

Application to Stockport MBC for Registration of a Neighbourhood Forum

Name of Proposed Area: That Part of Marple in the Borough of Stockport as shown on the area map approved by Stockport Council on 30 June 2016.

Proposed Name: Marple Neighbourhood Forum

Constitution: As attached

Contacts: Chairman: David Ackroyd
57 Clement Road, Stockport SK6 5AG
davidackroyd@uwclub.net

Secretary: Russell Haynes
7 West Towers Mews, Stockport SK6 7GR
rhaymarple@gmail.com

Statement:

The Marple area does not have a Parish or Town Council. A provisional Neighbourhood Forum has, therefore, been formed to lead and co-ordinate the plan-making process. Prior to the establishment of the provisional Forum on 27 April 2016 the process of publicity about and consultation on the need for such a Forum was led by the Marple Civic Society. This was in three parts;

- In December 2015 a map of the proposed area was submitted to Stockport MBC. The Council initiated the required period of consultation followed by its progress through the Committee Cycle. The area was approved at full Council on 30 June 2016.
- The Society delivered 5,000 leaflets to households and businesses within the proposed area. In addition a banner was erected, posters were displayed and an article appeared in the Marple Review.
- The Society held a Community Consultation event and exhibition in Marple Library from 14 to 19 March 2016.

The Aim of the Consultation Event was:

- To explain the council led planning system
- To explain a community led Neighbourhood Plan
- To outline the process of Neighbourhood Planning
- To ascertain local support for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan

In addition to the exhibition in Marple Library three meetings were held:

- A presentation to Marple Area Committee
- A stakeholder meeting for local groups and societies

- A public meeting

In all 500 people participated in one or more of the meetings and the exhibition. They were given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire which asked whether they supported the establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum and whether they wished to be involved. 262 questionnaires were completed with a 100% response in favour. Almost all wanted to play a part or to be kept informed and the next section itemises this in more detail following further work.

Forum Membership

Currently 35 people have committed themselves to being Members of the Forum. A list is attached which includes three local Counsellors and the sitting Member of Parliament. It will be noted that five Members do not live within the designated area but in each case they qualify through working in the area either in paid employment or in a voluntary capacity. The 35 members are fairly evenly distributed throughout the Area. The list also identifies the 12 members who form the initial Management Committee.

Affiliated Members

Local groups and societies have been invited to become Affiliated Members because of their knowledge or an interest in matters that are likely to be relevant to a Neighbourhood Plan. To date 16 such Groups have asked to be affiliated and a list is attached. About another 15 Groups have been contacted but have not yet responded. Work to follow this up will be undertaken over the next few weeks.

Interested Individuals

In addition to the above, 169 people have indicated that they would like to be kept in touch with progress. They will all be invited to Open Meetings and sent Newsletters. A data base will be maintained.

General Comment about Membership

At present the Management Committee does not know enough about the above individuals and groups to be able to say for sure how representative of the area they are. Neither do we have information about, for example, age range or minority interests. The Management Committee is committed to exploring this further and to seeking to ensure that representation on the Forum and amongst interested individuals and groups is as wide and as representative as possible. We will have a website in place by the end of August and will be exploring other ways to circulate information and encourage participation.

Purpose and Aims of the proposed Forum

These are set out in detail in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the attached Constitution. Most particularly they are to:

- Prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, in partnership with Stockport Council and other local stakeholders.
- Promote and improve the social, economic and all aspects of the environmental well-being of the Area.

Application

Attached to this application are:

- A Constitution
- A map of the agreed area
- A list of members of the provisional Forum
- A list of Affiliated Groups and Societies (to date)

The Management Committee of the provisional Marple Neighbourhood Forum makes this formal application for approval to Stockport MBC in accordance with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (8) 2012.

David Ackroyd on behalf of the Management Committee
27 July 2016