

E.V.A.D.E.

Ecclesbourne Valley Against Development Excesses

NEWS LETTER NO 1

4th September 2020

Communications: In the past various items of information have been circulated primarily by e-mail, but now we are getting more organised it is thought that an occasional "News Letter" would be a good way of keeping people informed and encouraging members to give us feedback and any local information and news that may be relevant to our objectives - so here you are - News Letter No. 1! This will be circulated by e-mail but if anyone is aware of people who are not on e-mail please feel free to pass on hard copy, or let us know and we will get a copy to them.

Committee Meeting. 1st September 2020

At a committee meeting (socially distanced and in the open air) we took several steps towards formalising our existence as an organisation and hence achieving our aims and objectives.

A constitution was agreed. This is largely a formality to state how the group will be organised and to enable us to open a bank account. If anyone wants to see this document please contact one of the committee members so we can get a copy e-mailed to you.

It was also decided how our "Membership" should be defined and organised. See the item just right on this page.

The bank account will be opened with donations from the committee members. In due course (once we actually have a bank account!) there may be an appeal for voluntary donations in order that we have modest funds to further our objectives.

Seeking Expert Help.

While we may all be clear about our objectives and keen to achieve them, it could be that we need external help and expertise to put them into practice. One possible route to obtaining this would be via universities who might be willing to undertake studies into aspects of life in the valley and the potential for development without detracting from the quality of our rural environment. We plan to make contact with appropriate academic institutions to see what they might be able to offer.

Membership.

The committee has decided that all those who have expressed an interest in E.V.A.D.E. and given us their contact details should be invited to be "Members" of the organisation. By default, they will be included in our membership list, but if anyone does not wish to be a member they can opt out at any time and their data will be removed.

There is no joining or membership fee and no specific responsibilities or liabilities. Members, however, will be entitled to vote at any General Meetings that may be called including an Annual General Meeting.

Making Ourselves Known.

We will shortly be making contact with a number of other interested parties including local authorities at Parish, District and County levels.

A letter to Ms. Sarah Dines, MP for Derbyshire Dales, inviting her support and involvement has been sent. A meeting is being arranged with representatives of the Chatsworth Estate.

In each case we will be making clear our objectives, seeking their opinions and information on any plans they may have, and making it clear that we are happy to cooperate with other parties to ensure that the character and rural nature of the Ecclesbourne Valley is preserved.

Contact E.V.A.D.E. via
2020evade@gmail.com

Information Required.

We are starting to make a "library" of useful documents and information so that we have ammunition ready to hand when we start talking to the councils etc. The library will comprise some hardcopy documents and some website links to sites where there is something of interest. Apart from information from Amber Valley BC and DCC, such things as maps showing areas of special historic interest or having rare or endangered species may be of great use to us. For instance, we already have a map showing the areas of the valley which are regarded as liable to flooding, which may be relevant to any plans for building close to the river. So, if anyone has this sort of information please let us know.

Leaflet Campaign and Results.

Many thanks to all those who helped with the distribution of the leaflets. Over 500 leaflets were put through letter boxes in Turnditch, Windley, Cowers Lane, Idridgehay, Ashleyhay, Alton, Hazelwood and the outlying farms and houses. Following this we have received a steady stream of applications to join up with us. At the last count we had over 160 e-mail addresses on our distribution list many of which were from couples, so the total number of interested people is now well over 200. Bearing in mind that the total population of these village combined, as recorded at the 2011 census was only 1293, I think that we can reasonably claim that the level of local support for our cause is "substantial".

Planning Applications.

It would be nice if Amber Valley BC were to advise E.V.A.D.E. of all new planning applications in the valley but unfortunately this is not the case (at the moment at least).

So if you become aware of any planning applications that might be considered contentious, possibly via an official notification of something being planned near you or just a notice tied to a lamppost or similar, please let us know.

As we have stated before, E.V.A.D.E. is **not** against all development, just against excessive or inappropriate development. We are unlikely to get involved with applications for extensions to existing houses or even single new-build houses provided that they are appropriate to the location and environment. If the consensus opinion is that the proposals do not accord with our aims then we will make our opinions known at Parish and District level and encourage individuals to do likewise.



"Where Sheep May Safely Graze" (J. S. Bach)

This is our valley - let's keep it safe for the sheep and ourselves.