

MARPLE AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting: 6 March 2024
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Colin MacAlister (Vice-Chair) in the chair; Councillors Geoff Abell, Shan Alexander, Steve Gribbon and Aron Thornley.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interests were declared:-

Personal Interest

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Geoff Abell	Agenda item 12 – ‘Ward Discretionary Budget – Rose Hill and Marple Station’ as a member of the Friends of Marple Station.
Aron Thornley	Agenda item 4 (vii) – ‘Ward Flexibility Funding Samaritans of Stockport & District’ having previously distributed promotional material on behalf of the organisation.

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Chair's Announcements

The Chair, on behalf of the Area Committee, informed residents regarding:-

- The Marple Neighbourhood Planning Referendum that was due to take place on Thursday, 21 March 2024, full details of the referendum were available on the Council's website and at the Marple library.
- An Easter Fun Day was due to take place at Compstall Cricket Club on Good Friday, 29 March 2024.
- An Easter egg hunt was due to take place Saturday, 30 March 2024 from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at Marple Memorial Park.

(ii) Neighbourhood Policing

The Chair reported that a representative of Greater Manchester Police had been unable to attend the meeting, however it was confirmed that any issues raised at the meeting would be passed onto the police for a response.

It was commented that members were disappointed and frustrated at the lack of Police attendance at Area Committee meetings and noted that Councillor Steve Gribbon would be writing to Greater Manchester Police on behalf of the Area Committee to express their disappointment.

(iii) Public Question Time

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Chair on any matters within the powers and duties of the Area Committee, subject to the exclusions set out in the Code of Practice.

One public question was submitted relating to Item 10 - 'Dale Road, Marple – Proposed Quiet Lane and Installation of Speed Cushions' and specifically, the potential for reinstating the adjoining footpath, the effectiveness of similar measures on Gibb Lane and the cost of the proposed measures.

In response it was stated that the cost of reinstating the footpath was prohibitive and that a long-term solution was required to prevent the issue from returning as erosion had occurred further down the river. It was also stated that the measures on Gibb Lane had made a noticeable difference and no complaints had been received. It was finally stated that the Dale Road measures were cost effective as they were being paid for by way of a developer contribution rather than from the Council's budget.

(iv) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(v) Open Forum

In accordance with the Code of Practice no organisation indicated that they wished to address the Area Committee as part of the Open Forum arrangements.

(vi) Ward Flexibility Funding - Housebound Too Scooting

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted an application received on behalf of Housebound Too Scooting for a grant of £50 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (Marple North ward only) towards the cost of arranging a social gathering and fundraiser day to promote mental well-being and to raise the profile of the organisation.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to an application from Housebound Too Scooting for a grant of £50 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (Marple North ward only) towards the cost of arranging a social gathering and fundraiser day to promote mental well-being and to raise the profile of the organisation.

(vii) Ward Flexibility Funding - Samaritans of Stockport & District

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted an application received on behalf of Samaritans of Stockport & District for a grant of £95.24 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (£47.62 from Marple North, £47.62 from Marple South & High Lane) towards the cost of advertisement and promotion, upgrading infrastructure and the purchase of publicity materials.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to an application from Samaritans of Stockport & District for an increased grant of £100 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (£50 from Marple North, £50 from Marple South & High Lane) towards the cost of advertisement and promotion, upgrading infrastructure and the purchase of publicity materials.

(viii) Ward Flexibility Funding - Stockport Armed Forces Community Organisation (SAFCO)

Amanda Peers attended the meeting and submitted an application on behalf of Stockport Armed Forces Community Organisation (SAFCO) for a grant of £200 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (£100 from Marple North, £100 from Marple South & High Lane) towards the cost of delivering an event to celebrate Armed Forces Day in the town centre.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to an application from Stockport Armed Forces Community Organisation (SAFCO) for a grant of £200 from the Ward Flexibility Funding Budget (£100 from Marple North, £100 from Marple South & High Lane) towards the cost of delivering an event to celebrate Armed Forces Day in the town centre.

5. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

A development application was submitted.

(NOTE: Full details of the decisions including conditions and reasons for granting or refusing planning permission and imposing conditions are given in the schedule of plans. Deputy Chief Executive is authorised to determine conditions and reasons and they are not therefore referred to in committee minutes unless the committee makes a specific decision on a condition or reason. In order to reduce printing costs and preserve natural resources, the schedule of plans is not reproduced within these minutes. A copy of the schedule of plans is available on the council's website at www.stockport.gov.uk/planning. Copies of the schedule of plans, or any part thereof, may be obtained upon payment of the Council's reasonable charges).

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance outlined the procedure approved by the Council for public speaking on planning applications.

(i) DC090281 : Wybersley Hall Farm, 25 Wybersley Road, High Lane, Stockport, SK6 8HB

In respect of plan no DC/090281 for a Minor-Material Amendment/Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission DC079812 for four residential units and associated works, to comprise a single storey extension to Unit 1 and formation of a ground floor guest suite

and external door to Unit 1. Variation to Section 106 Agreement in respect of removal of required open space contribution.

the applicant spoke in support of the application.

It was then,

RESOLVED – (5 for) That the Planning & Highways Regulation Committee be recommended to grant planning permission.

6. APPEAL DECISIONS, CURRENT PLANNING APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENTS

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) listing any outstanding or recently determined planning appeals and enforcements within the area represented by the Marple Area Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. THE DELIVERY OF BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN THROUGH THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

A representative of the Assistant Director Place Making and Planning submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the activities relating to the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain through the Planning and Management process.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Concern was expressed that developers would be able to buy their Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement by having this off site, and that it would be better provided locally.
- How the minimum 10% BNG requirement had been determined was discussed and if the final requirement would always be proportionate to the development. In response, it was stated that it would be, as the BNG assessment would be carried out at the first stage.
- It was commented that an all member briefing on the matter would be useful as it was a complex issue.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. INTRODUCTION OF CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CHECKLIST FOR THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A representative of the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the proposed re-adoption of the council's Application Validation Checklist (AVC) for the validation of planning applications.

It was queried why there was not a reference to the Neighbourhood Plan to which it was clarified that the checklist was a list of documents that were required to be submitted with a planning application in order for it to be assessed and that applications would be required to justify the developments against such plans.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND THE PLANNING PROTOCOL

A representative of the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing changes to the scheme of delegation for the determination of planning applications.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The reason for the change was due to a need to reduce the time in determining applications.
- The ability of members to call up householder applications was queried. In response, it was noted that householder applications would be fully delegated to officers under the proposed changes, however approximately 90% of these types of applications were already determined by officers.
- Members expressed agreement with the idea of efficiency and thanked the officer for the explanation given.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. DALE ROAD, MARPLE - PROPOSED QUIET LANE AND INSTALLATION OF SPEED CUSHIONS

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the findings of a consultation exercise and seeking approval for Dale Road, Marple to become a Quiet Lane for the length of the adopted highway and for the installation of Speed Cushions as set out in Appendix A.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the status of Dale Road to be changed to that of a Quiet Lane and for the legal notification and installation of speed cushions as follows:-

Dale Road, Marple

Single Speed Cushions

From the northern kerb line (south end) of Nab Lane - For a distance of

- 17 metres
- 44.5 metres
- 79.5 metres
- 112.5 metres
- 173.5 metres
- 218.5 metres

11. WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET - BROOKSIDE PARK

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a request for the allocation of £4,300 from the Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple South & High Lane for improvements at Brookside Park, High Lane.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources be requested to approve the allocation of £4,300 of Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple South & High Lane for improvements at Brookside Park, High Lane.

12. WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET - ROSE HILL AND MARPLE STATION

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a request for the allocation of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budgets for both Marple North and Marple South & High Lane to support the construction and installation of a Local Map at Marple Train Station at a cost of £2,500 and for a map of defibrillators and public toilet locations at a cost of £500.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources be requested to approve the allocation of funds from the Ward Discretionary Budgets for both Marple North and Marple South & High Lane to support the construction and installation of a Local Map at Marple Train Station at a cost of £2,500 (Marple North) and for a map of defibrillators and public toilet locations at a cost of £500 (Marple South & High Lane).

13. WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET - PLANTERS PROJECT

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a request for the allocation of £2,000 from the Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple North to support the Planters Project currently taking place in Maple South on Market Street and Derby Way. The additional funding would allow for the project to be widened further and add greenery to shopfronts on Stockport Road and Hollins Lane.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources be requested to approve the allocation of £2,000 from the Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple North to support the Planters Project currently taking place in Maple South on Market Street and Derby Way. The additional funding would allow for the project to be widened further and add greenery to shopfronts on Stockport Road and Hollins Lane.

14. WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET - PURCHASE OF A NEW NOTICEBOARD

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a request for the allocation of £1,500 from the Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple North to purchase a new noticeboard at the junction of Dale Road and Stockport Road.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources be requested to approve the allocation of £1,500 from the Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple North to purchase a new noticeboard at the junction of Dale Road and Stockport Road.

15. WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET - FESTOON LIGHTING

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a request for the allocation of £4,000 from the Ward Discretionary Budget for both Marple South & High Lane and Marple North to install festoon lighting along Market Street and Derby Way in Marple and to support Marple Fest to engage the contractors to install the lighting.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources be requested to approve the allocation of £4,000 from the Ward Discretionary Budget (£2,000 from Marple South & High Lane and £2,000 from Marple North) to install festoon lighting along Market Street and Derby Way in Marple and to support Marple Fest to engage the contractors to install the lighting.

16. PROGRESS ON AREA COMMITTEE DECISIONS

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) updating the Area Committee on progress on decisions taken by the Area Committee since the last meeting and the current position the Area Flexibility and the Delegated budget.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Item of Urgent Business

17. WARD DISCRETIONARY BUDGET - GREENSPACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

(NOTE: The Chair was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow the Area Committee to give consideration to the allocation of underspends from within the Ward Discretionary Budget prior to the conclusion of the current financial year).

A representative of the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Governance submitted a report of the Director of Place Management (copies of which had been circulated) relating to proposals for greenspace improvement projects from the Ward Discretionary Budget for Marple North.

RESOLVED – (1) That the proposals within the report to allocate any remaining underspends in the Ward Discretionary Budget towards a number of potential projects within the Marple area, be noted.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Governance, in consultation with the Marple North ward councillors, for the making of recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources on the allocation of the remaining underspends in the Marple North ward allocation for the Ward Discretionary Budget.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.