



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 January 2014 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

**Attendees.** Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Dave Kenny, Jenny Hicks, Chris Burden, Cyril Walkington, Richard Denney, Vickie Abel, Bob O'Neill, Peter Trout, Dean Ezra, Gloria Pitt, Guy Penman. **Apologies for absence:** Jim McMaster, Jennifer Millest, Lin Godfrey, Councillor Richard Willis, Councillor Mark Ralph.

**Minutes of 17 December** - Approved for publication

**1. Proposed "leisure Developments" at Christchurch Meadow** A separate campaigning movement "Save Christchurch Meadows" has been set up by residents and GLOBE supporters. Chris Burden gave an update on progress: Meetings have been held and goals set for petitioning Reading Borough Council to stop this commercial development. A Facebook page has been set up as well as an online petition at <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/reading-borough-council-save-christchurch-meadows>, Also, leaflets are to be distributed, posters put up, media publicity arranged and lobbying of elected representatives. **Thanks to all volunteers who are helping with this campaign. Review at next GLOBE meeting.**

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

**a) Planters on Church Street –** Plan to add Spring bedding plants later this year. Changes to the lay-out and removal of some planters on the BT exchange site due to the new RBC Bicycle Hire Station.(see 4b).

**b) Balmore Walk** - Resurfacing of northern path in top field to be completed by RBC when weather and ground conditions permit. **Keep in View**

**c) Hill's Meadow:** Re the annual conservation grass cut by RBC which had not been done this year on the mounds or along the Dannall. Also noted that a GLOBE Rowan at Mill Rd exit is in poor condition and may need replacing. **Dave's January site visit with RBC parks postponed due to floods.**

**d) Proposed Mill Stream moorings –** No further developments. Still awaiting RBC report on alternative sites for the moorings. **Keep in View**

**e) Reading Woodlands consultation.** Dave is in contact with RBC ecologist Giles Sutton about some site visits prior to any work by RBC staff or contractors taking place. **Dave to report future progress.**

**f) View Island –** Jenny's concerns re overgrowth of brambles and lack of conservation grass cutting for several years and suggested setting up a "Friends of View Island" group. Separately, Dave had requested a site visit to View Island as part of the Woodland Management proposals and noted that some of these concerns had been raised in GLOBE's response to the consultation. Site visit postponed due to floods. **Dave to arrange site visit. Jenny to provide link for Facebook Friends group.**

**g) RBC street tree planting** has anyone else got any suggestions please? Newlands Avenue residents will be canvassed for support to replace 5 recently lost trees. **Richard to contact residents..**

**h) Christchurch Meadows.** One of the GLOBE willow trees near Wolsey Rd has blown over in recent gale and since been felled by RBC.

### 3. Proposed new cycle & footbridge over the Thames

GLOBE concerns remain and further information is awaited regarding landscaping, lighting and prevention of bird collision. Awaiting further announcements by RBC. **Keep in view**

### 4. Planning matters.

- a) Development proposed on St Martin's Precinct. No details available yet. **Keep in view**
- b) **Impact of cycle hire scheme on planters at BT frontage.** Revised RBC plans to be discussed at site meeting and work due to start early February. **Dave to report back at next GLOBE meeting**
- c) **Proposal for a Reading Sustainability Centre.** Dave attended meeting on 14 January: this scheme may involve hydro power generation (2 Archimedean Screws) in Caversham Weir near the start of the Millstream, with a Sustainability Centre on the Lock Island; plans at a very early stage, with the Environment Agency and RBC being approached. **Keep in view**
- d) **Proposed Caversham Heights Primary School** – Bob described concerns about whether this might be sited in Mapledurham Playing Fields, with consequent loss of open space. **Keep in view**
- e) **Proposed lighting and canopy on Crowne Plaza boat Pontoon near Caversham Bridge.** - need for this to consist of down-lights to reduce light pollution.

**5. Finance Matters** Dave stated that he has submitted GLOBE's application for the annual community grant from RBC for £500 to cover meeting costs, insurance and sundry expenditure.

### 6. Environmental Issues

- a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** Upcoming dates discussed 18 & 25 February.
- b) Anyone with a smart phone can use this app or do it via the web link – Please report all litter, fly tipping and similar problems to RBC at <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk> **Alternatively please phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN – try that link – others are doing it!**
- c) **Unclean streets in central Caversham.** Noted that some streets have accumulations of litter and grime, especially compared to other parts of Lower Caversham. **To be raised with RBC**

### 7. RESCUE (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event) between Thursday 13 to Sunday 16

**March 2014** – GLOBE will again be participating in this Borough-wide event. Suggestions for sites to be litter picked were discussed. We may be restricted by flooding and muddy sites but we will plan to clear some locations of litter and polluting items: e.g. East end of The Warren, Furze Platt, Beechwood, Christchurch Playing Field near hoardings and some riverside locations if safe to do so – details to be confirmed. **Volunteers requested please – Richard and Dave to attend RBC RESCUE Steering meeting on 10 Feb and investigate local sites for clearance. Report back at February meeting with suggested dates, leadership and other details.**

### 8. AOB

- a) Cyril Walkington tabled a copy of the map of Christchurch Meadows showing water levels. Noted that the RBC Consultation of 2010 proposed that a wetlands area would be appropriate for the site where the adventure golf is proposed to be.
- b) Friends of Caversham Court Gardens AGM is to be held on 5 March at 7 for 7.30 pm at the Reading Canoe Club along the Warren.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday, 25 February 2014. 8 pm Church House**  
**Please note the later start time than usual due to an earlier meeting, thanks.**