

Unofficial notes from a meeting with Stockport Council about the Community Hub

Note: Please don't rely on these for any decision making – accuracy can't be guaranteed! These are impressions gained at the meeting; they do not represent either official written SMBC policy nor the views of the Civic Society.

A good number of local voluntary organisations were present, as well as high-level representation from the Council and Life Leisure.

The Council explained that the aim is for the Marple Community Hub to be similar in feel to the new Stockroom in Merseyway – everyone working there should know about all that is happening, all working under a “single badge” to provide a space owned by the community through which people can move freely.

It is expected that three-quarters of the staff will live locally. Life Leisure, who will run the facility, are focused on community engagement to ensure a wide range of local people make use of the facilities including everything there is to offer in Memorial Park. There is £0.5M from Sport England reserved for developments in the park to encourage (especially youth) activity.

As regards anti-social behaviour risks, the higher footfall in the park due to people accessing the Hub should help to reduce this, and the police being located in Hollins House will also be helpful.

Specific questions that our members previously raised, with some answers obtained at the meeting, are listed below.

1. Parking provision

- a. overall provision in Marple for increase in visitors: see the [*original planning application*](#) documents for the Transport Assessment which argues there is sufficient parking provision within 500m of the Hub.
- b. likely problem of overspill to neighbouring roads – *wait and see approach*
- c. will there be electronic signage (e.g. "xx parking places at Chadwick Street") at main roads into Marple to avoid circulating traffic – *yes, currently in design stage.*

- d. electric car charging points / disabled spaces at Hub – *higher proportion of disabled spaces than normal*
 - e. secure cycle parking – *won't be secure, just normal lock up hoops*
2. Leisure facilities in the Hub
- a. will there be a spa and/or sauna? *No*
 - b. what's in the gym?
 - c. what will the studios be used for, how big are they (indoor racket sports?) - *1 studio, 1 multi-purpose room, neither designed for racket sports, when not in use for classes either could be used for meetings of up to 60 people*
 - d. will instructors / induction be available? *Yes*
 - e. public opening hours of pool - how much time reserved for schools? - *Whole complex will be open from 6am-10pm daily*
 - f. impact of closure of Woodley facilities – *no comment*
3. Other facilities
- a. meeting rooms - seating capacity, access hours, bookings – *as well as 1st floor studios (see above), ground floor has 2 x 4 person, 1 x 6 person meeting rooms and an exhibition room for 30 seated or 60 circulating people. Whole complex will be open from 6am-10pm daily*
 - b. co-working space? *Yes*
 - c. study space / computer seats? *Yes*
 - d. Wifi? *Yes*
 - e. library - how much lending space, reference space of real books? *Yes but no detail*
 - f. library - children's story telling, other activities *Yes but no detail*
4. Toilets - out of hours access? *Whole complex will be open 6am-10pm daily*
5. "Temporary" clinic - future use or being removed? *Only on hire.*