

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 8th February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

Marie Convery,	Frank Pollitt,	Joseph Razavi,	Susan Bristow,
Claire James,	Anthony Boswell,	Hazel Boswell,	Keith Sloane,
Wan Sloane,	Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,	Mavis Holt,
Cllr Peter Cookson,	Bob Lomas,	Joan Wood,	David Sloane,
Daniel Heathcote,	Bernie Cree,	Steve Cree,	Donald Cooke,
Kath O'Rourke,	Chris O'Rourke,	Maureen Riding,	Barbara Moore,
Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,	Caroline Brandwood,	Bruce James,
Angela Millington.			

Apologies:

Pauline Sergeant,	Alan Gibson,	Cassie Spinks-Lewis,	Ally Fogg,
Maxine Knizka-Craig,	Julie Knizka-Craig,	Cllr Bernard Stone,	Cllr Julie Reid.

Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 1st February 2017

Alan G offered the following points for clarification:-

1. The position put forward by the Councillors that the Council can only build on Council Land is misleading. Ally pointed out that the Council can simply buy land to place a school, indeed that has already been done for Lytham Rd for £3.6 Million. The money can also be used to relocate low quality industrial land of which we have plenty in East Manchester. Relocation in the first instance would be to Bredbury Industrial Park which has several units empty. It is also much nearer the Motorway Network at Junction 25 of the M60.
2. Again, the statement that the Council have no money is of concern. I mentioned at the meeting that the Council is failing to collect around £14 Million per year from Central Government. It has not even claimed the money so far as I know. It should put in a claim. It should also let us have a closer look at the Detailed Accounts of the Council and not just the dumbed-down pamphlet they issue each year with the Council Tax demand.
3. The bulge in the School population is a temporary problem for 5 years that needs a temporary solution. That can be done by containerisation which can then be removed after 5 years. We would lose Green Space forever if building a fixed school were allowed (on Nutsford Vale).

Peter to follow up and advise.

Main Meeting:

Welcome everyone and thanks for coming.

Claire doing a radio interview with David Gray on Salford City Radio (salfordcityradio.org) – available on 94.4 FM and - also via the internet by selecting the “Listen Again” option.

Bob had written to the council requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act on any development proposals for Nutsford Vale – they replied as follows:-

1. Commence consultation on the proposals for a new school
2. Progress the latter stages of the Presumption Process by developing and publishing the specification for the school and inviting potential sponsors for that specification

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 8th February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

3. Selecting an appropriate site for the school

Investigations are currently ongoing on Nutsford Vale as part of exploratory work to determine a potential suitable site for the new school

Also **when was the original request for the survey placed** and they replied, as far as they knew, no contract had been issued. This was of concern because there has to be some legal responsibility for this type of work.

We discovered later at the **site meeting with the council and representatives from LaingORourke** that LaingORourke had commissioned CJ Associates to do the survey work.

The reason for this meeting was to discuss what remedial work would be necessary. They agreed to re-seed some areas of the Meadow after consulting, through Dave Barlow, with the Liverpool Ecology Unit to ensure the seed mix was appropriate. They also admitted that damage to the Wildflower Meadow had been caused by a vehicle getting stuck in the mud and other vehicles had to be used to get it free. We said we could have told them where the boggy bits were had we been consulted. They also indicated that they would consult with Groundworks re the composition of the paths and repair them appropriately.

Cllr Peter Cookson indicated that he only knew what was happening on Nutsford Vale and while he understood that there were another 9 sites being looked at, because of commercial sensitivity, he had not be told which they were.

Bob asked if the councillors for the other 9 sites had also been consulted as required by law.

Rita advised the group that we had received an email from the council on 29th Nov 2016 saying that surveyors would be going onto Nutsford Vale to establish the suitability of the site for a new school. We didn't consider it to be a consultation, it was a statement of intent! We subsequently enquired of Cllr Sheila Newman which other "groups" had been consulted because the 4 or 5 other local groups we contacted didn't know anything about it

Bob also indicated that under the **freedom of information act, he had requested licensing details** related to the tipping that went on. He awaits a reply.

Rita advised the group, that whilst we don't want a school building on the Vale, the traffic congestion would be horrendous, it's very bad now! We would be losing a unique green space in Manchester with its many habitats for wildlife. The special needs Grange School for autistic children use parts of the Vale as an extension to their school for forest schools and nature walks etc. and have a dedicated access point. We have concerns about exactly what was tipped there and the stability of the land.

Keep asking for results of Survey – Council emailed 10th Feb for sight of raw data reports of the work done so far.

Rita was advised this morning, that the **council are considering another site in the area**, but is unable to say more.

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 8th February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Bright Futures Trust have 2 failing schools out their 9 across Manchester are asking for a £4.5 million bail-out.

Why can't the local councils manage these schools to avoid having to pay out for failing schools run by these trusts?

This week is Hate Crime Week – Cllr Cookson advised that any instance of abuse or bullying of Grange School children should be reported direct to the Police as a Hate Crime. It would then be looked at thoroughly. Currently Grange School have to stagger their finishing times each evening so as to avoid abuse and bullying by the pupils from other schools.

Surveyors appear to be leaving lots of rubbish on the Vale – Reported to Jane Dudley at the council on 10/2/2017 by email.

At this point there was a **discussion about how commercial sensitivity** could become an issue ensued. It was pointed out that each site has to be considered individually due to the extent of the work required to establish if suitable or not.

Cllr Peter Cookson indicated that **the new school has to be opened in September 2018**, so there should be a decision on the site in Spring 2017 and formal consultation process starting in Summer 2017.

It was pointed out that this week the **prefabricated sections of the Lytham Road school were delivered** to the site on low loaders causing absolute havoc on neighbouring streets. These buildings are now produced as modules in factories around the UK and then shipped on lorries to the relevant site and then simply clipped together meaning building can be very fast. Laying the foundations can take longer than the actual building.

Concern was expressed about the infra-structure needed to allow access to the schools in Manchester. Cllr Peter Cookson explained that the system for place allocations uses a public transport, cycling or walking method based on 3.2 miles. In the majority of cases this works quite well but not in all cases.

Unfortunately, there are many more cars on the road than was the case when the method was devised and a minor incident can cause serious tailbacks because there aren't alternative routes.

Should we build smaller schools in the areas they were needed and reduce our carbon footprint rather than these super-schools?

The Group was advised that there was a local internet radio station operating from the Steelworks Tavern in Gorton called "Locomotion Radio". There is an "Open Mic" at 9:00pm every Wednesday night. Would anyone like to stand our corner there? Bob said he might check it out.

MEN – Are we being ignored? Claire to chase up again via her contact at MEN.

That's Manchester TV – Channel No 7 on Freeview TV – might be worth contacting as

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 8th February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

they cover local issues in some depth.

Email via online form at

<http://www.thats.tv/manchester/index.php?route=information/contact>

Write to The Flint Glass Works, 64, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JW

“savenutsfordvale” petition - At this time we have approx 240 signature on the epetition and around 300 on the paper petition.

The point was made that **we should all still be writing or emailing any interested party** that we can think of. The letters or emails we write need to be personalised to create the greatest impact and include some of the topics raised here tonight and focus on the Vale's uniqueness, it's whereabouts, a breath of fresh clean air, a strong friends group to take care of it, traffic congestion if the development goes ahead, the concern we have about whether the site is suitable given that it was once an unregulated landfill site, squashing a special needs school for autistic children between a failing school and a new 1800 place secondary school etc.

Please see list below of potential people we might want to contact:-

Dept of Education

Mr J Edwards – Chief Exec for Education

Email to j.edwards@manchester.gov.uk

Secretary of State for Education

Email to greeningj@parliament.uk

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

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

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

Gorton South Councillors:-

Cllr Peter Cookson

Email to cllr.p.cookson@manchester.gov.uk

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

Cllr Julie Reid

Email to cllr.j.reid@manchester.gov.uk

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

Cllr Bernard Stone

Email to cllr.b.stone@manchester.gov.uk

Write to 6 Whalley Avenue Levenshulme MANCHESTER M19 3FD

Longsight Councillors:-

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 8th February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Cllr Abid Latif Chohan

Email to cllr.a.chohan@manchester.gov.uk

Write to 11 Alma Road Levenshulme MANCHESTER M19 2FG

Cllr Luthfur Rahman

Email to cllr.l.rahman@manchester.gov.uk

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

Cllr Suzanne Richards

Email to cllr.s.richards@manchester.gov.uk

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

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

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

Cllr Peter Cookson explained that:-

The Council can open as many schools as they like but then government impose conditions.

Free schools are independent and anyone can open, even without qualifications. Academies are different.

Can we find out how many vacant places there are in existing schools in Manchester? – Bob agreed to email Cllr Julie Reid to find out.

Steve advised of **a couple of alternative council owned sites** which may be suitable for a new school e.g. Hulme Hall Road & the land opposite Abbey Hey School.

Marie enquired **how successful had the leaflet drop been** – It was very successful in spreading the word in the wider area.

Bob suggested a **Levenshulme Market stall** may be useful as a means of drumming up some interest in what's happening to the Vale and the petition.

Loss of Amenity – Select when submitting an objection to planning permissions – this would include dog walking, having a picnic, cycling and spotting wildlife etc.

Be very careful in your selection of the category, otherwise your objection will not be taken into account.

People moving to Manchester from all over the country because it is a vibrant city and cheaper than London and the Council invest, invest, invest.

Friends of Nutsford Vale - no longer on the Council's list of Friends Groups.

Cllr Peter Cookson to follow up and advise.

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 8th February 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Paths on the Vale are “**Public Rights of Way**” according to the ordnance survey maps

Suggestion was made that we **request details of the raw data reports** so far compiled as a result of the current surveying walk. Jane Dudley emailed requesting details on 10th Feb 2017.

Bob pointed out that **letters written to the Lord Mayor, Alderman, Councillors & citizens of Manchester** – letters addressed in this manner to the Council are required to be read out loud to all councillors and the public.

During the discussion on **removal of hazardous waste** Steve advised that a quote from British Gas to remove and dispose of a single asbestos back panel from a boiler would cost £1500

Vibro-Rotation test. Did this occur during the survey?

Cllr Peter Cookson to advise who will be Sir Howard Bernstein's replacement.

Action Plan	Who
Write Letters	Everyone - please personalise - use own words
Contact local radio	Everyone
Write to Woodland Trust & RSPB	Mavis – awaiting reply
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 15th February 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm

Next Event:

Litter Pick: Saturday 4th March 2017 from 10:30am
Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue Entrance to the Vale.