

## **Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn**

### **Attendees:**

Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,	Daniel Heathcote,	Bob Lomas,
Jean Wood,	D Sloane,	Bernie Cree,	Maureen Riding,
Barbara Moore,	Cllr Peter Cookson,	Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,
Chris O'Rourke,	Kath O'Rourke,	Cllr Bernard Stone,	Steve Cree,
Cassie Spinks-Lewis,	Pauline Sergeant,	Mark Lucas,	Claire James,
Bruce James,	Ally Fogg,	Andrew Brown,	Angie Batholomew,
Zoe Cattan,	Frank Pollitt,	Marie Convery,	Mark Carey,
Martin Lucas.			

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Julie Reid,	Mavis Holt,	Janet Muldowney,	Denise Riding,
Alan Gibson,	Cllr Suzanne Richards,		

### **Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Cllr Peter Cookson to advise who will be Sir Howard Bernstein's replacement: From the Council's website it appears to be Joanne Roney.

Alan G asked for amendment to the minutes as follows:

1. Ref: Bruce was concerned that we don't want to be aligned with the "Not in my backyard" brigade:- Alan advised that provided we have put forward an alternative site, we CANNOT be accused of Nimbyism. And we are putting forward an alternative site(s).
2. Ref: Bob advised dates of Planning meetings:- Further research on Council website shows first that Planning Committee meetings are on a Thursday once every 28 days. Nutsford Vale is NOT on the existing agenda for the meetings of 9 March 17 or 6 April 17. The agenda for meetings of 27 Apr 17 and 1 June 17 has not been decided. It will be posted up 1 week before these meetings. However, in each of 2 cases above the week before is on the Thursday on or 1 week after a BANK HOLIDAY That could mean that we are only notified of the Nutsford Vale Item on Tue 30 May 17 giving us just 1 clear day (or 2 days) to prepare. Clearly , we will have to be prepared before these Bank Holidays take place.
3. The Public Meeting Leaflet offered by Ally:-. This is generally OK. However, we need to give the facebook page as "savenutsfordvale". Alan suggests we contact the Planning Committee Councillors making the decisions. For suggested people to write/email to please refer to the list at the end of the Minutes (EMailsAdre2WriteToComplaintY17.doc) or follow this link [http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/997/committee\\_membership/2842/planning\\_and\\_highways\\_committee](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/997/committee_membership/2842/planning_and_highways_committee)
4. Extra Education monies claimed by Council:- After challenging the Council we have discovered that the Council is claiming £5,000 per immigrant child for Education off Central Government. Follow this link to the LGA site for more information <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5533246/2+12+15+Immigration+Bill+-+HC+-+Report+Stage/7216d06e-99ce-45a5-9938-bf791e0b3952>

### **Main Meeting:**

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**Welcome everyone** and thanks for coming and especially nice to see a few new faces.

Claire advised the Group that a meeting was held on Tuesday 22/2/2017 with members of the Council, LaingORourke, the architect and the Education Dept as a first stage in their informal consultation process. The initial impression was that the Matthews Lane Academy was a done deal and was going ahead.

At the meeting, there was a suggestion that the number of places might be reduced from 1800 to 1200 to reduce the footprint size. But in reality, only the height would be reduced from 4 floors to 3 floors. The space required supporting facilities would remain more or less the same. Also, if the number of places was reduced, where would the school for the other 600 go. The estimates for places required are questionable.

We were shown 4 different options of how the school and it's grounds might be laid out on the Vale. All had their negatives. Their preferred option was to place the school in the south-west corner of the Vale and extend the sports areas etc. along the back of Hemmons Road, up to the Community Orchard.

The Group were advised that there will be a drop-in consultation meeting at Crowcroft Park School on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 between 4pm and 7pm. It would be good if as many people as possible could go and ask questions and to object. Marie volunteered to give out leaflets outside the school so people would know what's going on.

There will be a 2nd consultation meeting planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> March at Chapel Street School and Ally proposed that we all try to get as many people as possible to go that meeting. By then they expect the toxicology reports will be back.

When asked about traffic congestion around the new school and the need for a drop-off point & parking they didn't think unrealistically, that it was a problem because most of the pupils would be walking to school.

There were also questions about water & gas pressures being insufficient at the moment but no definitive answers were offered to the Friends Group.

Another possible problem, the shortage of teachers at the moment doesn't appear to be being considered.

Cllr Bernard Stone emphasised that the building of a new school on Nutsford Vale was not a done deal because it still has to go through a formal process and planning. He also doesn't want our important green spaces reduced and will continue to support our campaign.

A question was also raised concerning the additional cost of preparing and making the site safe, installing utilities from scratch, accommodating the additional traffic etc.– all of which would not be required if they were to build on other brown-field sites.

We were told that leaflets would be distributed to notify all local people of the 1<sup>st</sup> informal public consultation meeting, however, the new estate on the other side of Mount Road didn't receive any leaflets! Cllr Peter Cookson volunteered to find out and advise how and where the leaflets were supposed to be delivered.

During this discussion, Rita distributed pro-formas requesting information that might be used on the new website, on what the Vale meant to the people in the room and why, in their opinion, the Vale should become classed as a Country Park.

Claire advised that she will chase up her contact at the Manchester Evening News re 2 interviews and no press article.

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Bob asked the 2 Councillors present, what is the expected timetable for the various processes that need to take place, and was advised that it would go to planning in June 2017 and if we were unsuccessful it could be appealed against. The school is expected to open in September 2018.

As part of our campaign, Ally suggested that we obtain some cheap plain single bed sheets and use any old paint we have lying around and paint single characters on them to spell out "Save Nutsford Vale" and put the sheets up on the railings surrounding Nutsford Vale about a week before the consultation meeting.

A newcomer to the group, Angie, advised that she didn't know anything about what was going on until she saw a post on social media, so we obviously need to do a lot more to publicise our campaign.

John advised that while the tip was open, he knows of a witness who is prepared to make a sworn statement that he saw tankers going down Matthews Lane to the tip. Domestic waste would not have been transported in tankers.

Bob recalled that two other chemical companies that closed during these times were Clayton Aniline and Ciba-Geigy (renowned for making DDT) who also may have used Jacksons Tip in addition to ICI Blackley.

Cassie explained that the pro-formas that had been distributed earlier on in the meeting would be used to provide drip-fed informational sound-bites on social media and be much more effective than SHOUTING AT PEOPLE to get our point across.

Cassie also told the group that a new website was being put together, and eventually the bulk of the data and images from the old website would be transferred across and also allow uploading of your sound-bites & comments etc.

In terms of more leaflets, there would be a cost of approx £78 for 3,000 leaflets. The group agreed to contribute for this and the money was raised on the night. There would probably 2 designs, 1 very targeted and the other to appeal to a wider audience.

John made the point that while computers are great, a lot of people don't have an internet connection and we shouldn't forget then in our campaign.

Steve said that providing it was not raining heavily on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February he could arrange for a friend of his sons' to come and video anecdotes, memories and feelings about Nutsford Vale with the Vale as a backdrop and ultimately deliver a copy to the Town Hall. So, if you can make it then please come along.

Steve also reminded people that he and Bernie had been delivering 1200 leaflets over the last 3 weeks and it had influenced the number of people signing our paper and petition. He'd appreciate any help you could give.

Ally enquired of the Councillors, if contacting the planning department, what would be the most effective phrasing or buzz word to use. They indicated that there are 5 categories available to allocate objections to and if the wrong one is used, your objection may not be considered. In our case, we should probably use "Loss of Amenity".

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Steve asked, If the school does get built, or even if it doesn't, what's the chance of getting a covenant to cover the site so that it won't be considered for building on in the future. Also, there has been no discussion about colleges – where will they go? The Councillors didn't know, but they would endeavour to find out for us.

Please note that next weeks meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 will be chaired by Steve and Bernie.

<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Who</b>
Write Letters	Everyone - please personalise - use own words
DVD Filming on the Vale – Staurady 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb – bring yourself, neighbours and memories with you	Everyone
Attend Public Consultation Meeting on Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Everyone
Get your paint & paint brushes out to support Ally's publicity idea – (Bed Sheets & Railings)	Everyone
Lobby Longsight Councillors – details on next page	Everyone
Write to Manchester Evening News	Everyone
Spread the word – tell your neighbours, use social media, post comments on the Save Nutsford Vale Gorton Facebook page	Everyone

### **Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm**

### **Next Event:**

**Litter Pick: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 from 10:30am**

Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue Entrance to the Vale.

**Please note the change of date**

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### **Write or email these people to let them know of your concerns:-**

**Dept of Education Mr J Edwards – Chief Exec for Education** Email to [j.edwards@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:j.edwards@manchester.gov.uk)

**Secretary of State for Education** Email to [greeningj@parliament.uk](mailto:greeningj@parliament.uk)

Or Write to The Right Honourable Justine Greening MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

**Cllr Sir Richard Leese** Email to [r.leese@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:r.leese@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to Town Hall – Room 306, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA

Or Home address:- 45 Westbury Road, Crumpsall, M62 8AA

**Councillors on the Planning Committee after we have seen their plans. See Weblink below**

[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/997/committee\\_membership/2842/planning\\_and\\_highways\\_committee](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/997/committee_membership/2842/planning_and_highways_committee)

**Gorton South Councillors:- None of these 3 below are on the Planning committee**

Cllr Peter Cookson Email to [cllr.p.cookson@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.p.cookson@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to Members' Services Office Town Hall Manchester M60 2LA

Cllr Julie Reid Email to [cllr.j.reid@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.reid@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to Members' Services Office Town Hall Albert Square MANCHESTER M60 2LA

Cllr Bernard Stone Email to [cllr.b.stone@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.b.stone@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to 6 Whalley Avenue Levenshulme MANCHESTER M19 3FD

**Longsight Councillors:- Only 1 of these 3 below is on the Planning committee**

Cllr Abid Latif Chohan Email to [cllr.a.chohan@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.a.chohan@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to 11 Alma Road Levenshulme MANCHESTER M19 2FG. He is on the Planning committee.

Cllr Luthfur Rahman Email to [cllr.l.rahman@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.l.rahman@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to Members' Services Office Town Hall Albert Square MANCHESTER M60 2LA

Cllr Suzanne Richards Email to [cllr.s.richards@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.s.richards@manchester.gov.uk)

Or Write to Members' Services Office Town Hall Albert Square MANCHESTER M60 2LA

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)

Email message via their website at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit> Write to Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6 7PT

**If you personally know another Councillor in Manchester then you can also write to them. You can also write to any of the 8 (EIGHT) of your North West Europe MEP's whose details are found on the website "[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)". Just enter your postcode and a list will come up. The 8 MEP's are split into 3 parties namely 3 Labour, 2 UKIP, 2 Conservative and 1 Independent.**