

Minutes of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 4th January 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,	Barbara Moore,	Claire James,
Daniel Heathcote,	Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,	D Sloane,
Jackie Dalgliesh,	Julie Kuizha-Craig,	Maxine Kuizha-Craig,	Bernie Cree,
Stephen Cree,	Chris O'Rourke,	Kathleen O'Rourke,	Alan Gibson,
S. Wosley,	Marie Convery,	Mavis Holt,	Pauline Sergeant,
Robert Neish,	Cassie Spinks-Lewis.		

Apologies:

Maureen Riding.

Main Meeting:

To discuss the Development of Nutsford Vale

Big Life School – Chetham/Gorton – discussed poorly planned access facilities for Utilities and restricted parking.

New Theatre at Granada Studios - Are the Council trying to raise money for this by obtaining funding through the development of the Vale?

Tenders to Surveyors - We understand that they were sent out approx 3 months ago to establish suitability of Nutsford Vale for a new School.

Foot Fall data - for Nutsford Vale users. Can we get access to that data?

Industrial sites - would need to be cleaned up.

Discussion of the condition of the Vale and history of it's use – The area was initially farmland. In the 1920's it was part of Jackson's Brick Works – a clay pit – between 80 and 100ft deep. For a time, the area was used for allotments. John pointed out that there was an underground stream which ran into where the wildflower meadow now is and which probably explains why it floods after heavy rain. During the time when it was a landfill site, all sorts and everything were dumped in there – a fair proportion of which are unlikely to have degraded. With a clay base and sides, moisture will struggle to disperse and tree roots don't go down that deep suggesting that that area will not be stable enough to cope with substantial building or traffic use.

We believe that Methane testing has been undertaken.

Main risk to local housing is during the building period if there has been a build up of gases.

GMSF (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework) – Alan made the Group aware of this and let the Group have sight of the relevant sections. The deadline for any comments or input to the consultation is 15th January 2017. Alan suggested we formally request that Nutsford Vale is declared as a Green Space and is essential to the well-being of the local community and of significant benefit to the wildlife haven there.

The meeting planned for Wednesday 11th January is to agree our formal submission.

Freedom of Information Act – should be used to get site investigation results asap. Initial results estimated to be available within a month. We should get a response in 20days of making a request, if unsatisfactory, take it further.

How long have these plans been in place? - Jackie suggested we thoroughly scour the Councils website as there should be minutes of meetings and possibly reports they commissioned or prepared.

Demand an Environmental Impact Enquiry - Wildlife reported as being seen on the Vale

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included water voles, bats, newts, foxes, Jays, robins, wrens, magpies, heron, mallard ducks, woodpeckers, frogs

Health Benefits of the Vale – these were discussed and the Group suggested NHS be contacted to enlist their help in promoting the benefits of Green Spaces in urban areas.

To promote the benefits and get support - Contact John Leech – Lib-Dem MP, he may be able to help. Suggest the Councils partners (Forestry Commission, City of Trees etc) to ask for their money back from Council if building goes ahead.

Try and raise support from the Green Party & Woodland Trust.

Agreed Initial Actions -

Claire agreed to contact the Manchester Evening News.

Danny agreed to contact Granada Reports.

Cassie agreed to check out any Charitable Groups that may be able to help and possibly get some flyers for distribution. Also may be able to help with promotion via Facebook.

Mavis agreed to contact OneManchester.

Pauline agreed to contact the Councils Planning Dept.

Rita & Barrie agreed to contact the Lib-Dem & Green Party to engender support our cause.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 11th January 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm