

Mirrlees Fields Action Group

Annual General Meeting

Great Moor Primary School

24 November 2011

Apologies

Mike Gorman, Robert Birtles, Mr and Mrs Hollingshurst, Ben Alexander, Carol Condliffe, Mark Weldon, Andrew Stunnell, Graham Frith, David Kemp, Rosemary Barrett.

Present

32 in total (22 members plus 10 committee).

Minutes of the 2010 AGM

These were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

None, other than those that would be covered in the Chair's report.

Chair's report

David Gosling went through the main body of the report. He explained that it was a joint report between himself and David Kemp, because of the nature of the tenure of the post this year.

The full report can be found on the MFAG group website (www.mirrleesfields.org.uk)

Following his report David opened the forum for comments and questions:

- There was suggestion re screening around the site and what form this would take. After discussion it was felt that this should be pursued although MFAG's has no formal way to influence the section 106 discussions
- Man Diesel are not a building firm so when the application has been approved, MAN will sell the land to a suitable firm and the MFAG must then start negotiations and discussions with that firm
- How many houses? 25% affordable housing according to regulations. There will be 203 units that will include a variety of dwellings
- The Fred Perry way is to be made into a more permanent path across the fields from the corner of the factory site to Kinross

Avenue. This raised a number of issues and concerns about usage. The meeting took a vote on this issue and came out in favour of an upgrade by 19 for 10 against

- There was a question about the length of time a planning application might lie dormant before it became 'out of date'. The general knowledge from the floor said it was 3 years. This raised the spectre of the application not being sorted and another scheme taking its place.
- The overgrown path from the factory site to the station was mentioned and its condition. As a 'marketing/publicity' event the MFAG committee had already pencilled in a clearance day in the new Year. Either January or February was suggested as the vegetation would be at its lowest around that time of year. Good publicity for us and a valuable thing to do anyway.
- There had been a request from Great Moor School for David Kemp to represent MFAG as a member of the governing body. This was accepted

Treasurer's report

Gene Allen reported a quiet year. No income and expenditure related to keeping members informed.

Postage had been an issue this year and there was request for members to help deliver next time. This was met with a positive response from the floor.

Fundraising was discussed and a number of ideas were put forward:

1. Open day (on a neighbouring park if we did not have permission to use the Fields)
2. Annual subscription
3. Calendar
4. Donation request

Election of Officers

Chair	David Gosling
Treasurer	Gene Allen
Secretary	Richard Brown

Committee

Mike Gorman, Carol Condliffe, Alison Marsden, Rosemary Barrett, Brian Waddington, Graham Frith, Sue Bailey, Charlie Gallagher, David Kemp, Geoff Taylor, Hilary Fletcher

Existing absent committee members, who had not sent apologies, will be asked at a later date whether they wish to stay on the committee.

The role of MFAG 2012

Discussion from the floor;

- The context for any future discussions depends on who gets the contract to develop the factory site and on the willingness of MAN to re-start talks about the future of the 'open space.'
- We are trying to get together as many names of people who have been walking the Fields for over 20 years. This might open up the possibility of MFAG applying for Village Green status for the Fields. However such a move could result in a lengthy legal battle.
- We should identify local groups with a shared interest and start to talk with them - scouts, schools, sea cadets, conservation groups, church groups etc.
- MFAG is still committed to public ownership of the Fields.
- Man Diesel is responsible for the husbandry of the site at present.
- Issues re 'gangs' was raised and it was stressed that the community police needed to be informed (P.C Akersley).
- Communication board required. There was also the Post Office who was always willing to help.
- Membership drive was needed. A concerted effort to get up-to-date email addresses.
- Continued collection of data relating to who uses the space, how often and for how long. All this will give strength to our arguments and discussions.

Presentation

Sue Bailey then gave a very informative and interesting talk on the history of the fields and surrounding areas. It really encouraged all present to 'fight' to keep this area that has always been an open space. Anyone who would like to contribute to (or who knows someone who would have memories of the Fields) an oral history of the Fields was asked to contact Sue (0161 612 5234 or sue_bailey@ntlworld.com).

Meeting closed at 8 55 pm.