



Go Local On a Better Environment

## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING held 3 March 2011 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

**Attendees** Judith Barratt (Chair), Jennifer Millest, Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Tina Barnes, Malcolm Moye, Phil Bagge, Vicki Abel, Peter Trout, Chris Burden, Margaret Ormond (EGRA), Bob O'Neill. Councillor Tom Stanway, Reading Borough Council Officers David Moore (Highways), Richard Stimpson (Planning and Building Control) Apologies: Councillor Isobel Ballsdon.

1. Minutes of 3 February meeting discussed & agreed for publication, with 1 minor amendment.
2. **Replacement & new trees near highways – RBC policy, current issues and priorities.**

Whereas GLOBE has planted many trees near highways in the past with RBC support, Richard Stimpson and David Moore (RBC Officers) had been requested to attend our meeting to explain current issues relating to planting of trees on highway land. There is now great emphasis on avoiding consequential damage, which is costly in terms of subsidence, interference with highway sight lines from overhangs and root damage to underground utilities & services. Recent pruning by GLOBE of our trees on Peppard Rd & Buckingham Drive had been necessary. It is hoped that these can now be retained. David Moore also referred to the Roads and Streetworks Act - we are now more strictly bound by rules regarding the type and potential size of tree, the proximity of utilities, highways etc. RBC is committed to more trees in our area but prior approval is mandatory. There is now a requirement for a trained person to be present when trees are planted. Training will be provided by RBC for some GLOBE supporters within the Tree Warden Scheme. Discussion covered such topics as: Tree Warden Scheme (see Dec 2010 meeting), Beacon Trees, types of tree suitable for planting near highways, root barriers, immediate tree priorities & actions.
3. **RBC Parks and open spaces items & tree issues:**
  - a. Part of Warren Woodlands owned by RBC, where lease is due to expire and RBC may dispose of this land. 2 months ago assurances and information was requested that RBC ensure proper covenants for protection of this ancient woodland. Jennifer had spoken to Ben Stanesby and to Bruce Tyndall. Also, Dave had written to Bruce Tyndall RBC on behalf of GLOBE to outline our concerns, (to be appended to minutes) No response had been received from Mr Tyndall nor even the courtesy of an acknowledgement despite two subsequent reminders. **Dave & Jennifer are still pursuing and Councillor Stanway is following up urgently.**
  - b. St Martins Precinct Trees – Removal of top 2 or 3 metres of 3 Horse Chestnut trees hopefully to help retain them for longer. Tripping hazard had been removed by replacing paving with tarmac. Tree near Iceland has still to be replaced.
  - c. Litter had been reported on Promenade Rd, School Lane and footpath behind telephone exchange. This is now to be cleaned regularly and also cleared during RESCUE. **Keep in view and monitor**
  - d. **Thames Promenade – Bank erosion on south side.** Councillor Stanway reported that Parks Dept are investigating – **Keep in view**
4. **RBC Planning Matters:**
  - a. **RBC Local Development Framework** [http://ww2.reading.gov.uk/documents/servingyou/planning/local\\_development\\_framework](http://ww2.reading.gov.uk/documents/servingyou/planning/local_development_framework) Jennifer reported that she had attended the exhibition in Caversham Library and studied the detail. There are 3 matters of interest to GLOBE people in the document: New Policy DM11 re Development of Private Residential Gardens – these are no longer Brownfield sites and different rules will apply - See page 37 of LDF. Also New Policy DM 17 re Green Network Policy – interconnecting natural green spaces linking to wider countryside (13 sites in our area are shown on RBC map provided by Jennifer). Of further local concern is in page 141 ref SA 8 Napier Court, Napier Road a site that is proposed for residential development because the local planning classification has been changed re flood plain. GLOBE should submit comments and beware any future planning application.
  - b. We have heard that the **RBC Green City & Open Spaces Forum**, which meets 4 times per year has been abandoned and consultation is taking place about how to proceed in future. It is hoped that the Woodlands and Waterways Forum will continue.
5. **Finance Matters:** none this month
6. **Caversham 100 years on.** Compilation of our display material for this project is progressing, with detailed content being developed by various contributors. Still much more work to do in order to bring a proposed draft to the 7 April Meeting. **Richard to co-ordinate.**
7. **GLOBE Annual report** – Now finalised ready for submission to RBC and for subsequent public information.
8. **RESCUE.** (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean-up Event). Reading Borough is playing its part in nationwide major spring clean and litter clearance project. Caversham GLOBE activity dates are confirmed as Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March - 10am to 12 noon & 2pm to 4pm AND Thursday 10 March -10am to 12 noon; also Sunday 13 March – 2pm to 4pm approx. **Richard to report results at next meeting.**
9. **GLOBE Correspondence/activities this month.**

Meeting held with RBC Parks Dept re 4 Christchurch Meadow White Poplars that are being felled or lopped due to disease; also some river side Alders that are healthy. Our views made clear on what work we believe to be unnecessary and the need for reconsideration-(ongoing). Some miscellaneous emails received and dealt with.
10. **Any other business**
  - a. **Clearance of undergrowth near saplings and planting of short new hedge in Balmore Walk** – help needed next week.
  - b. **True Food Co-op.** – we have been contacted by True Food to request GLOBE supporters be made aware of the Co-op Shop in Emmer Green, opposite St Barnabas Hall, Grove Road – see <http://www.truefood.coop> . We have offered a Battery Collection Box too.
  - c. **Future meeting date** – 7 April 2011 Church House 59 Church Street Caversham at 7.15 pm.

**Next GLOBE meeting on Thursday 7 April at 7.15pm in Church House, Caversham**