



**MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING  
28 August 2012 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.**

**Attendees.** Jenny Hicks (Chair), Jean Newbery, Margaret Skinner, Vicky Abel, Dave Kenny, Phil Bagge, Alan Pennington, Chris Burden, Richard Denney, Matthew Wellspring, Cllr Richard Davies

**Apologies:** Judith Barratt, Jennifer Millest, Tina Barnes, Peter Trout, Monica McMaster, Jim McMaster Margaret Wall, Cllr Isobel Ballsdon, Cllr Andrew Cumpsty.

**Minutes of 5 July meeting** - approved for publication after amendment to attendee names.

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

a) **4 Planters by Caversham Telephone Exchange** – noted that repairs to the large planter have not yet been carried out by RBC. Autumn planting to be done by GLOBE in October.

b) **Balmore Walk - Resurfacing of footpaths.** New tarmac surfaces in back field not welcomed by GLOBE as it looks too urbanised. Would have preferred gravel in parts where we suggested. Main path in Balmore Walk still needs some repair. The over-sized concrete base of the new bench at south end of park has now been removed by RBC as a result of our representations.

c) **TPO trees at St Martin's Precinct** - A large Dawn redwood is due to be planted in October, discussions ongoing on replacing the dead Holm Oak. View of meeting remains that it is not acceptable for two lost TPO trees to be replaced by only one. **Tom Stanway still to follow up.**

d) **Hill's Meadow: Landscape plans** involving removal of earth mounds & replanting near Mill Stream backwater have been implemented. Need to check agreed plans are fully implemented. **Keep in view.**

e) **Caversham Court Lime Trees:** Noted that a diseased and dangerous very old Lime tree had been felled outside Caversham Court – this will be replaced. News of this had prompted Dave to check the 2007 agreed tree planting plan, which indicates that 3 new Lime trees have yet to be planted. **Vicki & Dave to progress with RBC. Councillor Davies will also pursue.**

f) **RBC Autumn tree planting plans:** RBC tree plans have been sent to GLOBE for feedback. Noted that some of the GLOBE trees we planted at the Millennium, with RBC approval on roadside verges in Emmer Green, are now to be replaced. Suggested that site meeting with EGRA should be held to discuss. Suggestions also welcome for other local areas where RBC could plant new or replacement trees e.g. Newlands Avenue. **Dave will follow up**

g) **Picton Way** – Two fallen willows in alley to Peppard Road. These were planted 3 years ago on public land by the adjacent householder after relocation of his boundary fence. Both trees were recently discovered knocked over and needed re-erecting. However, RBC opinion is that these are not suitable species and should be replaced. A nearby dead larch will be felled soon. **Keep in view.**

h) Jenny reported that some tree damage had been caused in Westfield Rec by people using the trees as exercise apparatus.

**2) Planning matters.**

a) **Former Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road** – The recent planning application 12/0094/FUL for residential development of the site has been withdrawn. **Keep in view**

b) **George Street Petrol Station** – Still no response on GLOBE's objections to felled trees/shrubs on site frontage. Action: Globe to forward concerns to planning enforcement; **Cllr Stanway to pursue with Council and/or Shell.**

c) **Land behind 88 to 96 Lower Henley Road:** Planning Application 12/01117/APPCON. Residential development on back gardens. This has reappeared on RBC planning lists. Councillor Davies will follow up on our concerns re lack of consultation with neighbouring householders and local bodies.

### 3) Finance Matters.

- a) **Agreed donation** of £20 to Thames Rescue Boats following use of a boat by GLOBE during the recovery of shopping trolleys and a wheelie bin from the Thames near Caversham Bridge.
- b) **Insurance. (Item carried over from July Meeting)** Dave reported that GLOBE has now renewed our insurance cover via BTCV, inclusive of £10million public liability as stipulated by RBC but the issues previously discussed at the July meeting remain outstanding **i.e. The matter of £10 million public liability insurance required by Highways remains unresolved, but it is understood from the Trega meeting that there are ongoing discussions within the council between Parks, Highways, Housing etc, to try and resolve it.....we understand RBC would pay the difference between renewing at the current £5m public liability (approx £75) or renewing with £10m public liability (approx £220).** **Action: Cllrs Stanway and Cumpsty to clarify the minimum level of insurance required for GLOBE activities, including planting, with a view to resolving the kind of bureaucratic difficulties which are preventing GLOBE groups from undertaking volunteer-led activities of material benefit to the local area, and to report back ASAP.**

### 4) Environmental Issues

- a) **Scheduled Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)** GLOBE supporters continue to attend EVAs where problems are noted by RBC Streetcare for action by the appropriate RBC department or GLOBE e.g. overhanging vegetation, potholes, obscured road signs, graffiti, litter & fly tipping.
- b) **Recycling Tetrapacks in central Caversham – response still awaited.** (Our nearest existing bins are at Milestone Way or Rivermead Car Park). **Action : Cllr Stanway to pursue with RBC**
- c) **12 Shopping Trolleys & a wheelie bin retrieved from Thames in July.** Good coverage and picture in local paper. Copy of newspaper article available from Richard Denney on request.
- 5) **Autumn RESCUE (WOODLANDS & WATERWAYS CLEAN UP) dates confirmed - Friday and Saturday, 12 and 13 October.** Several litter clear up sessions are scheduled - one on Friday morning 12 October, 10.30 to 12.30 meeting point Hill's Meadow by the recycling bins to clear some areas of lower Caversham riverside e.g. Christchurch Meadow and the Dannall or View Island & Hills Meadow; another session will be on Saturday morning 13 October, meet 10am at the Milestone Centre in Caversham Park Village to clear nearby green/wooded areas e.g. Farnham Drive Woods and the pond area off Northbrook Road. Final arrangements will be confirmed at September meeting and publicised. **NB if readers have suggested sites, please let Richard know as soon as possible.**
- 6) **Battery Collection Scheme** - Our GLOBE battery collection scheme has been running since September 2009, when only minimal facilities for recycling batteries were at the Civic Centre or at Smallmead. Since then, two changes have been introduced: "From 1st February 2010, all retailers selling more than 32Kg of portable batteries (ordinary household batteries) per year were required by law to offer take-back facilities." In central Caversham that includes Waitrose, Superdrug and Marparts who are known to have collection bins. Additionally, "used household batteries can be collected from your doorstep. Put your used household batteries in a sealed clear sandwich/freezer bag on top of your red bin on your recycling collection day. The bin crew will then collect the batteries and take them away for recycling. This service does not apply to communal bin areas." **Whilst our 5 GLOBE collection bins continue to be used by residents, it was decided to retain them, pending a review next year.**
- 7) **Globe Correspondence/Activities/AOB**
- a) Detailed article in "Caversham Bridge" newspaper published in late August (September edition)
- b) We are in contact with Rivermead about litter problems around car park and adjacent areas
- c) Phil drew attention to a Lichen Survey and Air Quality in which supporters could get active, see this link: <http://www.opalexplornature.org/AirSurvey>
- 8) **Date of next meeting Tuesday, 25 September, other 2012 dates: Oct 23; Nov 27; Dec 18**