

Minutes of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 25^h January 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

Gail Nicholson,	Caroline Brandwood,	Tina Barrett,	Steve Cree,
Barbara Moore,	Alan Gibson,	Frank Pollitt,	Patrick Hewes,
Ally Fogg,	Helen Prior,	Jackie Dalglish,	Mary Coyne,
Chris Coyne,	Cassie Spinks-Lewis,	Chris O'Rourke,	Kathleen O'Rourke,
Maxine Knizka-Craig,	Julie Knizka-Craig,	John Prunty,	David Sloane,
Angela Millington,	Dave Page,	Marie Convery,	Cath Adlen,
Jane Greystone,	Mark Cacy,	Cllr Peter Cookson,	Cllr Bernard Stone,
Cllr Julie Reid,	Bernadette Cree,	Mavis Holt,	Daniel Heathcote,
Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,	D Graham,	Maureen Riding,
Denise Riding,	Pauline Sergeant,	Christine Prunty.	

Apologies:

Claire James.

Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 19th January 2017

None

Main Meeting:

Rita opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming and noted more new faces.

Cassie provided an overview for newcomers – Nutsford Vale is one of 10 sites that had been tendered for. No plans have been lodged as yet - so many rumours, but no official notice given apart from the initial email which indicated that they were reviewing the site for the building of a new school and had arranged for site investigations.

Thank you to Steve for obtaining "Save Nutsford Vale" badges.

Cllr Bernard Stone apologised for not being able to make last week's meeting. Bernard is appalled by what has been done to the Vale. The Councillors had been told they would be discrete. There have been discussions about building just a free school funded by government – no houses – and definitely not an Asian school.

Cllr Peter Cookson – the Vale would be put back to how it was to a standard level.

Cllr Julie Reid – Apologised for late arrival – All the Councillors have defended the idea of using the Vale to build on, because more people are moving to Manchester due to the benefit cap and the children can't be turned away.

School at Lytham Road currently under construction is for 1800 pupils – The Councillors are definitely here to support us.

Years ago the Council were paid by central government to close schools and then we had a sudden influx of immigrants causing a shortage of school places.

Annie Lees is a protected green field site as is the site of Levenshulme Cricket Club.

Melland Playing Fields are owned by Boys & Girls Welfare but planning application has been put in for 120 houses.

The old Gorton Mount school being used as a PRU currently using 4 rooms.

Alan Gibson – spoke about the **green corridor letter** - £10,000 per annum available but only getting £3,000 p.a.

Nutsford Vale is on the green corridor.

Grammar schools are having funding cut by 10%

Grange school is already experiencing disruption caused by Cedar Mount and if a new school were to be built it wouldn't bear thinking about.

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Cllr Julie Reid suggested campaign T-Shirts – but these could not be funded by a NIF Grant.

Cllr Bernard Stone suggested that if it went planning, a claim could be made under Loss of Amenity when someone said they would be overlooked.

Concern was raised because it was **an unregulated landfill** and that a bore hole 10 meters down found newspaper from 1976 still intact.

In 2012 Wharfedale Developments cleared a 35 acre site in Collyhurst proving that landfill can be made safe but at an astronomical expense.

Kilnwick Close has had methane leaks.

Suggestion was made that **if the contractors had used terrier rigs** which are much smaller there wouldn't have been the same amount of damage caused.

Concern was raised that **dogs exercised on the Vale were showing various signs of illness** which may be due to toxins being released.

Cllr Julie Reid was very concerned about this and was going to call an urgent meeting with Cllr Sheila Newman. Cllr Peter Cookson was also about to suggest this.

There should be ongoing monitoring for toxic gases carried out and the public notified.

It's estimated that the standard for **landfill decay is 50 years**.

We were led to believe that there were a total of **10 sites being "investigated"** but the Councillors were unable to tell us which they are.

Cllr Julie Reid going to arrange an urgent meeting with Sheila Newman. She cited **Godfrey Erwen campaign** which she backed and was successful.

Question was asked **why couldn't bigger schools be built** and unused parts be moth-balled for future demand.

Answer appears to be pressure from government regulations on building.

Kingston & Surbiton not a valid comparison to Tower Hamlets when estimating housing requirements.

Pauline suggested we should stop any more people from coming here.

Jane Graystone – pointed out that **Nutsford Vale is wild and wonderful** – different each time she visits – has been referred to as **"The Green Lungs of the City"**

Brownfield as opposed to Greenfield area classification comes from an ancient land law, probably not an appropriate criteria to use in today's world.

Alan G. - Council have 100 separate **buildings to be decommissioned**.

Alan also pointed out that Gorton had only 15% green space compared to Manchester's 27% and Greater Manchester's 53% so we are currently very disadvantaged.

Nesting robins in corner of Matthews Lane

Initial test results for the Vale should now be available.

If the HS2 goes ahead it could hit the methane belt and then all would be academic.

Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st February 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm

Next Event:

Litter Pick: Saturday 4th February 2017 from 10:30am

Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue Entrance to the Vale.