

## **Record of Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale**

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn**

#### **Attendees:**

Frank Pollitt,	Marie Convery,	Susan Bristow,	Afzal Khan,
Claire James,	Mark Lucas,	Finola McGrath,	Alan Gibson,
Angela Millington,	Rosalind Janes,	Pauline Sergeant,	Christine Prunty,
John Prunty,	Rita Edge,	Barbara Moore,	Daniel Heathcote,
Maureen Riding,	Mavis Holt,	Jean Wood,	Bob Lomas,
Bernie Cree,	Steve Cree,	Barrie Edge.	

#### **Apologies:**

Bruce James,                      Ally Fogg,                      Cassie Spinks-Lewis.

#### **Welcome & Introduction:**

#### **Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

- None.

#### **Main Meeting:**

1. Afzal Khan opened the meeting and told the group about some of his experiences throughout the election period. He has his main office in Manchester with some of the team from his MEP days and a smaller office set-up in London. This reflected his focus of putting his constituency first. He reiterated that he would continue to support us by listening to what we have to say and acting as a middle man/mediator but not take sides. If we need his help or experience, then all we have to do is email him and he'll come along to one of our meetings if he can. Rita asked him to speak to the council and get confirmation of exactly what their plans are for when the results from the 2 new boreholes are known. Afzal offered to speak to Cllr Luthfur Rahman about the concerns of the group and asked for us to email him with all the points we had raised tonight and he would follow them up and feedback what he could.
2. A copy of the letter Afzal Khan had written to Sir Richard Leese and the Council's reply was passed around the group.
3. Gorton Carnival – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from between 12 noon & 4pm – Steve, Bernie, Claire, Danny, Barrie, Rita, Bob & Jean all volunteered to man the stall. Steve mentioned that we might have a group of motorbike riders if we are lucky. Donations for the Tombola need to be provided before the next meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – and delivered to Rita & Barrie's over the next 4 weeks to allow time for them to be sorted & ticketed ready for the day.
4. Steve requested a signed letter that could be displayed/given to local residents confirming the delay to the school development. Rita advised that's why we requested Afzal Khan to ask for details on our behalf.
5. With regard to the Public Consultation, Bob asked the new architect if March 2019 (Brexit) have any effect on the demand for school places. He had also emailed Amanda Corcoran concerning the provision for cyclists at the Public Consultation, (70% of the pupils & 30% of the teachers are expected to travel to school by

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bicycle), and the lack of a secure area on the plan for the bicycles and whether it was an error of omission or an acceptance of reality. Bob had received a reply from Turleys, (Lewis Evans) summarising their involvement with the other parties associated with the development and saying that full details of this would be available as part of the planning application submission.

6. Bob advised that had made a further FOI request to try and discover when the decision for the development on Nutsford Vale was made, who proposed the Vale as an option and copies of the minutes from the relevant meetings. Disclosure will be due on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
7. The group were advised that our petition would be going up for scrutiny on either 5<sup>th</sup> September or 10<sup>th</sup> October so we need to prepare our presentation fairly soon. Given that it would usually be the petition organiser who would be invited to give the presentation and Cassie currently has a very heavy workload, perhaps we also need to investigate whether the council would allow for a proxy in case Cassie is not available at that time.
- 8.
9. Coppicing – The “Pond” area desperately need cutting back so it was agreed that Claire would organise for this to be done on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10:30am. Bring a drink and lunch with you as there is a lot to do.
10. Answers to the 12 questions raised on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 – Cllr Peter Cookson asked to chase up and have a copy of his email doing so.
11. The group were asked if they had any queries concerning the the 2 new boreholes and additional work to be undertaken on the Vale over the next few weeks. There were no queries but the possibility of a different location on the Vale of the school was raised so that advantage might be taken of Gorton Mount's utility connections and the loss of trees could be significantly minimised, subject to the results from the 2 new boreholes of course.
12. Steve had written to the Water Board to enquire what their recent work on Matthews Lane was for. They advised that they considering flushing excess water on Nutsford Vale near the proposed car park area through Nico Ditch if the current sewers couldn't handle it. Nico Ditch runs under Matthews Lane straight down to Platt Fields. If they do this after breaching the cap on Nutsford Vale the water could be contaminated and cause serious damage to the wildlife in Platt Fields. Steve suggested we write to Platt fields and let the know what is being considered.
13. Alan had emailed the Secretary with some relevant and interesting points from the Public Consultation Meeting and the Walkabout on Nutsford Vale on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
  - At the Consultation the Group were taken notice of and we behaved in a professional manner.
  - The Vale walkabout was helpful to our cause. It emerged that a planning application had been submitted for 600 houses for the Showcase cinema site but the application has been frozen by a local councillor because of insufficient infra-structure. They could of course build only 200 houses and a school there and already have access roads, bus routes etc. and this might

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be worth us pointing out via leaflets and perhaps other potential sites. Alan agreed to try and put something together.

- The Head Teacher from Wright Robinson felt that the Nutsford Vale was too small for a 1200 place school.

#### **A.O.B.**

1. Any more T-Shirts or Shopping Bags required?
2. Cllr Suzanne Richards sent her thanks to all the group for the flowers which brightened her day.

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm – prepare for Gorton Carnival.**  
Pauline sends her apologies for not being available for this meeting.

#### **Next Event(s):**

**Gorton Carnival: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 12 noon 'til 4:00pm**  
(Set up by 10:30am)

**Litter Pick: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 from 10:00am**  
(Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue entrance to the Vale)

**Coppicing: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10:30am – The “Pond” area.**  
(Claire to organise)