



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 5 April 2012 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

Attendees: Judith Barratt (Chair), Tina Barnes, Phil Bagge, Margaret Skinner, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Dave Kenny, Cllr Tom Stanway (part)

Apologies for Absence: Jennifer Millest, Jenny Hicks, Richard Denney, Malcolm Moye, Peter Trout.

1) **Minutes of 1 March meeting** - approved for publication, no amendments.

2) **Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues.**

a) Planters by Caversham Telephone Exchange – GLOBE has offered to take over the planting, care and maintenance, subject to RBC agreement. A less than satisfactory response had been received from Steven Charlton, Asst Highways Manager, saying that “in principle” the council has no objection but imposing several conditions which were felt to be excessive and unachievable. **Richard has replied by email and Cllr Stanway would also follow up.**

b) Trees - Barbara Oxenham has now approved our proposals to plant some replacement trees on housing land in Charles Evans Way (4 or 5 ornamentals). The meeting felt that with the very dry ground conditions this should now be postponed until the autumn. **Keep in view until Oct.**

c) Beacon Trees - Several Globe members had helped with planting on 15 March at Westfield Rec (1 x liquidamber) & Reading Bridge (1 x Wellingtonia). Subsequently a huge semicircle of grass around the tree at Westfield Rec had died. Dave Booth (RBC) admitted he had sprayed it as part of a biodiversity experiment. The experiment was not connected with the tree which it was hoped would not be affected by the weedkiller. Concern was expressed over the use of chemicals in such a well used public area with no warning whatsoever.

d) Balmore Walk - Resurfacing of footpaths. Ben Stanesby (Parks manager) has advised us that he had not approved of the resurfacing of the paths with Coxwell gravel despite this having been agreed on recent site visits with Dave Booth from RBC. Ben had concerns over long-term maintenance of gravel. The meeting was concerned that only natural surfacing should be used on the paths at Balmore to prevent creeping urbanisation. Phil reminded us that RBC had given a commitment over the use of natural surfacing at Balmore when the Sustrans path was installed. It was strongly felt that this promise should be adhered to and that the paths should be maintained with natural surfacing. **Tom S. to follow up.**

e) Beech Wood, off Grove Hill - Subject to confirmation of the lease being amended to reflect our concerns, we had agreed to withdraw our objection to the lease of further land and hoped to work with the scouts in future. However, as of 5 April we are still awaiting sight of the amended lease. Richard had emailed RBC legal dept to chase. **Keep in view.**

f) TPO trees at St Martin's Precinct Sarah Hanson (RBC Planning & Natural Environment) had advised that one replacement will be going in soon. It will be a large (40-50cm) girth Dawn Redwood and will be planted at the back of the precinct near the Iceland entrance. Sarah added that “The second replacement is on hold for the moment for various reasons, hence the requirement for a significant one this year we should be seeing one replacement tree planted

soon.” The meeting was unclear why there was such a delay in the holm oak being replaced (it died over a year ago) since the ground work and pit was already dug. It would not be acceptable for two lost TPO trees to be replaced by only one. **Tom S to investigate.**

g) Hills Meadow: Richard, Dave and Chris Webster had a site meeting with Ben Stanesby and Marcus Herman from RBC earlier in the week. Marcus had explained that Parks wanted to remove the earth mounds to make more flat ground available for circuses and fairs on the site. With the mound removed there should be more space for the vehicles from the fairs to keep well away from the towpath. Landscaping was proposed with London planes, silver birch and fritillaries in the strip next to the towpath which the fairs would not be allowed to park on. Regarding concerns about opening up gaps in the vegetation along the Mill Stream, the site visit had agreed that removal of collapsed trees from the Mill Stream would effectively open up views with little actual clearance of vegetation on the banks then being necessary. Ben/Marcus would be drawing up a landscape plan for consultation at a future meeting. **Keep in view.**

h) Caversham Court Gardens. Vickie reported that Friends of Caversham Court Gardens (FCCG) had been told that because of budget cuts, the gates would no longer be shut at night at either the Forbury or Caversham Court. Originally this was to be implemented in April but had been delayed following complaints from FCCG, who pointed out that the Management Committee had not yet been consulted. It may also be in breach of local bylaws. **Keep in view.**

- 3)**Planning matters - Former Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road** – Dave had emailed the Caversham councillors to see if they can find out why the site has been fenced off and who was responsible for keeping it clean (the fence is attracting graffiti and is even more of an eyesore than it was before being fenced off). Tom said that Cllr Lockett was investigating. **Keep in view.**
- 4)**Finance Matters** - Dave reported that we had now been awarded our £375 Community Grant from RBC. (update: cheque from RBC has now been received).
- 5)**Environmental Issues - Street cleaning** The meeting discussed street cleaning. It was felt that cleaning and sweeping around Caversham was patchy particularly in areas which do not have a dedicated beat sweeper. **Environment Visual Audits (EVA).** Dave would cover the EVA on 17th April, Tina on 8th and 10th May.
- 6)**RESCUE 2012** – the annual spring Riverside and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event took place from 8- 11 March 2012 with Caversham Globe supporters covering 5 separate areas. We collected 58 orange (rubbish) and 21 recycling sacks, 4 shopping trolleys, several other pieces of scrap metal, wood and dumped clothing. 22 different people helped out, giving some 71 hours in total. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event this year.
- 7)**GLOBE Correspondence/activities. - Readipop at Christchurch Meadow** (hold to May)
- 8)**AOB** a) **Draft Annual Report 2011** - (discuss at next meeting)
- b) **Change of meeting day.** Church House advised that due to recent booking only the **Fourth Tuesday** will now be available, starting in August. **It was agreed that we would change the meeting date to the fourth Tuesday starting on 28th August.** Until then meeting would be as already booked: Thursdays 10 May, 7 June (AGM), 5 July.

Date of next meeting: 7:15pm. Thursday 10 May 2012 Church House, 59 Church Street.
