

Record of Emergency Meeting of Friends of Nutsford Vale Wednesday 12th April 2017 6:30pm at the Blue Bell Inn

Attendees:

Mark Lucas,	Pauline Sergeant,	Daniel Heathcote,	Marie Convery,
Frank Pollitt,	Afzan Khan (MEP),	Mike Kane,	Cassie Spinks-Lewis,
Kath O'Rourke,	Chris O'Rourke,	Steve Cree,	Bernie Cree,
Claire James,	Rich Durber,	Christine Prunty,	John Prunty,
Ally Fogg,	David Sloane,	Bob Lomas,	Cllr Suzanne Richards,
Jean Wood,	Mavis Holt,	Rita Edge,	Barrie Edge,
Bruce James,	Barbara Moore,	Keith Sloane,	Wan Sloane,

Apologies:

Alan Gibson,	Maureen Riding,	Charles Glover,	Brian Osbiston,
Janet Muldowney,	Denise Riding,		

Matters Arising: from Previous Meeting on 5th April 2017

Bob FOI – How they decided they needed another school – apparently they work the figures out on hypothesis, guesswork & conjecture.

No feedback from the MoD re munitions dumping on Nutsford Vale.

Main Meeting:

Welcome to everyone and thanks to Cllr Suzanne Richards for posting photos of our Litter pick on Facebook.

Suzanne advised that Afzal Khan (the Labour candidate for Gorton MP) would be coming to our meeting tonight to hear our views regarding Nutsford Vale and learn more about our campaign first hand.

On arrival, Afzal Khan introduced himself and asked for feedback about the Vale and our concerns about building on Nutsford Vale and the campaign and would hope to speak to Sir Richard Leese about the issues we have.

John produced some information from the internet where building schools on landfill sites appeared to have caused a high incidence of Leukaemia (4 times the norm!!) & Oesophagus cancer in people that spent some time in that area. Also some information about putting piles into contaminated sites from the Environment Agency.

Ally pointed out that the council appear to be going ahead with the preparation for this new school without having sight of the relevant reports concerning possible risks, assuming that because they already own the land it will be the cheapest option. Laing O'Rourke consider the job to be a challenge but a primary school in Reddish Vale, built on another Jackson's tip was found to be on contaminated land and ended up being built but at almost twice the original budget! What's to say it won't also happen to Nutsford Vale!. We were also told that the toxicology report would be available before the March consultation meeting, but now being told it would only be available as part of their planning application.

Bob pointed out unavailability of Traffic & Toxicology reports via FOI. In discussion with the council we have been told that if work has been commissioned by the council then the

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reports are the property of the council. Why is this information being held back?
Traffic congestion was raised, indicating that it was bad now. If the new school was built it would be horrendous. The architect claimed that the width of Matthews Lane was a distinct advantage and yet the Highways representative said it was too wide and traffic calming measures would need to be introduced.

Also, we have now been told that the meeting that we were expecting to have with Cllr Newman & Richard Leese is NOT going to happen and our Councillors have all the answers to our questions. A meeting has been requested with all 3 of our councillors – a date has yet to be agreed.

Again, it was pointed out that we recognise the need for a new school, but not on Nutsford Vale due to the potential safety issues and the significant loss of a very important amenity in this densely populated and deprived area.

Suzanne acknowledged that Nutsford Vale was quite unique in this area and she doesn't feel that the Friends Group, who have looked after this beautiful place, have been treated in a proper manner. She has some ideas about how this might be progressed.

MEP Khan was very grateful for being allowed to come and meet us and thanked us for letting him know just how we felt. He promised that if he is elected MP he will work with and support us & if not, as an MEP he would still work with and support us.

Claire's Traffic Census yesterday: overall vehicles counted were down from 1,662 at the 1st census during a 'normal' school week between 8am & 9am to 1,062 yesterday, emphasizing that a new 1800 place school would significantly increase traffic congestion. Also, during the anticipated work on the bridge on Hyde Road would likely make the traffic situation even worse.

We have now finally received the minutes of the meeting a group of us had on the 16/3/2017 with the council and Laing O'Rourke before the Chapel Street Consultation for our files.

Rita advised the Group that, further to our email (drafted by Ally), we have now emailed our councillors asking for dates, times & locations when they would all be able to meet us to discuss the issues raised – we are still awaiting a reply.

Suzanne confirmed that after the boundary changes come into force next year, Nutsford Vale will be in the Longsight Ward as well as the "Education Village".

Ally has a journalist contact who is doing a full page spread for us next week in the Big Issue focussing on schools built on landfill sites and the unfortunate outcomes as a result.

John's brother died of Oesophagus cancer in 2002 and wondered if there was any way in which we could find out whether other residents from the same area may have suffered similarly. Ally thought not because of the general movement of populations and records kept.

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Cedar Mount had plans to do work on Nutsford Vale but the Council have no records of it or from Spurley Hey. Marie pointed out that occasionally, applicants ask that reports are not submitted to the council and this might have happened here.

Marie has friends that have access to a legal database and may be able to help with clarification on some laws (but not planning applications) if required.

The Group had also received a report from Laing O'Rourke concerning the re-instatement work that had been done and information from Romboll providing some information from the samples they had taken at the end of March 2017 from the open borehole we had reported. Marie had looked over these and felt they were quite standard for a landfill sight.

Barrie reported that there was another area between the pond and the Gorton Mount school where the soil was discoloured and looked oily even though it wasn't the site of a borehole. Marie said she would have a look.

Because Alan couldn't be with us tonight, he had emailed us with some observations:

1. Who benefits from the planned school Nutsford Vale?

From info on the scheme, all the companies are registered in Foreign countries e.g. Cyprus which is probably a tax haven and Denmark.

The group of people who do NOT benefit is local residents in Gorton, Levenshulme and Longsight. These building companies want to sell their idea on to be used elsewhere, so they could make a lot of money but we get nothing. Nor for that matter will the Council. That is surely a matter for the new Chief Executive (Ms Joanne Roney) to consider in a professional manner. We should write to her as a Group.

2. Who takes the risk from contamination released from Nutsford Vale?

The building companies take NO risk as they all live elsewhere. The risk is all taken by local residents living in Gorton, Levenshulme and Longsight. Why are we taking all the risk but getting none of the benefits? A matter for our elected representatives or those who wish to represent us. Mr. Afzal Khan would need to put his proposed support in writing or some such manner. It also seems that certain European Laws are not being followed by the Manchester Council and since Mr. Afzal Khan is an MEP (European Parliament) that is a matter we should impress upon him as a candidate. Both the building companies are registered in Europe and MUST follow European Law. (Cyprus and Denmark).

3. Distribution - I have put a leaflet in the "Village Stores" (opposite the pub) on the counter but it had disappeared after 2 days. Perhaps I should ask the owner to stick it in the window. I spend about £10 a week there.

No further information had been obtained concerning free legal support via any of the unions. Jess Mayo, at the Street Party on Easter Monday, said she was still looking and checking to find out what she could and let us know.

Cassie advised us that we had over 1,001 signatures on the paper & petitions so far which means that it will go to a Scrutiny Committee and be minuted. We still need to push for a few more names to compensate for any that the council might consider to be invalid.

Rita confirmed the timing and details of the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 15th April 2017 and acknowledged Suzanne's donation of 30 small chocolate eggs as consolation prizes.

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No outstanding copies of letters or emails to put in our “evidence” folder – except Claire.

Wildlife seen on the Vale – Ally had seen a heron hiding in the long grass and a fox the other day. John pointed out there was a nesting robin in the south-west corner of the Vale. Marie thinks she might be able to get some small mammal crib sheets for us.

Claire thanked everyone who participated in the Litter pick on Saturday and asked if anyone would be interested in a Dawn Chorus Event – very early morning start in May?

The Street Party on Easter Monday (17th April 2017) would be very easy going and a way of thanking everybody for all their support around a cool box full of Pimms.

It was agreed that because we have an event on Saturday 15th and Monday 17th April we will NOT have a meeting on Wednesday 19th April 2017.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 26th April 2017 at the Bluebell Inn at 6:30pm

Next Event:

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

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

Big Lunch Event: Saturday 17th June 2017 from 1:00pm 'til 3:00pm

Gorton Carnival: Sunday 3rd September from 10:30am 'til 3:00pm
(Timings to be confirmed)