE LIBRARY**

Present:

Chair: David Hoyle (Business Forum),
Brian Nash (District Centres Regeneration), Councillor Chris Baker, Nigel Hyde (Stockport Rangers), Jim Scotte (Marple Community Council), Peter Bardsley (Marple Local History Society), 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), Kay Gould -Martin (Business Forum),

Apologies:

Di Jackson (Business Forum),

1. Introductions

DH made the appropriate introductions, in particular welcoming Nigel Hyde who is now the Ranger for Marple. Apologies for absence were received.

2. Notes of last meeting

DH made brief resume of the minutes and added a short update on the Hanbury situation. No further progress on attracting new tenants. PO'H is continuing to monitor the situation. The building frontage has now been improved with the ground floor boarded up windows painted black. There has been no appearance of any graffiti, and MW explained the potential to paint a suitable mural is being explored.

The minutes were then accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising**• Litter**

PW explained that the main areas of Marple are being well maintained, both by Streetscene and by NH, but now there is a growing problem in some of the peripheral streets, some service areas and some privately owned areas.

BN explained the Council has a schedule that ensures the priority areas are cleaned more often than the 'secondary' areas. BN will obtain the details of the schedule.

PW has highlighted a growing problem of pigeons and the nuisance they cause, and has been in contact with the Environmental Health team. The cause of the problem is two fold, litter (discarded food usually from Take Away outlets) and the misguided individuals who feed the birds. (This is happening on Market Street and at the entrance to the Memorial Park).

The question was raised as to whether action could be taken against the premises from where the litter originates. BN to investigate if this is possible.

**Business
Forum**

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<p>PW explained that the Business Forum is to promote a Tidy Town Initiative in order to combat the growing problem of litter, and the intention is to involve local schools to educate children through information and projects.</p> <p>The Council is now promoting the Shopsmart initiative in Marple. This has been successfully introduced in Edgeley and involves businesses making a commitment to responsible business practices in relation to its customers and the environment. This relates to litter (both in front and at the rear of premises), recycling initiatives, advice on healthy food options, display of under age sales/proof of age information and the sharing of information between traders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas 2004 PW reported that event on Saturday 11th December went well and the intention is to follow the same format for 2005. The festoon lights, large Christmas tree and crib, additional small trees, the 'star' lights along Stockport Road and the Carol singing all contributed to the festive appeal of Marple. BN reported that similar events occur in all the District Centres and have all been considered a great success. It was felt that for 2005 additional pea lights should be added in appropriate locations. These positions and other arrangements to be agreed well in advance of Christmas. PC raised concern over the detrimental effect the safety barriers have on the appearance of the Christmas trees. In agreeing that the fencing is needed for health and safety reasons it was suggested that some other form of fencing may be less intrusive. <p>4. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger Service Nigel Hyde began his role as Ranger for Marple on the 17th January 2005 and has soon established himself into a routine. He spends 2 to 3 hours on litter picking and targets the regular 'hot spots' on the main streets and also visits additional areas including Church Lane and the Memorial Park. In terms of litter enforcement he still has to complete the required training. Police Update John Francis reported that Marple remained stable with reported incidents remaining low. DH asked JF to clarify the situation regarding the apparent lack of Community Support officers. JF reported that 1 officer had been transferred to another area and the second post was vacant. JS noted that the meeting with GM Police on Tuesday 14th December did not take place as Inspector Keyworth was unable to attend. It was agreed to invite Inspector Keyworth to the next Partnership meeting. Accessibility Projects BN reported that the consultation on the proposals, including Chadwick Street Car Park, were still being evaluated and the proposals modified as appropriate. The final scheme would be reported both to the Area Committee and the Partnership prior to implementation. The budget allocation for 2005-6 has yet to be finalised. 	<p>Business Forum</p> <p>BN</p> <p>BN/DH</p>
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BN distributed a copy of the annual review that is to be considered by the Area committees in March. The report is an update on achievements and planned developments within the individual District and Local centres.

BN explained that following on from the above annual review it is now an appropriate time to revisit the Action Plan (approved in 2002) and to produce a delivery plan for projects considered a priority over the next few years. A draft is to be produced for the next meeting after appropriate views are received.

The society has enjoyed support from and worked closely with British Waterways. The Festival is to be held on Sunday 10th July 2005 and follow a similar format to last year's successful event. Close links with local schools are being made to educate children on the heritage, value and safe enjoyment of the Marple Locks.

PC (again) reported that the Friends had held its AGM and had enjoyed a successful year with a number of projects achieved and receiving of the prestigious Green Flag Award.

Nothing to report

PW highlighted a couple of incidents that is causing concern to a number of traders. The Service areas behind the shops on Market Street have been scrutinised by the Car Parking officers and have penalised well-established businesses that have operated amicably in the past without causing a problem. BN is to contact the Car Parking manager and attempt to clarify the situation and more importantly restore the good relations that had been established over the years between traders and the Council.

United Utilities are currently carrying out major repairs on Church Lane and the end of Market Street, BN to ensure that the paving is reinstated to the required standard. The information boards on Market Street were never replaced after the repaving scheme, BN to investigate

PC highlighted the recent problem over the empty cottage near the Iron bridge in Brabyns Park. A recent arson attack illustrates the vulnerability of the cottage, as it

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<p>had been empty for some time. Problems over vehicle access have hindered the sale of the building and so causing the building to remain empty. PC has concern that the building may suffer more vandalism and ultimately be lost completely. PC suggested the building may be 'listed' and could the Council purchase it. BN to investigate.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 18th April 2005, 6:00pm Marple Library.</p>	<p>BN</p>
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