



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

Attendees: Judith Barratt (Chair), Tina Barnes, Phil Bagge, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Dave Kenny, Bob O'Neill (part)

Apologies for Absence: Jennifer Millest, Richard Denney, Chris Burden, Cllrs Dave Luckett, Andrew Cumpsty,.

1) **Minutes of 5 January 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. **Meeting between RBC & 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. [Update: the 2012 Wine Festival has been cancelled]**

b) The Withies - land adjoining Luscombe Close. Dave Kenny is now in contact with the new owner and has visited the woodland. Dave will be doing a plant survey and the owner is in the process of drawing up a management plan. Cllr Luckett has also provided an update from RBC (further details available from Dave on request).

c) Planters by Caversham Telephone Exchange – GLOBE has offered to take over the planting, care and maintenance, subject to RBC agreement. Cllrs Ballsdon and Luckett said that they would support this. Richard has followed up with emails to Ben Stanesby (Parks) and David Moore (Highways). **A response is still awaited.**

d) Trees - Richard had spoken to Barbara Oxenham who confirmed that RBC Housing would still like our help with tree planting in Charles Evans Way but currently do not have any budget for this. Globe may be able to provide a small number of trees this season. **Keep in view**
New Trees. Richard has proposed Newlands Avenue for replacement planting. **Suggestions for further tree planting sites still sought.**

e) Caversham Court Gardens – Vickie reported that concerns over weekend coverage, public access to the Gazebo and other issues had been raised at the recent management meeting: councillors had given their full support for RBC to abide by the Management Plan for the gardens.

f) Balmore Walk - Resurfacing of footpaths. **RBC decision still awaited.**

g) Beech Wood, off Grove Hill - Concerns over proposed the lease to the 3rd Reading (St Peters Caversham) Scout Group of a section of woodland land behind their existing Scout plot (see Jan minutes for further details). Following discussion at the last meeting and subsequent site visits a letter outlining Globe's objections had been sent. As a minimum it was hoped that the lease could be amended to provide protection for the area of bluebells, the veteran oak and eastern boundary hedgerow.. **Keep in review.**

h) TPO trees at St Martin's Precinct Replacement for the dead tree and the felled TPO sycamore near bottle banks: Sarah Hanson from RBC confirmed that discussions with the precinct owners are taking place with the aim of getting the replacements planted before the end of March. **Keep in review.**

Condt.

i) Hills Meadow: RBC Decision Book 381 of 27 January - Improvements to Hills Meadow:

The proposals include: Refurbishing the skate area; removal of the earth bank between the footpath and car park. Some of the soil to be spread over the gravelled area east of the car park to encourage grass to grow. Additional tree planting west of the path with posts or similar barriers to prevent vehicle access to the path. Areas of undergrowth to be cut in blocks between the footpath and the Mill Stream to open up views, while maintaining areas of heavy undergrowth in between. Some of the trees overhanging the Mill Stream and footpath to be pollarded or coppiced. **The meeting expressed concern over the proposed cutting back of blocks of undergrowth, this is excellent habitat for nesting birds. A site visit with RBC is requested to clarify specific clearance before any work takes place.**

j) Christchurch Meadow Play Area - RBC Decision Book 381 of 27 January: £75,000 to be spend on improvements to the play area and paddling pool, including an additional toilet in the park keeper's hut and a small catering kiosk. No landscape or flooding implications.

k) Kings Meadow Pool - Bob reported that someone had broken in been sleeping there, causing damage & leaving a mess. New interpretation boards have been installed outside the pool. It was hoped to start repairs soon, possibly in March/April.

3)**Planning matters** - Former Arthur Legge Centre Wolsey Road – Jenny Hicks will contact RBC to ask about the fencing which has appeared around the site - **awaiting further details.**

4)**Finance Matters** - Our application for a £375 Community Grant has been submitted.

5)**Environmental Issues - Environment Visual Audit (EVA).** Details of the 2012 RBC EVA dates/areas were circulated. Judith to cover 8 March (Milestone Centre). Other EVAs to be covered by Tina (Upper Caversham area), Jean/Margaret (Lower Caversham) and Dave (Central Caversham). Margaret reported **litter on path off Star Rd.** this had been noted on EVAs but not cleaned. Suggest raise it with councillors to request it is adding to cleaning schedule.

6)**RESCUE 2012** – the annual spring Riverside and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event will take place from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 March 2012. RD to register GLOBE as a participating group and make plans for publicity during February. Caversham Park is not participating this year but EGRA will be for the first time. The following sites have been identified for action so far: **Hill's Meadow** (all areas); **Christchurch Meadow** especially western edge along George St; **View Island** (all areas); **Bugg's Bottom** shrub borders near southern entrance & path from Hemdean Rd/Badgers Rise. **Beech Wood** (at top of Grove Hill) - possibly to share with EGRA? Other poss sites: **Henley Rd dip** (opp St Annes), **Star Rd footpath**, **Central Caversham paths.** Dates / times sites to be firmed up & circulated. The area around **Rivermead car park** is in urgent need of cleanup but too much for our group and slightly out of area. **It was stressed that we need to get publicity posters up at least a week before each event.** RD/DK to co-ordinate.

7)**GLOBE Correspondence/activities.**

Ad hoc cleanup had taken place with 3 supporters on 31 Jan approx 12 sacks of litter were collected from around telephone exchange and public footpaths behind St Martins Precinct..

Tree Maintenance: RD/DK had rescued a collapsing willow tree by the river in Christchurch Meadow with two new stakes.

8)**AOB.** Several Globe supporters are unable to attend Thursday meetings: **possible change of day to either Tuesday or Wednesday was discussed. DK to check room availability & circulate.**

9)**Date of next meeting: 7:15pm. Thursday 1 March 2012 Church House, 59 Church Street.**