

MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING held on 1 July 2010 - 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

Attendees: Peter Trout (Chair), Jennifer Millest, Dave Kenny, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney, Margaret Skinner, Chris Burden (briefly) Carolyn Jenkins, RBC Parks Development Manager.

Apologies: Tina Gower, Judith Barratt, Victor Able, Beryl Owen, RBC Councillors: Andrew Cumsty, Isobel Ballsdon, Dave Luckett

1. Minutes of 3 June meeting agreed for publication.
2. **Parks Department:** Carolyn Jenkins, RBC Parks Development Manager described the current situation regarding RBC budget cuts. Whilst projects such as Caversham Court, some play area improvements and tree/wild flower planting had been possible as a result of grants and government funding, it is now a reality that fewer development projects will be possible due to restricted RBC budgets and that only essential maintenance will be probable for the foreseeable future. A discussion took place on various concerns, issues and suggestions, including:
 - Waterfowl along the riverside – leaving grass uncut in various area for improved summertime food sources
 - Dredging of the Danall running from Christchurch Meadow through Hill's Meadow to Heron Island had not been completed by the Environment Agency. Question whether the flow is blocked at George Street tunnel due to debris, thus resulting in pool of water near entrance to Christchurch Meadow near Laundry previously discussed. NO proposal to change lighting next to path that crosses the meadows to Gosbrook Road from Reading Bridge.
 - Ditch vegetation near the Willows had been cut back recently as a response to residents comments
 - Clayfield Copse – concern about the roots of oak trees by the tennis court/car park following recent work **RBC to check the authorised boundary and the proximity of trees to ascertain likely affect on long term health of the oaks.**
 - Balmore Walk, Hill's Meadow and Caversham Cemetery where debris had not been removed by Contractors. **RBC to follow up.**
 - Cycle Route through Balmore Walk has deteriorated – RBC says that they have no funding available for remedial work to be done.
 - Conservation Grassland on Balmore Walk slope – considered a H & S concern and may not be cut in future? **(NB. Has now been cut since 1 July meeting.)**
 - At entrance on Rotherfield Way midway between Hemdean Rd and Surley Row into back field of Balmore Walk some large trees have been recently felled and left strewn across the undergrowth. **RBC to check please why/if felling of mature trees was authorised and why this work appears uncompleted.**
 - Rosehill Park Cedar tree – alleged diseased - planning application to fell has been withdrawn – **Current situation?**
 - Kings Meadow – area between cycle path and river bank – is this an area for wild flower planting? Possible planting of wild flowers in 200 sq metre area of Thames Prom being considered. RBC will have a landscape plan soon for some of the riverside areas for consultation; GLOBE will have opportunity to comment.
 - King's Meadow - Collapsed willow by beach had been reported to RBC but not dealt with. Tree officer Ben Oates did not think it was a safety issue and had also found a nesting coot.
 - RBC Tree Strategy - confirmed that GLOBE suggestions have been included.
3. **Use of Railway land parallel to Napier Road** – Planning application for offices and maintenance depot. There has been no consultation with Caversham residents in Mill Green or Heron Island who may be affected. Some discussion whether this railway land needed planning consent or associated consultation. **Follow up with RBC (Update: Plans were approved by RBC planning committee)**
4. **RBC Core Funding Grant & Globe Insurance** – Dave confirmed that the second part of this year's grant from RBC has been received. The issue of future RBC grants and costs of insurance has been previously discussed (see minutes of June 2010 meeting). **Richard to raise this at next TREGA meeting (Reading GLOBE Alliance) for concerted representations to RBC.**
5. **Environmental Visual Audits** - These were now taking place regularly organised by RBC street care with street wardens, PCSOs and other community representatives. Next one is scheduled for Lower Henley Road 10 August. **Jean plans to attend.**
6. **Visits /Activities** - carried forward to future meeting. Possible visit to the RE3 Recycling Centre and local walks.
7. **Future meeting dates** - 5 August (AGM), 2 September - Church House at 7.15 pm.

Next GLOBE meeting includes our AGM on Thursday 5 August at 7.15pm in Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. All welcome. Agenda will be circulated at the meeting.