

MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING held 2 December 2010 - 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

Attendees: Peter Trout (Chair), Jennifer Millest, Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Margaret Skinner, Judith Barratt, Jean Newbery, Malcolm Moye, Vicki Abel, Ben Stanesby RBC Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Ruth Shelton RBC (Guest Speaker)

Apologies: Councillor Isobel Ballsdon, Councillor Tom Stanway.

1. **Consultation and discussion on Hill's Meadow – presented by Ruth Shelton, RBC.** Ruth handed out a document containing some draft proposals aimed at enhancing the biodiversity of the area as well as upgrading the facilities and services for people. Ruth guided the meeting through each point, with explanations and exchanges of ideas. It was emphasised that there is no budget for these proposals at present and that further consultation would take place. Examples of proposals discussed included: Improvements to some of the rough ground surfaces; stabilisation of river bank; cutting back vegetation & planting more riparian seed species; creating more angling platforms and a picnic area; resurfacing of BMX track; replacement of skate ramp; planting more wild flowers and trees; installing 'Thames Parks' benches and signs; implementing a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) for increased biodiversity. Ruth & Ben noted the concerns and suggestions put forward by those present and we stressed that Caversham GLOBE regards it as crucial that we continue to work closely on any subsequent proposals and eventual implementation. **Note: Copy of map and text documents discussed are available in GLOBE records for reference.**
2. Minutes of 4 November meeting discussed & agreed for publication, as amended.
3. **RBC Parks and open spaces items:**
 - Clayfield Copse – roots of oak trees by the tennis court/car park being affected by bank of soil. **No further action. Closed**
 - Part of Warren Woodlands owned by RBC, where lease is due to expire and RBC may dispose of this land. Concerns expressed as to future protection. Item due to be discussed at RBC Woodlands and Waterways meeting on 16 December. **Dave will attend**
 - Ben Stanesby informed us that there is an offer of a fruiting hedgerow planting, maybe by the iron railings along the Thames by Little Johns Farm or in Christchurch Meadow, eastern side at the back of houses/laundry. Ben also informed us that there are some Beech trees to be planted in part of Christchurch Meadow to replace diseased trees. **Dave will liaise as needed.**
4. **RBC Planning Matters:**
 - Planning application 10/01846/OUT at 2a, 4, 6 Kidmore Road for houses and access road –where a mature TPO'd pine tree and other woodland habitat is threatened. Dave Kenny confirmed that our objection had been submitted. **Closed.**
 - Jennifer Millest raised these planning applications that are pending consideration by RBC: 10/01380/FUL Land North Of The Railway Between Caversham Bridge To The East And Wigmore Lane To The West, Including The Cow Lane Allotment Site. New turbo depot building, road access, control centre and staff accommodation, a carriage wash plant room, carriage wash plant, an underframe train cleaning facility, a new depot fuelling point, new depot offices and car park and new stores. And 10/01491/FUL Little Johns Lane Railway Bridge to be remodelled. And 10/01387/FUL Replacement and enlargement of the two railway bridges at Cow Lane.
5. **Finance Matters – no items this month**
6. **Talk by Earley Environment Group** GLOBE to discuss investing in display boards and other GLOBE branded resources for our activities. Carried over to next meeting as no time left to discuss. **Richard to investigate sources & prices**
7. **Caversham 100 years on.** Richard Denney confirmed that he had registered GLOBE's commitment to this project which involves various groups, including RBC, MERL, CADRA and Friends of Caversham Court Gardens. GLOBE will be producing some resources based on a 'Natural Heritage' theme, probably for exhibitions and events. Details to be worked on – all ideas welcome. **Richard to coordinate but help needed.**
8. **The Reading Cultural Partnership.** The Cultural Partnership brings together culture in Reading in its widest sense covering the 6 themes of Arts, Sport, Health, Heritage, Learning and Sustainability, aimed at offering opportunities for communities in Reading to build on the existing community work they are involved with as well as developing new projects. GLOBE has now registered as a Founder member with interests in the 'Sustainability' theme primarily. Launch meeting at Reading Town Hall on 10 January 2011. **Inform Richard if you would like to attend.**
9. **Tree Warden Scheme.** Dave Kenny gave details of a meeting that he had attended at the Town Hall on 1 December to launch this in Reading. The scheme, which provides a method of community engagement and co-ordinates volunteers' activities, has been going 20 years and is now in 150 local authorities. Globe's current activities and interest in trees dovetails with this work.
10. **GLOBE Correspondence/activities this month.**
 - CFL (low energy light bulb) collection scheme. Retailers with Battery boxes have no space, so we shall have no such scheme.
 - Dave had 3 meetings with RBC people regarding local trees.
 - 2 mornings of litter picking in November resulted in 18 sacks, plus scrap metal, bike frame, car wheel and various rubbish collected.
11. **Future meeting dates – 6 January 2011 Church House 59 Church Street Caversham at 7.15 pm.**

Next GLOBE meeting on Thursday 6 January at 7.15pm in Church House,