

Record of Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 5th July 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

David Sloane,	Ally Fogg,	Bernie Cree,	Steve Cree,
Mark Lucas,	Bruce James,	Daniel Heathcote,	Alan Gibson,
Frank Pollitt,	Marie Convery,	Jean Wood,	Bob Lomas,
Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,	Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,
Barbara Moore,	Maureen Riding,	Keith Sloane,	Wan Sloane

Apologies:

Pauline Sergeant, Claire James.

Welcome & Introduction:

Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 28th June 2017

- None.

Main Meeting:

1. Spirit of Manchester: Best Community Space – Bernie pointed out that Steve had problems voting for Nutsford Vale Country Park even though he was using a different email address but on the same computer. Barrie suggested that she contact Michelle Foster on 0333 321 3021 or via email at michelle@macc.org.uk to ensure a vote was recorded.
2. Have a Field Day event 8th July – 12 to 4pm at Swinton Grove Park – the idea is to clearly show that green spaces and parks are essential to local communities need to be maintained and funded properly and not ignored and under-funded.
3. AMOSS (Association of Manchester Open Spaces Society) meeting – very supportive of our campaign and offered several options that we could follow up. Pete Owen has been employed by the council to look at how they view volunteers across Manchester. Approx £20m has been allocated to the project which aims to build up some sort of volunteer register, record activities and provide resources and equipment and funding of £11 an hour per person involved. Also to become enablers instead of blockers. Also, Platt Fields may be able to loan us resources to maintain the Vale.
4. Clean Air Packs – Friends of the Earth are currently offering Clean Air Packs at £15 each – supplied with an 'how to use' guide. This would allow us to get our own air quality information for comparison with anything the council might use in the future. Do we get say, 3 packs, while they are on offer? Visit <https://www.foe.co.uk/clean-air> to check them out.
5. A meeting was held on Tuesday 4th July at the Town Hall with Amanda Corcoran – Interim Director of Education, Cllrs Rosa Battle, Bernard Stone, Suzanne Richards, Julie Reid & Peter Cookson. At which,
 - We were advised the timetable for the proposed new school had been revised such that it would now open in 2019 or even 2020 due additional funding becoming available, giving them more flexibility in terms of time.

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- We were told that the proposed new school would be a 1200 place academy.
 - They are arranging for INDEPENDENT Toxicity tests on Nutsford Vale Country Park and accepted that Ramboll had a vested interest. We pointed out that the Flood Risk Assessment was inaccurate and also that documentation in the Melland Road planning application referred to Nutsford Vale as being a 19.2 hectare green space amenity when in fact the land owned by the council is only 14 hectares.
 - They have NOT advertised for a Sponsor yet
 - They have agreed that our Petition will go up for Scrutiny on either 5th September or 10th October 2017.
 - They promised 3rd Public Consultation may be at the Grange School. Ally made the point that it cannot be both a consultation and an information giving meeting and we'll need to rally the troops as previously.
 - They promised that for every tree that is removed, they will plant 3.
6. Given the above, it was agreed that we no longer need to have weekly meetings, and from now on they would be on the 1st Wednesday of each month.
 7. It was noted that 1 class in Cedar Mount has been nominated for an excellence award.
 8. We mustn't forget to lobby the Levenshulme councillors.
 9. We all still have to keep posting information/comments on our "savenutsfordvale" Facebook page.
 10. The planned "Silent Protest" at the Town Hall has been deferred to a time when it would create the most impact.
 11. Ally advised the group that he had been able to create a list of invitees to come to our Walk on the Vale event on the 19th July 2017 at 7pm. and has sent out invitations.
 12. The group felt that we should issue a statement to the effect that the timetable for the proposed new school had been revised but the issue hadn't gone away.
 13. Bob had been following up an FOI request, where he'd made a complaint and told that it had now become a stage 2 complaint. However, on chasing it up again with the City solicitor, they could find no details of the complaint and referred Bob back to the council. The council appear to be very good at avoiding/hiding issues.
 14. We have still not had all the answers to our questions raised on 2nd May 2017 from our councillors so the group agreed that we should follow this up via the Chief Executive Joanne Roney.
 15. It was felt that we should contact Hilary Wood at City of Trees to find out if there were any conditions linked to the funding and money spent on the Vale.
 16. Ally also told us about the Free School Presumption process and the minutes of a council meeting on 14th December 2016 which indicate that the ward councillors had a say in where new schools could be built.

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A.O.B.

- Alan Gibson very generously sponsored our stall at the Gorton Carnival.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Wednesday 2nd August 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm

Wednesday 30th August 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm – prepare for Gorton Carnival.

Next Event(s):

Nutsford Vale Walkabout: Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7:00pm (Meet at Bickerdike Ave entrance)

Litter Pick: Wednesday 2nd August 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)