



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 February 2014 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Dave Kenny, Jenny Hicks, Chris Burden, Jim McMaster, Richard Denney, Vickie Abel,

Apologies for absence: Peter Trout, Jennifer Millest, Malcolm Moye, Cyril Walkington, Dean Ezra,

Minutes of 28 January - Approved for publication

1. Proposed “leisure Developments” at Christchurch Meadow Chris Burden gave an update on progress made by the separate campaigning movement “**Save Christchurch Meadows**” supported by GLOBE. Earlier that evening the campaign's petition signed by over one thousand people was presented to Reading Borough Council. Attendees were already aware that on 4 February, when the proposed site had been flooded for nearly 6 weeks, RBC announced that the potential developers had withdrawn their interest in the site. RBC told the Campaign that further proposals may be considered, subject to the full planning process and flood impact assessment. The full response can be downloaded at this link: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/meetings/details/3621/> (see item 4, Petitions). That was not the answer the campaign was aiming for and indeed the Council's response raises further questions to which the campaign will be requesting answers. In the meantime, active campaigning will be scaled back. If at any time commercial development is back on the cards, the campaign will pick up where it left off and get back to active campaigning. The aim remains that Reading Borough Council sticks to the RCAAP (<http://tinyurl.com/c3nnpyw>) and protects Christchurch Meadows from development, and that it listens to its residents and retains Christchurch Meadows as a freely accessible open space. Thanks to all volunteers who helped with this campaign. **Review at March GLOBE meeting.**

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street – Plan to add Spring bedding plants soon. Changes to the lay-out and relocation of some of planters on the BT exchange site are being done to make way for the new RBC Bicycle Hire Station. Some renovation will be required as a result. **Keep in view**

b) Balmore Walk - Resurfacing of parts of current path and completion of new part 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. **Dave's January site visit with RBC parks being rearranged.**

d) View Island – Jenny has set up a Facebook group for friends of View Island. This group's aim is to maintain the biodiversity of View Island. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofViewIsland/Reading> Discussions and a site meeting are due to take place in March with RBC, which **Dave is arranging.**

e) Beech Wood Scout Hut enclosure – further hedge planting to be done. **Dave/Richard arranging**

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) **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 nearby - possibly on the Lock Island; plans at a very early stage, with the Environment Agency and RBC being approached. Meeting due soon. **Keep in view**
- c) **Proposed lighting and canopy on Crowne Plaza boat Pontoon near Caversham Bridge.** - need for this to consist of down-lights to reduce light pollution. Dave submitted comments. No further action.
- d) **Reading Borough Local Plan - Reading Borough Council is beginning to prepare a new Local Plan for Reading, setting out policies for deciding planning applications and identifying sites for development or for other designations.** This process was last done in 2009/10. during which GLOBE made comments and submitted sites for nomination. **One of the earliest stages in this current process is to start to draw up a list of potential sites that the Local Plan could identify. This includes sites that could be developed to meet the needs of Reading. It also includes sites that could be identified for other designations, for instance protection of open space, wildlife or landscape interest, retention of employment or other uses, or where other specific policies apply.** RBC is calling for sites to be nominated for inclusion in the Local Plan. Anyone wishing to nominate a site or sites for inclusion in the Local Plan, is asked to fill out a form for each site they wish to nominate. There are separate forms for sites for development and for sites for other designations (including open space). Closing date for this is 14 March 2014. After that further consultation will be undertaken by RBC.

5. Finance Matters none this month

6. Environmental Issues

- a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** Upcoming dates discussed 6th, 18th and 25th March.
- 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 – please try that link.**
- c) . Noted that **RBC is planning a “deep clean”** of 6 local roads in March/April, these include: Church Road, George Street, Kings Road, Queens Road, St Peters Hill “southern section”, part of Peppard Road near Prospect Street junction, AND these alleys: South View Avenue/Falkland Rd, Abbotsmead Place/Church Street, Mill Green (part). These are part of a LOVE CLEAN READING blitz by RBC Streetcare. Noted that there are many more local streets in need of a deep clean. **Keep in view.**
- d) A suggestion for more on-street glass recycling points was discussed.

7. RESCUE (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event) between Friday 14 to Sunday 16 March 2014 – GLOBE will again be participating in this Borough-wide event. Sites to be litter picked were confirmed as western end of The Warren, Beech Wood, Christchurch Meadows near hoardings and George Street embankment, central Caversham selected streets. **Volunteers requested please – Richard to issue details to all GLOBE supporters and repeat call for volunteers.**

8. AOB

- a) Details were given of the installation of 3 planters to be a community garden in the grounds of St John's Church as part of a “Food for Families “ project.
- 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 March 2014. 7.15 pm Church House