



**Go Local On a Better Environment**

**MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING held 7 April 2011 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.**

**Attendees** Peter Trout (Chair), Jennifer Millest, Dave Kenny, Judith Barratt, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Tina Barnes, Phil Bagge, Richard Denney, Bob O'Neill, Maria Rodic. Chris Burden, Ben Stanesby RBC Head of Parks.

**Apologies:** Councillor Isobel Ballsdon, Councillor Tom Stanway, Malcolm Moye.

1. **Minutes of 3 March meeting** discussed & agreed for publication, with 1 minor amendment to wording.
2. **RBC Parks and open spaces items & tree issues. Mr Ben Stanesby attended for this agenda item:**
  - a. **Part of Warren Woodlands** owned by RBC, where lease is due to expire and RBC may dispose of this land. GLOBE have now received emailed response from Mr Tyndall RBC with a plan showing location of 2 areas along the Warren escarpment. Also confirmation that this land has not been put on the market. CADRA & WADRA to be sent a copy of the plan. **Keep this matter in view.**
  - b. **Christchurch Meadows** - Ben Stanesby described the recently agreed work done on 4 large mature White Poplar trees just west of Wolsey Road, where 1 tree has been removed as diseased and the 3 others have been reduced in height. GLOBE had held several site meetings with RBC officers & Councillor Stanway because the trees were likely to have been removed entirely. However, with 3 being partly retained, we now consider that the work done is an acceptable compromise. Ben also confirmed that, following representations from GLOBE, pruning of 2 Alders partly overhanging the Thames nearby has been deferred until late 2011, when GLOBE will be consulted again.
  - c. Due to budget cuts, RBC Parks may be losing jobs, which will reduce the amount of floral displays e.g. in public parks and street planters; also, a reduction from 12 cuts a year to 5 for grass verges. Suggestion made that Church Street planters could be maintained locally by traders or voluntary groups or a horticultural society.
  - d. A review is taking place within RBC about reorganising how RBC consults with community groups and reducing the amount of forums and meetings (e.g. Green City & Open Spaces). Concerns discussed and Ben Stanesby will contact Jennifer Millest as appropriate.
  - e. **Thames Promenade – Bank erosion on south side.** Councillor Stanway reported that Parks Dept. are investigating – **Keep in view**
  - f. **Emmer Green Trees** – Dave has had discussions about planting trees on land for which RBC Housing Dept. is responsible. In co-operation with EGRA we have now planted 4 GLOBE trees on grassed area near Emmer Green Primary School entrance. Prospect of other planting too.
3. **RBC Planning Matters:**
  - a. Application 11/00280/Ful by McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd. Land between Abbotsmead Place & School Lane Caversham Reading RG4 8BY for erection of 54 retirement apartments with associated communal facilities and car parking. Site notices posted in March but GLOBE not informed. Noted that this application will supersede previous and proposes less open space and fewer trees fronting on School Lane. Comments have been sent to RBC planning.
4. **Finance Matters:** Confirmed that the £375 RBC Core Funding Grant to GLOBE for this financial year has now been received.
5. **Caversham 100 years on.** Compilation of our display material for this project is progressing slowly, with detailed content being developed by various contributors. Still much more work to do in order to produce a proposed draft. **Richard to co-ordinate.**
6. **RESCUE.** (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean-up Event). Successful participation by GLOBE in March. 80 sacks of litter and many fly-tipped items collected by 21 people in 64 person hours across 6 locations. Many thanks to those who gave their time and energy.
7. **EVA's.** Noted that Central Caversham EVA has resulted in a 'deep clean' being planned by RBC. Further EVA's planned to year end.
8. **GLOBE Correspondence/activities this month.**

A new Battery collection box accepted by Caversham library. Also a new one offered to True Food Co-op Emmer Green but awaiting decision. Clearance of undergrowth near saplings and planting of short new hedge in Balmore Walk was completed
9. **Any other business**
  - a. Judith reported that she had attended CPVA AGM and has made contact with some residents of Caversham Park Village who are interested in GLOBE's activities. This could mean good news of additional volunteers in that area and some new local opportunities for activities.
  - b. **Future meeting date** – Tuesday 3 May 2011 Church House 59 Church Street Caversham at 7.15 pm.

**Next GLOBE meeting on Tuesday 3 May at 7.15pm in Church House, Caversham**