



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

Attendees Jean Newbery(Chair), Jennifer Millest, Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Vickie Abel, Kirsty Flynn, Tom Langley (Readipop).

Apologies: Tina Barnes, Chris Burden, Richard Denney, Judith Barrett, Cllrs Andrew Cumpsty, Cllr Tom Stanway.

- 1) **Minutes of 2 June meeting** - draft approved for publication - no amendments required.
- 2) **Parks, Open Spaces & Tree Issues:**

a. **Thames Promenade – Bank erosion on south side.** Resurfacing is due to take place along the towpath soon and it is hoped that the bank erosion would be dealt with at the same time. **Keep this matter in view**

b. **Trees – general.** Watering/tree care ongoing. RBC Housing has approached Globe about tree planting at Charles Evans Way and Richard Neville Court later in the year. Costs would be covered by RBC Housing. **Dave progressing.**

c. **RBC Parks Dept has got Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) funding** for several sites including Hemdean Bottom, Hill's Meadow, Clayfield Copse. Dave had spoken to Parks Manager Ben Stanesby who has agreed to attend the September Globe to talk about this. Specific site details of what was involved have been requested but have not yet been received. **Keep this matter in view.**

d. **Caversham Lakes permissive paths.** Dave reported information from Eye & Dunsden Parish, that Lafarge were about to announce details of new permissive paths at Caversham Lakes east of the Marina. Globe would be kept informed. Hope to have more details at next meeting.

e. **Hill's Meadow** Chris Webster had been in contact to report that the EA had been cutting back some branches overhanging the Mill Stream this week. He had been assured that a coots nest would not be disturbed. Dave had enquired about the Hills Meadow management plan which Globe was meant to be closely involved in drawing up. We have been awaiting sight of a draft on which to comment since the Dec 2010 meeting. **Keep in View.**

3) **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. Due to comments by GLOBE sent to RBC planning, there is to be a plan modification to allow for planting 7 Hornbeams fronting School Lane. **Application now "APPROVED"**

b. 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. **This application is now recorded as "APPROVED"**.

c. South Oxon Application Reference PE/E06542 for Boat Storage shed on River Thames near Dean's Farm. Dave has submitted letter with comments from Globe. The EA had objected on 3 grounds including the requirement for an 8m buffer strip with native planting between the river and any building. As a result this application has now been **"WITHDRAWN"**.

d. Application 11/00868/FUL Old bakehouse, Hemdean Rd (corner Rectory Rd). Change of use from industrial to community dance studio. Meeting had no objections to the proposed conversion or internal changes, but was concerned at the state of the frontage along Rectory Road. Would like to see soft landscaping of this area where a large tree was removed in 2009. **Dave to send comments.**

4) **Finance Matters:** Nothing new to report

5) **Caversham 100 years on.** Jennifer showed the meeting copies of Globe's three completed Natural Heritage display panels which are now available for display at local events.

6) **Environmental issues / EVAs.**

a. **Land in front of Advertising hoardings** (corner of Bridge St/Church Rd and corner George St/Gosbrook Rd) Dave and Vickie had been in contact with Cllr Lockett about the state of the area in front of these advertising hoardings. The grass has now been cut at both sites but litter is an ongoing problem. Vickie had litter picked at Bridge St and removed several flytipped sacks of rubbish. Cllr Lockett has reminded JCDecaux, who own the George St site, of the need to maintain the grassed area. Ownership of the Bridge St site was still unclear. **Keep in view.**

b. **EVAs.** Tina Barnes had attended Caversham Heights EVA today, Jean and Margaret to attend the next two Lower Caversham EVAs

7) **GLOBE Correspondence/activities this month.**

Richard is still in contact with RBC Community Development Officer for possible litter pick and other environmental improvements in Amersham Road area - **Richard progressing.**

8) **A.O.B.**

a. **Tom Langley of Readipop talked to the meeting about Caversham Festival** which was taking place with the main event being on Christchurch Meadows on Sunday 15th July. Help was requested especially with litter picking after the event.

b. **Kirsty Flynn is writing a paper about public participation in the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) process** and was particularly interested in our participation in the planning process with regard to environmental issues.

c. Jennifer read out the **Globe Roles & Responsibilities** list, several amendments were noted. It needs further updating at a future meeting when all of those on the list are present.

9) **Future meeting date** – Thursday 4 August 2011 Church House 59 Church Street Caversham at 7.15 pm.

Next GLOBE meeting on Thursday 4 August at 7.15pm in Church House, Caversham