

More members means greater influence on important issues affecting Marple and its people. Increasing our membership and influence will enable us to effectively work for causes like Marple Wharf.

Marple Wharf

In January this year British Waterways held a public consultation showing their proposal for a housing development on Marple Wharf. See plan from January 2009 below showing a dense housing estate including the Grade II listed warehouse for conversion to two residential properties.

The Civic Society had serious concerns about the proposal and our Chairman Alan Postill wrote to British Waterways detailing our concerns and requesting that they take a collaborative community approach to find a more suitable solution for this important heritage site.

Our main concerns were that dense housing was an inappropriate use of the site, little regard for conservation and heritage issues, New Horizons given notice to leave the site and loss of boating facilities.

The Society mounted a campaign to inform the local community and other stakeholders of the proposal and our objections.

Public response mounted in support of our campaign and the level of public concern persuaded British Waterways to meet with our Chairman and two other members of the Civic Society.

After two meetings there was still little common ground so we suggested a 6 months feasibility study.

British Waterways responded positively and we are now in extended consultation with them to look at all viable options for the site.

The following progress has been made although no final decisions have been taken:

- The warehouse and adjacent plot(s) should not be developed just for houses
- Listed warehouse to be refurbished as offices for a local finance company
- The Toll cottage used for a heritage/visitors centre
- A single storey building for a nursery with a small play area outside set back from the canal
- New Horizons to have a permanent mooring on the canal arm under the warehouse
- Public access to the canal side on both sides of the warehouse
- Space for parking and drop off point for New Horizons and the nursery

See plan of the site below showing the above ideas.

Remaining issues

- Should the remaining two plots (plot 2 & 3) be used for houses? If not, we need a viable scheme to replace them.
- What will happen to the boating facilities.

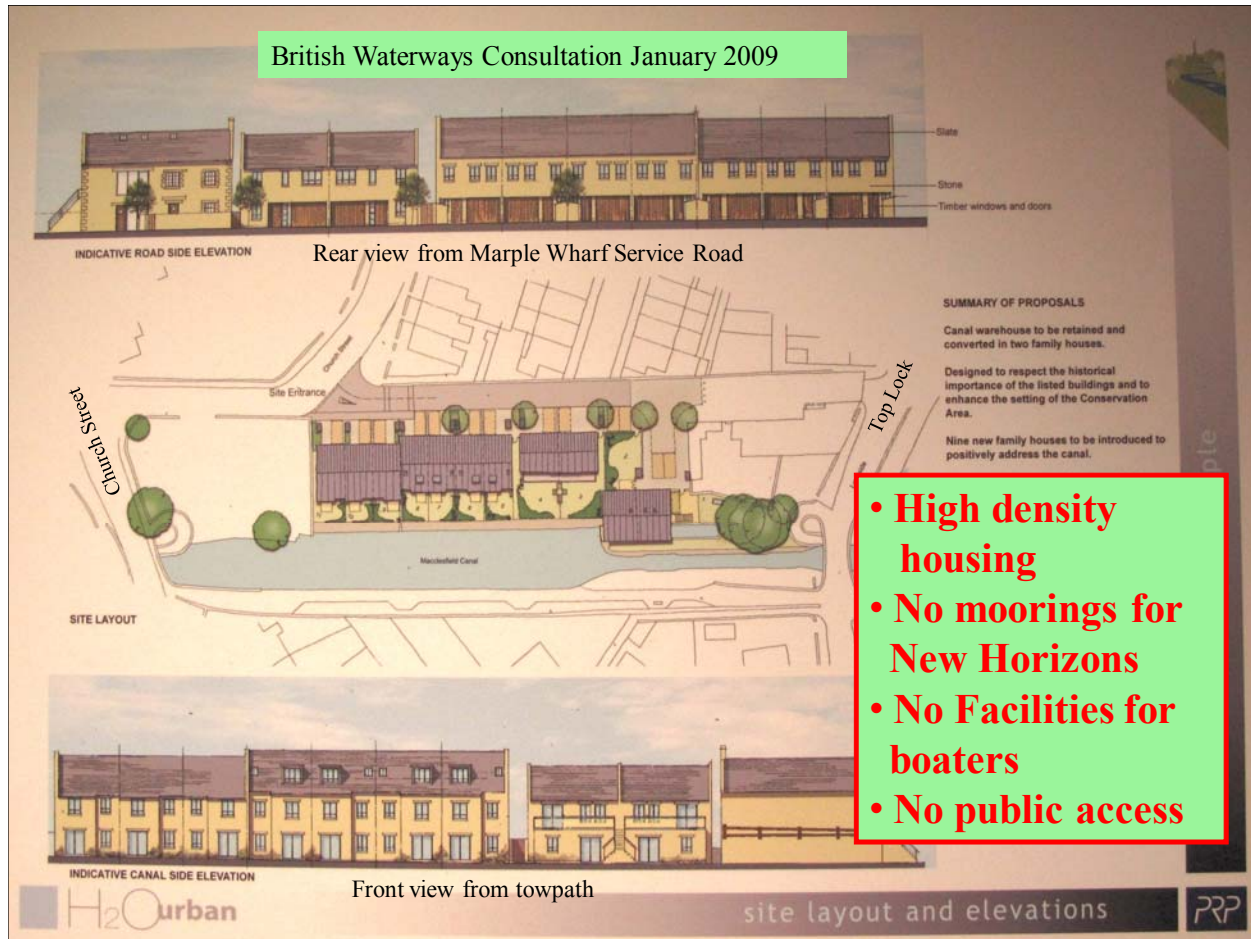
Possible solutions

- A Stockport Council scheme to house a canoe, kayak and cycling centre on part of the remaining site (plot 2 & 3)
- The possibility of other canal based activities on the remaining site
- Locating boating facilities at the side of the canal in front of any further new build

Help us with Marple Wharf and other worthy causes – help to make Marple a better place to live and work.

Join us today – your membership is important

British Waterways Consultation January 2009



Current Situation

