



MARPLE *in* ACTION

Final

UPDATE

September 2013



ASDA DEADLINE PASSES!

Many people assumed that the Asda planning application ended when Stockport Planning Committee refused the proposal in March but technically at least, Asda had the option to lodge an appeal right up to the end of August.

Marple in Action kept a watching brief until that deadline was passed and only now can we fully relax and celebrate our success over one of the retail giants.

There are many reasons why Hibbert Lane didn't get a large supermarket, including opposition from the Marple councillors, Marple Civic Society, Andrew Stunnell MP, and the local Conservative, Green, Labour, Lib Dem, and UKIP political parties. Stockport Council were on the ball with their land allocation policies and in their proactive approach, particularly in relation to Chadwick Street. Changes of personnel at the College as well as investment strategies affecting supermarkets all counted, but the biggest factor was **YOU** – the people of Marple.

We were told that Asda usually get what they want in the end and that we had no chance of winning, that it was a done deal and Marple had had its day! However from the Area Committee Meeting in July 2011 held outdoors in Memorial Park due to the large attendance, to the final Planning Decision at Edgeley Park, Marple in Action were encouraged and supported all the way. So thanks to all the people who took an active part, and those that contributed and supported in so many ways.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

HIBBERT LANE – Marple College have advised us "...that Asda have, just last weekend, signed the contractual release agreement to formally part company with the College over the sale of the Hibbert Lane site."

The College now intend to appoint a planning consultant to pursue an outline planning application for the sale of the Hibbert Lane site for housing development, the proceeds of which will be used to develop the Buxton Lane site.

Marple in Action have offered assistance to the College to help them meet their commitment to, in their words, "work with the Marple Community to explore the way forward". In May the College's Finance Director, Edward Vitalis, said "the College's intent is to collaborate and consult with key stakeholders in this respect". A very welcome change of approach by the College!

FINANCES

Marple in Action had no official funding and throughout has been reliant on contributions large and small from local residents and businesses – the very people whose homes and livelihoods were threatened by the Asda proposal. Marple Civic Society acted throughout as our bankers and accounted for all banking receipts and payments made and for this we are exceedingly grateful. Support came from Marple Business Forum, bucket collections, sales of T Shirts, a gig at Marple Cricket Club, from individuals via the website and by cheque. All in all over the period from July 2011 to the present time, we received a total of **£3,535.26**.

Our biggest expense by far was on printing of leaflets, newsletters, posters etc which was all done at cost by local businesses, and came to **£2,172.95**. In addition we paid various other costs relating to materials and equipment, totalling **£897.26** Making a total spend of **£3,070.21**.

No one connected with the Marple in Action campaign gained financially or otherwise from its activities. Indeed a great deal of time and cost was put in without recompense by many people. We would particularly like to thank Mark Whittaker of the Marple Website (www.marple-uk.com) for his support and help with our on-line campaigning.

We now have **£465.05** remaining in our Marple Civic Society bank account and we propose to donate any surplus to local charities in accordance with a ballot of the people of Marple.

CHADWICK STREET – Planning permission has been granted by Stockport Council to Kirkland Developments for a supermarket on the site, and we understand talks are underway concerning the necessary relocation of the Post Office Sorting Office. However no contract has been signed yet for the sale of the land, owned by Stockport Council, and there are some difficult negotiations to be had before a deal is done and the site marketed. Only at that stage will we know the name of the retailer coming in. We are told to "not hold our breath" so it may be some time before there is any action on the site.

Marple in Action was formed solely to fight the planning application for a supermarket on Hibbert Lane. As this has been successfully achieved, it has been decided that its' activities should cease and its' remaining cash be distributed to local charities. Marple Civic Society is monitoring progress of Chadwick Street and has called for an independent public realm study before any development goes ahead. Watch their website for updated information. www.marplecivicsociety.org.uk