

268 Windlehurst Road  
Marple  
Stockport  
SK6 7EN

26<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Cllr. Stuart Bodsworth  
22 Moreton Avenue  
Stockport  
SK7 2BD

Dear Cllr. Bodsworth

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

On behalf of Marple Civic Society I wish to register our opposition to the proposal to close the public toilets in Marple Memorial Park. Whilst we understand that no final decision has been made, recent discussions at Marple Area Committee meetings give the Society cause for concern.

We wish to associate ourselves with other groups opposing the closure, especially the Friends of Marple Memorial Park who have worked hard over many years to attract visitors to the park. The park is now used by a broad cross section of our community including families with young children and elderly residents all of whom would be disinclined to visit the park if the toilet facility were to be closed.

The Civic Society has, with the help of other local societies, produced a “Vision for Marple” that seeks to promote Marple as a visitor and tourist destination. As you may know the “Vision for Marple” has been adopted as council policy. It would be perverse to promote Marple as a visitor and tourist destination then close the public toilets at one of the main arrival points in the town.

The viability of Marple as a visitor and tourist destination is currently being researched by a postgraduate team from the University of Manchester. The work is supported (but not funded) by SMBC Heritage and Conservation, British Waterways and the Civic Society. Whilst Marple is about more than its toilets, the withdrawal of toilet facilities will, clearly, undermine our efforts to attract visitors.

In view of the above I urge you to ensure that the park toilets remain open for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely

Alan Postill  
Marple Civic Society

Cc Cllr. Martin Candler

