



Go Local On a Better Environment

**MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING
5 January 2012 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.**

Attendees Judith Barratt (Chair), Peter Trout, Phil Bagge, Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Vickie Abel, Jean Newbery, Jenny Hicks, Susan Roberts, Martin Dowling, Richard Denney. Cllr I. Ballsdon (part), Cllr Dave Luckett (Part). **Apologies for Absence:** Tina Barnes, Jennifer Millest, Chris Burden, Cllr Tom Stanway.

1) **Minutes of 1 December meeting** - approved for publication.

2) **Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues.**

a) The Big Wine Festival 2012 to be held on Kings Meadow from 7 to 10 June 2012. Noted that Mill Green residents had not yet received consultation letters via RBC. **Subsequent Note: Meeting between RBC & festival organisers is scheduled for 11 January. Next correspondence with residents likely to be mid-February. GLOBE will be consulted on the KM Landscaping/re-instatement plans and tree protection measures.**

b) The Withies - land adjoining Luscombe Close. (See also the minutes of 1 Dec meeting) Councillor Luckett is aware of issues and will investigate issues, including TPOs. Contact with the new owner of the land has been made by Dave Kenny and Jenny Hicks, who will discuss GLOBE's concerns. **Review at Feb meeting**

c) Planters by Caversham Telephone Exchange – GLOBE agreed to take over the planting, care and maintenance from RBC, subject to RBC agreement, pending. Cllrs Ballsdon and Luckett said that they would support this. **DK/RD follow up with Ben Stanesby.**

d) Trees – Still awaiting response from RBC housing about tree planting in Charles Evans Way and other land under their control. Ongoing liaison with RBC Parks re tree planting/care for Christchurch Meadow, Hill's Meadow and The Coal. Now entering important period for tree planting. **GLOBE supporters, please suggest any tree planting sites & inform GLOBE asap.**

e) Caversham Court Gardens – (See also the minutes of 1 Dec meeting) The Friends group (FCCG) is still having talks about their concerns e.g. weekend coverage, public access to the Gazebo, litter/routine maintenance following staff changes.

TWO NEW ITEMS

f) Balmore Walk -Dave/Richard had a site meeting with Dave Booth (RBC Parks) about possible improvements to paths. A map was tabled showing work needed. Cllr Ballsdon confirmed that this would be section 106 funding and the proposals are subject to approval. **Await RBC decision.**

g) Beechwood, off Grove Hill- Cllr Ballsdon informed the meeting of a proposal by RBC to grant a lease to the 3rd Reading (St Peters Caversham) Scout Group of a parcel of land behind their existing Scout plot, bordering Highdown School fence and Grove Hill footpath. The understanding is that the scouts intend to fence off the area and clear the undergrowth to make it suitable for their outdoor activities. Some conditions e.g. no fires would be part of the lease. Concerns were expressed that Beech Wood is a designated Local Wildlife Site (SU77D08) containing a good number of native bluebells (protected species) as well as an historic wood bank and boundary ditch. There is also a lot of holly and a mix of trees including a good veteran boundary oak on the eastern corner. As ancient woodland, Beechwood ought to be protected. Noted comments at the poor state of care of the current scout land and assorted rubbish within the grounds. **Agreed that a site visit is necessary and that our objections to the proposal be submitted by 2 February.**

- 3)**Planning matters** - Former Arthur Legge Centre Wolsey Road – Jenny Hicks will contact RBC about concerns with the fencing.
- 4)**Finance Matters** – Dave Kenny informed the meeting that we have received a letter from Irene Cameron (RBC) about grants for 2012/13. The letter confirms that smaller core funding grants such as ours “are unlikely to continue to be available” but that the Globe groups would receive “similar funding in different ways”. “Officers currently recommend that Globe groups and neighbourhood environmental groups ... should apply for an annual Green Grant of up to £500 to cover running costs”. In addition Green Grants are available for specific projects for amounts between £150 and £250. **We are pleased to note that funding will continue to be available to Globe groups apparently on a similar basis as in the past, but through a Green Grant rather than a Core Funding grant.**
- 5)**Environmental Issues – Environment Visual Audit (EVA). (Details of the 2012 RBC EVA dates/areas had been distributed with the agenda).** Anyone interested can just turn up and take part, duration approx 1.5 hrs walking designated area with RBC officer and other participants to note problems for rectification by RBC or where GLOBE could contribute.
- 6)**RESCUE 2012** – This is the annual spring **Riverside and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event** which is planned for Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 March 2012. If any new supporters are interested in helping to plan for this for our area please contact Richard Denney via the website email address. **RD to register GLOBE as a participating group and make plans for publicity during February. GLOBE supporters, please inform GLOBE if you know of any sites for litter picking.**
- 7)**GLOBE Correspondence/activities.**
Nothing else to report.
- 8)**Date of next meeting: 7:15pm. Thursday 2 February 2012 Church House, 59 Church Street.**