

Cllr. Martin Candler,
38 Turncliff Crescent,
Marple,
Stockport,
SK5 8LQ

Cc David Brayshay
Other local organisations



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

16 April 2011

Dear Martin,

Re: Potential Closure of Public Toilets in Marple Memorial Park

From our conversations and email exchanges on this topic I'm aware that you understand what an important facility the public toilets in Marple Memorial Park are to the community and park users, and I realise that you are endeavouring to negotiate keeping them open.

However, following discussion at the Friends of Marple Memorial Park meeting on Monday 11 April of your most recent updates on the status of these negotiations, which appear to remain inconclusive, the group agreed that we should formally write to you and David Brayshay to put on record our concerns and objections to the potential closure of the public toilet block in the park.

Memorial Park is extensively used by a wide cross-section of the Marple community covering all age groups and interests. This is true all week long but particularly on weekends and Sundays when we have families with young children using the play areas, teenagers using the skate park and older folk using the bowling green, not to mention dog walkers and others out for a simple recreational stroll. Use of the library's toilet facilities are not practical for many of these user groups and is not possible at all on a Sunday when the library is closed.

FOMMP have made significant improvements to the park since our formation in 2003, and we continue to strive in this direction. Only recently we began talks with Marple Civic Society about seeking funds to extend the skate park in one of the first projects to spring from the "Vision for Marple", a document that we have contributed a number of ideas to.

There are many initiatives bubbling away to improve Marple and bring in more visitors to the area and closure of such a fundamental facility as the park toilets would be detrimental to these common aims. We therefore urge you to investigate every opportunity to ensure that the park toilets remain open indefinitely and secure this essential facility in our park.

Mark Whittaker,
Treasurer & Key Contact, Friends of Marple Memorial Park