

Marple Neighbourhood Forum

First Annual General Meeting

Held at 10 a.m. on 14 January 2017 in Marple URC

Minutes

Members Present:

The meeting was attended by a total of 21 forum members and 14 others.

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed all attendees to the Forum's first AGM.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from: Peter Mount, John Bates, Angus Yeaman, Sue Ingham, Gillian Postill, David Cox

2 Approval of the Marple Neighbourhood Forum Constitution

The Forum was officially designated by Stockport MBC in early December 2016 and, as a consequence, the constitution submitted with the application needed to be approved by the Forum copies having been circulated with the Agenda.

Proposed : David Ackroyd
Seconded : Lord Andrew Stunnell

In Favour : 21
Against : 0
Abstentions : 0

Approved unanimously.

3. Report of the Interim Management Committee

The main points of the Chairman's report:

- The Interim Committee has met eight times.
- There are currently 40 members of the Forum, 170 people who have expressed a wish to be kept informed and 24 Affiliated Groups.
- As well as completing our application to Stockport MBC we have set up seven Topic Groups each of whom have conducted kick-off meetings and drafted initial Terms of Reference.
- Our expectation is that 2017 will be the year when we seek views and collect information in order to inform what we include in the plan. It is

vitaly important that as many people as possible play a part so that we can fairly represent the views of the Marple community.

- Currently there are about 30 people engaged with one or more of the Topic Groups and we would welcome more involvement.
- While crafting the plan we must be mindful that what we ultimately propose must be consistent with the requirements of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Stockport's own Plan – neither of which currently exist.
- We expect that 2018 will be the year that we write the plan and engage in the formal consultation and approval process.
- One of the key requirements in developing the plan is to demonstrate how we have communicated with the people who live, work in and visit Marple. We urgently need a core team focussed on the task of communication and collection of views and ideas and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to contribute towards this.

4 Financial Report

The Treasurer reported the following:

Total Income	: £4,575.00
Total Expenditure	: £161.75
Current Balance	: £4,413.25

A substantial part of our future expenditure is expected to be in publicising and communicating with the Marple community to ensure a healthy and necessary level of engagement. We are in the process of developing our website and will be using surveys and publishing leaflets. Additionally, where appropriate, we will be commissioning data research and expert advice on a limited basis.

Tony registered his thanks to Robin West and Gordon Johnson for their help in setting up the financial structure.

5 Election of the Management Committee and Officers

Nominations had been received in advance of the meeting for the positions of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The following officers were all elected unanimously:

Chairman	: David Ackroyd
Treasurer	: Tony Kay
Secretary	: Russell Haynes

Nominations for the following committee members were also unanimously agreed:

Lesley Wright
Malcolm Allen

Simon Temple
Joe Harvey
Tony Smith
Sue Ingham
Peter Black
Tony Ede
Geoff Abel

6 Other relevant business

None.

Folowing the conclusion of the formal AGM there was a Q&A Session based on the Topic Groups

A number of questions came from the floor including the work of the Employment Group and concerns of traffic congestion and safety. The chairman welcomed the discussions and stressed the importance of inclusiveness in the planning process as a whole.

Open Debate: That Marple is and Should Remain a Village

The meeting enjoyed a good humoured debate proposed by Tony Smith and opposed by Simon Temple.

Tony defined a village as a 'self-contained and self-sufficient community – a close association of people with a strong sense of togetherness.' Many of it's longer term residents still refer to Marple as 'the village'. The green belt maintains a definition to the community. Marple is a close, vibrant and clearly defined community surrounded by easily accessible facilities and attractive countryside, not forgetting its considerable heritage.

Marple's Neighbourhood Plan gives us all the opportunity to not only preserve this living village spirit that is such an important characteristic but to develop it further for the future benefit of both our residents and those that share in Marple life.

In opposing the motion Simon argued that in many aspects Marple can only be defined as a town. Examples would be the number of residents (in excess of 10,000) and the breadth of facilities – schools, churches, retail centre, cinema, theatre, doctors surgeries, swimming pool and more – which would be untypical of any village. In addition the wide variety of organisations and societies that demonstrate Marple's vitality have greater depth and breadth than would be found in village life. There are few villages that can boast a brace of railway stations and a cherished library.

Following the presentation of arguments there was an enjoyable and engaged discussion centred around a consensus that Marple is in the fortunate position of having the wealth of facilities of a town while retaining at heart the community spirit of a village. During the discussion the point was made that perhaps Marple could benefit from one central gathering place that would provide the opportunity for residents of all ages to meet more often.

The detail of both of the arguments is available on the Our Marple Plan website.

The motion was put to a general vote and defeated with 6 in favour, 23 Against and 2 abstentions. What was clearly evident was a genuine interest in preserving and developing both the inherent community spirit of the town alongside the wealth of local facilities that Marple offers us.