



Go Local On a Better Environment

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

Attendees Judith Barratt (Chair), Jennifer Millest, Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Vicki Abel, Phil Bagge, Richard Denney.

Apologies: Councillor Isobel Ballsdon, Councillor Tom Stanway, Malcolm Moye. Peter Trout, Tina Barnes, Bob O'Neill.

1. Minutes of 7 April meeting discussed & agreed for publication as tabled.

2. RBC Parks and open spaces items & tree issues.

a. Part of Warren Woodlands owned by RBC, where lease is due to expire. No progress reported. Keep this matter in view.

Trees on Buckingham Drive – Richard Stimpson of RBC had been in contact regarding the trees on the west side of Buckingham Drive, which were planted by GLOBE up to 10 years ago with RBC permission. There is concern over some of the species and the fact that they were not installed with root barriers. GLOBE meeting was strongly of the view that any removal of these now well-established trees would be unacceptable and urges RBC to instead consider installing barriers and, if necessary, root pruning to preserve these well-established trees. Keep this matter in view.

c. Thames Promenade – Bank erosion on south side. No progress reported – Keep this matter in view

d. Trees – general. We are concerned for survival of recently planted trees and hedging, due to prolonged spell of dry weather. We have been watering those that GLOBE has planted, as well as many others that are convenient. Some other trees are being watered by residents. We have also monitored many other recently planted RBC trees and liaised with RBC on their watering needs. Suggestions have been made to RBC for locations where new trees could be planted to enhance various areas close to highways.

e. Hill's Meadow - Noted that Japanese Knotweed can be seen and this needs to be dealt with. RBC to be informed

f. View Island - Noted that posters had suddenly been seen entitled 'View Island regeneration' an event planned for May 20/21 by Thames21, describing various activities and inviting volunteers to come along. It was considered that the nature of the proposed activities - 'creating habitats, managing vegetation and helping to regenerate pond wildlife' is unacceptable at the height of the breeding season and within this nature reserve. This event has RBC support apparently. The meeting resolved that we would take swift action to stop the proposed activities and to suggest acceptable alternatives such as litter clearance on adjacent meadows. Dave will liaise with Thames21. Jennifer will contact RBC Parks Ben Stanesby

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. This site has now been screened by high fencing and some clearance work undertaken. **Decision by RBC on this application is recorded as "pending"**.

b. Application 11/00052/FUL for erection of 2 new dwellings at rear of 65 Peppard Road would have required a new entrance where 2 GLOBE trees are situated. The application has been withdrawn but point noted for future.

c. Application 11/00520/FUL – Highdown School - Replacement of existing hockey pitch with synthetic turf pitch including perimeter fencing and footpath. Noted that this appeared to threaten some mature Oaks. **Decision by RBC on this application is recorded as "pending"**.

4. Finance Matters: None this month.

5. Caversham 100 years on. Compilation continues for our "Natural Heritage" display for this project, with some requested contributions still awaited from others. Draft to be produced by early June. Richard producing.

6. EVAs. Noted that the Central Caversham EVA 'deep clean' planned by RBC after EVA of 16May has not yet been completed. Further EVAs planned to year end.

7. GLOBE Correspondence/activities this month.

Dave is in contact with Chris Walton of Caversham Traders Association. There are a number of issues of mutual interest, the traders are pressing for the railings in Central Caversham to be re-painted and are also concerned about the planters being maintained.

8. Future meeting date – Thursday 2 June 2011 Church House 59 Church Street Caversham at 7.15 pm.

Next GLOBE meeting on Thursday 2 June at 7.15pm in Church House, Caversham