

Record of Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale

Wednesday 14th June 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

David Sloane,	Mavis Holt,	Maureen Riding,	Bernie Cree,
Steve Cree,	Claire James,	Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,
Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,	Alan Gibson,	Frank Pollitt,
Jean Wood,	Bob Lomas,	Keith Sloane,	Wan Sloane,
Gloria Gaffney,	Donald Lee.		

Apologies:

Bruce James ,	Ally Fogg,	Mark Lucas,	Pauline Sergeant,
Cassie Spinks-Lewis,	Daniel Heathcote,	Barbara Moore,	Cllr Peter Cookson.

Welcome & Introduction:

Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 7th June 2017

1. Outstanding emails /letters for evidence folder - Claire provided 2 copies for file.
2. No news on free legal support/advice.
3. Shopping bags now available for £2.00 each (acquired from Stupid Tuesday).
4. EU Commission document – copy emailed with last minutes – no feedback from the group.
5. The group were advised that we had been unable to obtain the services of a face painter for the Big Lunch event. A possible contact to try for a face painter might be Rose Cusack.
6. Cllr Bernard Stone has emailed us to the effect that he will find out what's happening about the meeting with Sir Richard Leese and advise us asap.
7. Bob had also requested information concerning this promised meeting with Sir Richard Leese and, not getting an adequate reply, his complaint has now moved to a stage 2 complaint, meaning that if the next response isn't acceptable, it can go to the Ombudsman.
8. Strategic Action Group – discussion deferred until next meeting.
9. Levenshulme Night Market – Set up from 4:15pm - Claire will man the stall from 5pm 'til 6pm, Steve and Bernie can man the stall from 7pm 'til 9pm, Rita & Barrie expect to be there between 5pm and 9pm. Your support is needed, so, if you can, come down to the Market. Leaflets, badges as give aways,
10. The Big Lunch – No news from Pauline re additional gazebo.
11. Itfar event in Crowcroft Park – order forms now available – thank you Cassie.

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Main Meeting:

1. The group were informed that we had requested a copy of the official minutes from the site meeting we had on Wed 31st May 2017 on 11th June 2017.
2. Letters of assurance have been received from Cllr B Stone & Cllr P Cookson & Cllr S Richards confirming that they fully support our campaign. Letters/emails are still outstanding from Cllrs Chohan, Reid, Rahman and Afzal Khan MP.
3. Emails/Letters sent to Wildlife Trust, Lancs Wildlife Trust, Open Spaces, Ramblers Association re public rights of way and potential loss of locally important green space and Community Amenity.
4. Bernie had emailed Cllr Rosa Battle – new Education Officer – no response yet.
5. We've still not been advised of where and when the next Public Consultation will be.
6. Keep sending Letters/Emails to the Planning Committee.
7. Remember – keep posting comments / photos on the “savenutsfordvale” Facebook page.
8. Ideas for a protest event were requested. One suggestion was for the Group to go to the next council meeting and sit quietly in the council chamber in our Nutsford Vale t-shirts. Claire suggested “A Walk in the Park” which would involve walking the “green corridor” and possibly a sponsorship type event – unfortunately, the sponsorship idea wasn't popular but the idea of a casual health walk was.
9. Don mentioned “Godfrey Maps” 1896 – 1912 available from Waterstones & W H Smith may be good to establish earlier usage of the Vale and pathways at that time
10. Gloria Gaffney – Footpath Environment Officer for G M Pedestrian Association – Gloria gave us some info on her background and stressed the need for individually written letters along the lines of “To whom it may concern, I object to the loss of NVPC as I used it”. She then outlined her understanding of the planning process, i.e. Outline plan & then planning consultation. She had spoken to Carl Glennon in the planning dept who confirmed that no planning application had been submitted so far. Gloria offered to try & tackle Andy Burnham (GM Mayor) as his remit includes traffic which also includes pedestrian walk ways and access. She also mentioned a charity based in London called “Pro Bono Publico” (a Latin phrase meaning 'For the good of the people' who offer free legal support.
11. Don Lee – Ex Open Spaces Officer – was advised that Nutsford Vale was classified as a brownfield site. He indicated that it takes 20 years of unrestricted use for a path to be a public right of way. He suggested we take photos of all entrances to the Vale to be able to provide evidence that public access was available and encouraged before they are “quietly” removed. Objection to closure of paths forces a public enquiry. He also affirmed that the G M Mayor's responsibility also includes roads and footpaths. We could also contact the Secretary of State for objections.
12. Both Gloria and Donald suggested we get as many signatures as we can and we are writing to anyone who hasn't already signed our petition. Family letters – all individual even if at same address. When advertised on site – get as many objections in as possible there and then.
13. The horrendous fire outbreak in London was mentioned – the amount of damage

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thought to be because of the plastic coating used on the outside of the tower block. It was believed that this same coating has been used on the schools at Lytham Road and the Dean Trust and it was thought that if this is the case then all planned building using this material might be suspended until an alternative was found.

Next Scheduled Meeting:
Wednesday 21th June 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm

Future Meetings:
Every Wednesday from 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Next Event(s):
Litter Pick: Wednesday 5th July 2017 from 10:00am
(Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue entrance to the Vale)

Gorton Carnival: Sunday 3rd September from 10:30am 'til 3:00pm
(Timings to be confirmed)