



Go Local On a Better Environment

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

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Vicky Abel, Phil Bagge, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Jean Newbery, Carol Landgon, Chris Burden, Peter Trout

Apologies: Richard Denney, Jenny Hicks, Bob O'Neil, Jennifer Millest, Cllr Isobel Ballsdon, Cllr Richard Davies

Minutes of 25 September meeting - approved for publication - no amendments.

1) Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) **4 Planters by Caversham Telephone Exchange** – all fine, geraniums are still in flower; winter bedding plants discussed. Wallflowers suggested. Planting probably in November.

b) **Baltimore Walk - Resurfacing of paths.** No further news. Keep in view.

c) **TPO trees at St Martin's Precinct** - Dawn redwood was due to be planted in October. Dead holm oak has been removed. View of meeting remains that it is not acceptable for two lost TPO trees to be replaced by only one. No sign of any new trees yet. **Tom Stanway still to follow up.**

d) **Hill's Meadow:** Earth mounds between car park and river have now been removed. Landscaping still due to take place. Dave & Margaret attended meeting on site with Marcus Herman of RBC Parks on 28 September to discuss tree & shrub planting. Seeding is due to be done soon; London planes and Silver birch to be planted in gaps. Proposal for 4 x large tree trunks to stop vehicles encroaching on grass with groups of shrubs planted between. Margaret had pointed out the clump of Japanese knotweed by the path which needs attention.

Dave to follow up planting suggestions with Parks.

e) **Caversham Court Lime Trees:** Both Globe and Friends are continuing to press for the felled lime tree at the frontage to be replaced. Vicki had raised at recent Cav Court management meeting. **Councillor Davies also pursuing.**

f) **RBC Autumn tree planting plans:** approved by council 1 October, but there is uncertainty over tree planting budget in future years. Dave & Richard had met Richard Stimpson of RBC on 2 October to agree on replacements for a number of Globe's millennium tree plantings this winter at Buckingham Drive (3 x limes & 1 wellingtonia) and Evesham Rd (1 sweet chestnut). Trees would be ordered and Richard S. would arrange **planting dates with Globe.**

g) **Picton Way** – Two willows in alley and nearby dead larch. No change - **Keep in view.**

h) **Tree planting in Brooklyn Drive, Courtney Drive and Burnham Rise** – Residents and Tree Wardens to be planting trees on Saturdays 24 Nov and 1 Dec at 10am. Help from Globe would be welcome. Contact Alan Pennington via info@cavershamglobe.org.uk if interested.

i) **Hill's Meadow Cycle path** - Margaret reported that a tree had fallen across the towpath earlier in the week and had not been fully cleared yet.

j) **Caversham Lakes - Deans Farm causeway** - Chris Webster has been in touch to report that the footpath over the causeway between the two lakes at Deans farm has been completely blocked for its entire length by adjacent trees being felled across it. Local residents did not know who was responsible but site owner Lafarge is suspected. No idea why this has been done. Chris has raised issue with Oxfordshire but not yet had any reply. **Keep in view.**

k) **Vastern Ditch** (behind Kings Meadow Baths) Carol reported the ditch was contaminated with oil etc and needed cleaning. Phil said this had been an issue over many years but was unsure if the EA or RBC were responsible.

2) Planning matters.

a) **George Street Petrol Station** – No resolution of GLOBE's concerns about removal of trees/shrubs on site frontage; **Cllr Stanway was going to raise the issue with Council and/or Shell.** Carol offered to raise issue with management at the petrol station and report back.

b) **Land behind 88 to 96 Lower Henley Road:** Planning Application 12/01117/APPCON. Residential development on back gardens. Jenny had submitted objections but been told by RBC that as this was an old application which apparently already had planning approval, nothing can be done. Concern remained that neighbouring householders & local groups had not been consulted on this large and overbearing infill development. It will impact on both for wildlife and residents including the adjacent Withies Woodland which Globe has had an interest in over many years.

c) **Whittingtons Tea Barge**, currently moored at Christchurch Meadows, recently got planning permission to move just upstream from Reading Bridge. The move was apparently at the request of RBC though the barge is still at Christchurch. Phil queried whether mooring by the bridge might affect the adjacent water flow gauge.

3) Finance Matters.

a) Payment was still awaited of our invoice to RBC for the additional £10m insurance costs sent late August. [**update:** cheque has now been received]

4) Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** Jim had attended the Prospect St area EVA recently and also reported back on the **RBC dog poop scoop campaign in South View Ave/ Montague Street** areas which had taken place on 8 October. Future EVA dates for November were discussed.

b) Request for **Tetrapack recycling bank in central Caversham** – Cllr Ballsdon had heard back from Oliver Burt at RBC: an additional recycling bank could be installed free of charge but there is a £25 fee per collection (i.e £325 for 13 collections or £650 for 26 collections per year). The meeting felt this would be well worthwhile. Supporters should write to Isobel if you would like this to be pursued. **Keep in view.**

c) **Submerged shopping trolley in Thames by Caversham Bridge.** Date for retrieval postponed due to very high river levels during October. **To be arranged when safe with Bob/Richard/Jim**

5) **Autumn RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean Up)** had been a success. Globe had organised two events: **On Fri 12 October at The Warren:** 4 people helped clear car tyres, bedsprings, flytipped bricks, 2 sacks of landfill and 2 recycling sacks. **On Sat 13 Oct at Caversham Park Village:** 8 people helped clear flytipped items along with 13 sacks of landfill waste and 9 sacks of recyclable items; plus glass bottles. Next RESCUE will be the main Spring event in March. Date TBC.

6) Globe Correspondence / Activities

a) Letter from Church House about bookings for 2013 and redecoration of the main upstairs hall. This is due to be redecorated in August 2013 and during that month would not be available for bookings. Meeting agreed to continue with our 4th Tuesday bookings during 2013.

7) **AOB** Chris reminded the meeting that there would be a scrap metal collection to raise funds for Mapledurham pavilion over weekend 27-28 October.

8) **Date of next meeting Tuesday, 28 November. (Future 2012 dates: Tues 18 Dec.)**