

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 22nd March 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

Mark Dunne,	Frank Pollitt,	Marie Convery,	Keith Sloane,
Wan Sloane,	David Sloane,	Donald Cooke,	Maureen Riding,
Ally Fogg,	Gail Nicholson,	Kath O'Rourke,	Chris O'Rourke,
John Prunty,	Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,	Bob Lomas,
Jean Wood,	Daniel Heathcote,	Claire James,	Steve Cree,
Bernie Cree,	Steve Worsley.		

Apologies:

Mark Lucas,	Pauline Sergeant,	Janet Muldowney,	Denise Riding,
Alan Gibson,	Barbara Moore,	Cllr Suzanne Richards,	Bruce James
Cassie Spinks-Lewis.			

Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 15th March 2017

Rita enquired of the group if everyone had been receiving the minutes and they confirmed they were.

Still waiting for feedback from Hilary at City of Trees.

Main Meeting:

Claire opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their continued support and contributions. She then called for a minutes silence to think about the injured and killed in Westminster today and their families.

Claire asked Rita where we were with the campaign.

Rita enquired whether everyone who had need to, had set up their email addresses for the new website and received confirmation (i.e Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, Info.) She also asked if everyone had had a chance to look at the new website yet at www.friendsofnutsfordvale.co.uk. There is still quite a bit to transfer including images but this is in hand. If you haven't seen it then please do. There is a Twitter and Facebook feed and several very good articles about the Vale and a very good video on YouTube produced by Ally.

Rita advised the group that we've had a contact from Abi Smitton from That's TV Manchester and we've invited her to come to our next meeting on the 29th March and introduce herself and give us an opportunity to promote our campaign.

Cllr Suzanne Richards would like to meet the group but unfortunately has other commitments on Wednesdays that she cannot avoid. Rita will try to arrange a meeting on another day asap.

Rita gave the group a reminder that we had over 2,000 new leaflets here for distribution and asked that everyone take some before they go and indicate which streets they could make deliveries to so as to avoid duplication. Rita had already given some leaflets to the Local supermarket on Mount Road, and the Hairdressers, and the butchers on Gorton Market who also had managed to get 7 petition sheets filled in for us, and planned to deliver more leaflets between East Road and Longsight Road. Rita had also managed to pick up the 3 completed petition sheets from Pauline. Bob pointed out that as we have lots of dog walkers on the Vale the Vet's on Mount Road should be given some too.

Rita arranged for a copy of the Ecological Report we had received under an FOI request to

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 22nd March 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

be passed around the room.

She then enquired as to whether anyone had taken & posted any photos on the website or seen any wildlife or flowers on the Vale which need recording.

Bob referred back to the last meeting we had here with the council where the girl from LaignORourke claimed that the reports were the property of LaignORourke and would not be made available until the planning permission application had been submitted. But reading through the documents they clearly state that LaignORourke were commissioned by the council to produce these reports. Therefore, the reports are not the property of LaignORourke but of the City Council. The documents further state that the survey of Site A (Nutsford Vale) has been modified as a result of these surveys up to 14th February 2017. This of course implies that the council already have the reports in their possession! Therefore Bob has requested copies of all related documents under FOI.

At the last consultation meeting, Bob asked how long do modular constructed buildings last and was told the same as houses. When asked how long do their houses last, she didn't know. Ally observed that modular buildings tend to be much stronger than older methods and can be built much faster.

The Council have advised that there will be another consultation meeting in May in Gorton. The Sacred Heart had been proposed as a possible venue. Mark agreed to speak to his contact there to see what can be arranged.

Ally made the point that because of Sir Gerald's passing and there will now be a by-election and everything is now under purdah the planning department can't make any decisions until after the election, thereby giving us a little more time to prepare our objections.

Also, feedback from the consultation goes to the planning dept, not the councillors. And so no real decisions will be made until after the planning application is formally submitted.

We had received an email from Alan Gibson with his apologies for tonight and in which he felt that we needed a solicitor to assist us with the council. Also, he suggested we should create a document detailing all the information we have so far to defend Nutsford Vale, agree it and publish it and make it available to the planning committee well before their meeting. He also points out that the money for the new school comes from the EFA and not the council. We should also look into declaring the area as a Village Green.

It was also noted that the Reddish Vale Primary School, that was built on a tip approx 6 years ago and almost doubled the original budget due to land contamination is now suffering from subsidence. Apparently, ceilings have collapsed and the building has suffered serious structural movement.

There was also discussion of the building method on the Vale being changed from concrete piles to a raft. If there was any methane under the raft, it wouldn't be stable.

In terms of the size of games areas required for an 1800 place school there are published guidelines provided by Sport England although in this case Steve advised that Sport England have not been approached directly with regards to Nutsford vale.

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 22nd March 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Also, at the last consultation meeting, the Highways representative talked about the need to have traffic calming introduced on Matthews Lane because it was so wide even though at earlier meetings it's large width opposite the proposed school was touted as a distinct advantage. Claire had surprised the meeting with her personal survey between 8am and 9am that day and has submitted it to the council, which recorded 1662 cars using the Matthews Lane / Mount Road junction in addition to 686 pedestrians. Some of whom were skipping across the road between the vehicles. An accident waiting to happen. Bob went back to the meeting later in the evening and met Cllr Peter Cookson there and was informed that the council would like to arrange a meeting with the Friends of Nutsford Vale. The council's representative was to be Cllr Sheila Newman. Bob asked that Sir Richard Leese also attend the meeting as Cllr Julie Reid had advised that Sir Richard had all the answers.

Also at the Chapel Street Meeting, the educational representative was reported to be quite rude and aggressive with Mark Dunn. Claire had spoken to him and tied him up in knots. Bob couldn't understand why he had been selected to be spokesperson when he didn't know anything about the area, the transport systems, the people or the site.

Bob referred to the 1st meeting we had with the council the Blue Bell where Cllr Julie Reid strongly stressed that Nutsford Vale was the only possible site. Perhaps she has ignored the issue because it may have impacted on her career prospects and decided not stand by us. Rita also noted that a gentleman from the council said it was a much better meeting after the councillors had left.

Ally also pointed out that over the last few weeks we have not seen any of our councillors and is very disappointed with their lack of support for our group, public engagement events and campaign.

He suggested that we hold a formal public meeting, inviting Cllr Sheila Newman and requesting the councillors arrange a venue and answer some of our questions. Ally volunteered to draft a letter of invitation and forward to Claire & Rita for review. We could post a copy of the letter on our website and ask for comments / responses.

Bob pointed out that we could send a letter / email to all 95 labour councillors by addressing it to the "clerk of the group".

Bob advised on the process regarding a planning application – initially, the planning dept have to verify the application is valid and correct which can take up to 14 days. Then there is a 21 day notification period in which objections can be made. The planning dept then have 10 days to read / review the objections which are then passed to the applicant. Then it is submitted to the next available planning meeting. This process can take up to 10 weeks. Ally recalled that he was aware of a charity that specialises in planning and may be able to help us formulate and submit our objections in the right way. He agreed to report back to us with more details.

Bob informed the group that "objectors" only have 3 minutes to speak at the meeting. It is therefore important that we have as many people as possible objecting as individuals to give us sufficient time to state our case. Not all the objectors will necessarily be called

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 22nd March 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

upon to speak, but if enough of us turn up to object, the majority will be heard.

John mentioned that he understood a new ruling had come into place whereby if you complain on environmental grounds and lose the case you would be liable to pay all costs so this needs to be looked into. This could be mitigated by becoming a limited company and have a share of just £1 and thereby limiting liability.

Steve advised that Bernie, she doesn't know how she did it, but the environmental agency at Westminster who will do a freedom of information enquiry for everything on Nutsford Vale and get back to her as soon as possible.

Ally mentioned the Save the Green Space Rally in Albert Square in Manchester on Saturday 1st April from 1:00pm. Would anyone be interested in going? Ally agreed to contact Cassie and maybe get an "I am going" button to establish how many people will be going. If a lot, then maybe organise a bus or something.

Steve mentioned it might be worth approaching Asian Radio to spread the word.

Claire proposed that we have a street party near where she lives over the Easter period to which she could invite some of her neighbours. Steve advised that it would be necessary to apply to the council if she wanted to close off the street for safety reasons. Perhaps a better location would be at the entrance to the Vale off Matthews Lane near the Grange School with banners / posters on the railings letting people know what's going on.

Bob advised the group that Stagecoach are planning to stop the 168 service from going down Matthews Lane due to them not being able to keep to the timetable because of congestion.

Gail enquired as to whether the follow up surveys mentioned in the ecological report were happening. It stated in the report that they would happen.

Bob reminded everyone that there is still no sponsor in place for planned school on Nutsford Vale, and far as he can determine the council have not yet advertised for sponsors. Once advertised for, the sponsors have 12 weeks to put their applications together, then a short-list has to be drawn up and the short-listed sponsors have to be interviewed. The recommendations then go from the council to the DfE. The DfE can then take 10 weeks to decide whether they approve the council's suggested applicant. No building can take place until this process is completed.

Mark also reminded us that Cllr Julie Reid said that if the building did go ahead, the sponsor would definitely not be Bright Futures.

Rita asked when does purdah start, and was advised that it already started now. Ally observed that purdah affects the council staff but not the councillors.

Concern was also expressed that Longden Road might be used as a route into the Vale by contractors by causing noise, pollution and restricted access to domestic & business properties.

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 22nd March 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Bob, in discussion with another Blue Bell patron discovered that Highfield Country Park was aerated and any methane was pumped out and removed. This did not happen on Nutsford Vale.

In addition, Bob introduced another patron, who, in his teens, has seen military personnel, including MPs closing off areas of the Vale to dump unwanted munitions. He couldn't be sure what was dumped, only that he remembered them being present on more than one occasion. Claire agreed to try and find out more if possible from the Ministry of Defence. Marie advised that in old tips it is not uncommon to find radium because of the use of luminous dials on equipment.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 29th March 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm

Next Event:

Save the Greenbelt Rally: Saturday 1st April from 1:00pm Albert Square, Manchester.

Litter Pick: Saturday 8th April 2017 from 10:30am

Meet at the Bickerdike Avenue Entrance to the Vale.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday 15th 2017 April from 11:30am 'til 1:00pm

Street Party: Easter Monday 17th April 2017 from 3:00pm 'til 5:00pm

Big Lunch Event: Sunday 18th June 2017 from 1:00pm 'til 3:00pm
(Date & time to be confirmed)