

## **Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn**

### **Attendees:**

Mark Lucas,	Ally Fogg,	Bruce James,	Susan Bristow,
Frank Pollitt,	Irene Beavers,	Mary Wood,	Chris O'Rourke,
Kathleen O'Rourke,	Alan Gibson,	Steve Cree,	Bernie Cree,
Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,	Gail Nicholson,	Barrie Edge,
Rita Edge,	Barbara Moore,	Bob Lomas,	Jean Wood,
Claire James,	David Sloane,	Maureen Riding,	Cassie Spinks-Lewis,
Mavis Holt.			

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Julie Reid,	Daniel Heathcote,	Janet Muldowney,	Denise Riding,
Pauline Sergeant,	Pat Kealy,	Cllr Suzanne Richards,	Cllr Peter Cookson,
Cllr Bernard Stone	Angie Bartholomew.		

### **Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting were distributed and the group was asked to review and raise any queries they might have.

### **Main Meeting:**

**Welcome everyone** and thanks to those helping with the Litter pick on Saturday and all who came to the "Make Some Noise" protest on Sunday.

Rita advised that there was supposed to be a meeting between the Council, City of Trees and ourselves, however the meeting took place at the end of last week and we were not invited!

Hilary Wood from City of Trees telephoned Rita and had not been impressed with the "presentation". She agreed to keep us informed and let us know of anything that might help our campaign. She will be writing to the Chief Exec about it and try to establish what monies may be "owed" to the various bodies that contributed to turning Jackson's Tip into Nutsford Vale Country Park.

Rita had also spoken to Cllr Suzanne Richards (Longsight Ward), who was very supportive and would be raising some very searching questions of the Council. She also had reservations concerning the number of school places required. Suzanne had a walk onto the Vale to see some of the damage caused and was stunned by the fact that she could hear the birds.

Comments were raised about the poor reparation of only part of the paths – apparently, this was due to the weather and everywhere being so wet.

Mavis pointed out that trees are not supposed to be felled in the nesting season. But the Council have felled some trees on Mellands already in preparation of the building of 130 houses, so it doesn't appear to apply to them! There has been a reference to this development in the MEN.

The Council had sent letters out to some residents asking for feedback within 21 working days but not those living on adjacent streets! Cllr Reid had apparently volunteered to arrange a public meeting to discuss it.

When discussing alternative sites for houses or schools, City of Trees were told that Annie Lees' was more contaminated than Nutsford Vale.

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Bob advised the meeting that the FOI requests for traffic levels data on Matthews Lane and Mount Road were not available and we would have to re-request the information from Greater Manchester Council.

Reddish Vale Primary School suffered extensive delays in coming into service as a result of discovering serious contamination of the site once they started building and the additional cost of "cleaning up the land" almost doubled to £9.6M. There do appear to be parallels with Nutsford Vale but the Council will not accept that there is any contamination on the Vale.

The Council are claiming that Nutsford Vale was a preferred site for the new school because they owned the land and therefore it would be cheaper for them, but, as Alan pointed out, it is the EFA (Education Funding Authority) who provide the money for the school and not the local councils.

Rita advised the group that we have a pre-consultation meeting here at 1pm on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 before the Public Consultation Meeting between 4pm & 7pm at Chapel Street Primary School. So, earlier today, both Rita and Bernie handed out leaflets and a letter prepared by Ally to parents as they left the school after collecting their children so that they could do their homework and be informed for the consultation on the following day. It is worth noting that the majority of parents didn't know anything about a new school being built or the Public Consultation the following afternoon.

There was a discussion about what happens to the forms completed at these consultations and someone had heard that they used the footfall to measure acceptance of the proposals.

Bob advised the group that at the 1<sup>st</sup> consultation meeting here, the minutes of that meeting claimed that Cllr Julie Reid & Cllr Leese had given a commitment to enhancing the remainder of the site and to look into arranging a covenant to protect it. How can commitments of this nature be made without council backing?

In addition, at this time there was no sponsor for the new school and until a sponsor is in place, the building of the school cannot take place. This remains the case at this time.

With regards to the Mayoral Elections – Richard Leese will retain his current position but would be required to work with the elected Mayor. We do not know how this will play out at the moment.

The plan for the pre-planning consultation meeting tomorrow is to simply listen and collect information and ask the occasional pertinent question. The group were asked to come along as well if they could make it, otherwise, please go to the Public Consultation Meeting from 4pm 'til 7pm and ask awkward questions.

Steve advised that one of his neighbours had received a letter from Wright Robinson school potentially about students being poached to go to schools in City Centre Northern Quarter and Salford Quays. Discussion of students crossing boundaries ensued and confirmed that this was indeed possible but the funding for that child goes with the child.

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It was also noted that the Yellow Bus that takes pupils to Cedar Mount has been dropping the children off on Matthews Lane, forcing them to cross Mount Road unattended and on up to their school. Is this acceptable?

It may well be that the traffic issues are our strongest line of attack. The new Mayor, whoever they are will be directly involved in managing the transport systems.

Still lots of concerns about rat-runs onto Matthews Lane and increased congestion. Last year there were several multi-vehicle incidents – some causing write-offs – and this will most likely only get worse if the development goes ahead.

Bob pointed out that as Hemmons Road & Longdon Road were in what are classed as residential areas and there are certain regulations in place to control noise & vehicle movements to minimise disturbance. Will these also apply to the contractors accessing the Vale via London Road if building does go ahead?

Also, ultimately, if health problems did develop as a result of using the site after any building, responsibility would lie with the architect who would have had to sign-off on the safety aspect and the Council Planning Dept who would have declared the site safe.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm**

### **Next Event:**

**Litter Pick: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 from 10:30am**

Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue Entrance to the Vale.

**Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 April from 11:30am 'til 1:00pm**

**Big Lunch Event: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017 from 1:00pm 'til 3:00pm**

(Date & time to be confirmed)