

Cllr. Stuart Bodsworth,  
22 Moreton Avenue,  
Stockport,  
SK7 2BD

Cc Cllr. Martin Candler



Please reply to: Mark Whittaker (Treasurer), 72 Woodville Drive, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7QX

8 May 2011

Dear Cllr Bodsworth,

**Re: Potential Closure of Public Toilets in Marple Memorial Park**

On 28 April I sent you by email the first instalment of our petition against the potential closure of the public toilets in Marple Memorial Park, containing 480 signatures, along with copies of letters of support written by five local organisations, including FOMMP.

On 2 May I followed that up with an email advising you that we had set up a page on our web site about this at: [www.marplememorialpark.org.uk/park-toilets.html](http://www.marplememorialpark.org.uk/park-toilets.html)

On 7 May I sent you by email the next instalment of the petition containing a further 260 signatures and a letter of support from another local community group.

To date you have not acknowledged any of the information sent to you. This may be because you are on holiday, or it may be because your email does not work properly. As I need to be sure that you are receiving the information you are being sent about this important issue I am now sending it by recorded delivery post too.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the petition, which has currently reached a total of 920 signatures. There are also copies of my emails to you and copies of the letters of support that were attached to these. We expect to continue collecting signatures and letters for some time before submission to the Mayor of Stockport.

I can also advise you that we have now set up an on-line version of the petition, which can be found at: [www.ipetitions.com/petition/memorial-park-toilets/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/memorial-park-toilets/) and Marple Community Council have begun collecting signatures against the potential closure too.

I hope all this documentation and feedback will illustrate the level of feeling there is in our local community against the possible closure of the toilets in Marple Memorial Park and we urge you to find a way to ensure that this important facility can remain open.

Removal of the toilets within the park will raise barriers against some of its prime users at both ends of the age spectrum. The park's play area features are extensively used by parents with young children who have advised us that things become very difficult for them when the toilets are not available. The alternative options of Marple Library or Marple Co-Op are simply not practical for such users – these people are not just speculating but speaking from experience as the toilets were out of action for repairs for a period last year, when the library had to be used. The same situation is true of the Veteran Bowlers who often welcome other teams from all over the borough.

In local press publicity about the introduction of the "Community Toilet Scheme" you are quoted as saying:

*"The aim remains to provide a service that's as good – if not better....."*

*"We are hoping to work with businesses all over the borough to provide a service with better locations.....".*

It is the belief of the whole Marple Community that these aims cannot be achieved for Marple Memorial Park's toilets, and I understand that Marple's own local councillors have already advised you of this. Frankly, it should be clear to anyone that removal of the park's toilets will result in a service that is substantially worse than that which now exists.

We therefore urge you to recognise that in the case of Marple Memorial Park you cannot achieve your own stated aims and request that you stop seeking "Community Toilets" to replace those in our park and give assurances that a way will be found to keep the facilities we have now open indefinitely.

We hope you will take the local community's feelings into account when making such important decisions about our highly valued local park and we look forward to hearing from you on this matter soon please.

Mark Whittaker,  
Treasurer & Key Contact, Friends of Marple Memorial Park  
Pride in Marple Volunteer of the Year 2010