

MIRLEES FIELD ACTION GROUP

October Newsletter

Dear Member,

Have your say on the future: AGM and Public Meeting

On **November 18th** the Mirrlees Fields Action Group will hold a public meeting and its Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm at **Great Moor Junior School**. After a short AGM to update members on the activities of the last year and to elect officers and members of the committee, there will be an open debate on the future uses of Mirrlees Fields.

If you wish to put yourself forward to work on the committee or you wish to propose a motion at the AGM, please get in touch with the secretary, Sue Bailey (0161 612 5234 or sue_bailey@ntlworld.com).

Please come along and let us hear your views.

What is the future for Mirrlees Fields?

Members of the Committee of the Mirrlees Fields Action Group met with the leader of the Council, Dave Goddard, and other members of the executive to open discussion about the future use of Mirrlees Fields. Present at the meeting were the three Ward Councillors for Stepping Hill, Maggie Clay, who is also responsible for the Health portfolio; Mark Weldon, responsible for Education and Ben Alexander. Kevin Hogg was there responsible for Regeneration and Shan Alexander who is responsible for Leisure.

We outlined our vision for the area based on four principles:

1. Improve access to the site
2. Increase usage of the site by local residents
3. Increase usage by local youth groups, schools, sports associations
4. Preserve wild-life and increase biodiversity

Discussion focused on what the Council would need to do if they took ownership of the Fields - currently under active consideration. Maggie Clay thought we should add 'Promote public health', as an objective and Kevin Hogg emphasised that the area would need to generate some income to cover maintenance costs.

Further meetings with council officials are being planned. Applications for grants to enhance the area will be part of the discussions.

Some initial ideas put forward by members of the committee include the following.

Improved access: Create all-weather footpath on perimeter of open area on west side. Conduct regular litter collections, improve security, and provide dog litter bins. Create

small car parks at entrances on west and east sides. Improve disabled access to the site and provide some seating. Improve signage to the site and erect information and map boards at entrances

Wildlife management: Improve management of coppices and provide nesting boxes, create specified wild-life areas, create a tree trail – map, notes and labelled trees. Encourage native species of wild flowers in the grasslands and plant native species trees/shrubs in designated coppice areas. Clear ditches and waterways and protect habitat of seasonal ponds

Encourage public use: Work with local schools to encourage ecology study projects. Provide improvements to anglers' pond. Create allotments. Create a sensory garden intended especially for blind and partly-sighted visitors.

More ambitious (and costly) ideas include an ecology 'Learning Centre' for use by visiting school groups, a children's playground, resurfacing the bridleway that crosses the fields and provide lighting to encourage use by cyclists and pedestrians.

To discuss these and other ideas come to:

Public Meeting and AGM on November 18th

at Great Moor School at 7.30 pm

MAN Diesel Planning Application

As we have been expecting MAN Diesel have lodged their Planning Application for two new buildings on the factory site. There will be a three storey office block and a warehouse which will also include the training facility. These buildings will only occupy about 25% of the existing factory site.

The future of the remainder of the factory site will be determined in 'Phase Two' over the next 18 months to two years. The purchase or lease of Mirrlees Fields by the Council is also expected to be part of the Phase Two discussions.

The Planning Application for Phase One developments, number DC040255, is available for the public to look at on the Stockport Borough web-site or at Council Offices.

Traffic Concerns

The Action Group is committed to opposing plans which will put significantly more traffic pressures on Bramhall Moor Lane and in Woodsmoor. We are assured that the current plans will not increase traffic numbers, although there will be a short-term increase in demolition and construction traffic.

However, we will be scrutinising plans for the Phase Two developments very carefully when they become available, because we believe it is here that problems may arise.

The Council have been building a new entrance to the MAN Diesel site on Bramhall Moor Lane. This has suffered further delays and is now running 9 months late causing disruption to residents in the area. The delays have been blamed on the utilities companies. There are also serious concerns about whether the new junction will actually improve matters.