

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

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn**

### **Attendees:**

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

### **Apologies:**

Bruce James,                      Pauline Sergeant.

### **Welcome & Introduction:**

### **Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

- None.

### **Main Meeting:**

1. Gorton Carnival – Rita reported that the weather was poor and on the cool side and attendance figures were significantly lower than last year but we still managed to raise £54 from the Tombola. We took as many items back home as were won. We asked Mark if we could have a Tombola on his car park, he replied, “no problem, have it in the pub on a Friday night”.
2. Alan G's Email & Newspaper Articles from the Saddleworth Independent Newspaper providing information about the fight against planning applications and several ideas that we might find useful in our campaign. Copies were passed around the group but no feedback provided.
3. Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. This meeting was recorded and is available as a webcast via the [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk) website. Our item of interest was item 6 on the agenda. Ally was commended on the excellent work done in preparing the group statement and Bob did a sterling job of presenting it and was able to persuade most of the councillors present that we had just cause for our objections to the development. Both Cllr Bernard Stone and Cllr Julie Reid strongly declared their opposition to the development and got the room to agree that once the report from Arup (the independent reviewing company) is available, it should come back to this committee for consideration before moving on. Cllr Luthfur Rahmann (Longsight ward) was very scathing about this matter actually coming before this committee at all and he even claimed he had been in contact with us on an almost daily basis – this of course is untrue, as he has not answered emails directly and was very uncomfortable about us approaching him in Crowcroft Park to discuss our campaign. Land contamination was contentious, £4.3m was spent on cleaning the ground of Dean Trust in Ardwick and the local councillor for Ardwick had not been made aware of any contamination. Also, if the development doesn't go ahead the council officers would need to expand places in other schools as well as those that are currently being built or in planning, making the the net need for places to be

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only approx 200. Bernie suggested we draft something that could be sent to the Teachers Unions pointing out our safety concerns regarding Nutsford Vale Country Park as the site for a secondary school. If it could be sent from a member of a Teachers Union that would most effective. We should also contact all the Teachers Unions requesting support for our campaign and point out that this site would not be safe for their members to work on. We believe the next meeting for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for November. Claire noted that we should bolster all our arguments as much as possible and not rely solely on the toxicity.

4. It was also noted that Stagecoach have reduced their services to and from Matthews Lane due to lack of passengers and lack of manoeuvrability.
5. A report about Cedar Mount School that had been sent to parents & carers, had been discovered in a hedge, and was passed around the group.
6. The petition was discussed and we understand that any signatory must have a Manchester postcode, even the electronic petition ones. It is worth noting that to be valid, a PRINTED name, house number & street, postcode, AND signature is required on a paper petition. Otherwise it will not be counted. It was felt that if we were able to resurrect our petition we would find it easier to get more signatures as more people know of our campaign now.
7. New Leaflets were also discussed and the group agreed to wait until the information from Arup became available before working on the content and producing more. Additional information on any more leaflets would need to include comments on air quality and the council's responsibility concerning liability.
8. Community Orchard – Mulching the trees - Unfortunately due to recent heavy rain the grass was too wet to cut.
9. AGM in October 2017 – The Group agreed a date of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017. All posts will become available at this time so please consider who you would like appointed and have your nominations ready.
10. General Discussion – Accountability and the lack of it raised it's head. Level of compensation in case of failure. £130 fines for dropping children off outside schools in London. Remember that mitigate means reduce not eliminate. Cars parking on pavements forcing pedestrians into the road. Congestion in the City means that the average speed for motorists is only 6 miles per hour.
11. Additional Future Events? - Suggested Halloween Event on 31<sup>st</sup> October – Apple bobbing, Toffee Apples, cobwebs, tea lights, luminous balloons. Discuss further at the October meeting(s).
12. Claire agreed to apply for and submit a NIF Grant application for £200 to cover the costs of Vale maintenance & equipment.

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

1. Any more T-Shirts or Shopping Bags required?
2. Bat Walk in Platt Fields on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> September from 6:30pm – see details below.

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### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**Pencilled in - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm – will confirm whether this meeting will go ahead by email and on our website ([www.friendsofnutsfordvale.co.uk](http://www.friendsofnutsfordvale.co.uk)) so please check beforehand.**

### **Future Event(s):**

**Bat Walk: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Platt Fields from 6:30pm  
(Meet in the Lakeside Centre for a short talk about bats before the walk)**

**Litter Pick: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10:00am  
(Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue entrance to the Vale)**

**Group Meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 6:30pm  
(To be Confirmed - See comment above)**

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

**Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn.**