



Caversham GLOBE - Annual Report 2011

Caversham GLOBE aims to improve and protect green spaces for the benefit of local residents and wildlife by taking practical action on the ground, as well as influencing policy and planning decisions. Our activities in 2011 have involved maintenance and improvement projects, where local people have been planting and caring for trees, clearing litter and removing graffiti. We have also done a lot of other important work, such as liaising with RBC officers and councillors over parks and open spaces issues, having formal and site meetings with RBC Councillors and Officers, researching and responding on planning applications. The following report provides a summary of our work during 2011. Further information is available on request.

(This report covers our activities in the calendar year from January to December 2011)

Tree Planting & Tree Watering - activities by Caversham GLOBE during 2011:

Baltimore Walk section of hedging planted to screen brick wall, brambles cleared from around saplings in woodland. New section of hedging in woodland watered.
6 cherries and one cedar tree planted by RBC, watered by Globe all summer.

Grove Road - 4 trees planted by Globe on green with support of RBC Housing Dept.

Peppard Rd/Buckingham Drive - Pruning was carried out on saplings which had been planted in 2001 to help shape them and ensure their long-term survival.

New trees were watered during the summer at Baltimore Walk, Grove Road and Elizabeth House

RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean-up) 8-10 March 2011.

80 sacks of litter and many flytipped items were collected by 21 people in 64 person-hours across 6 locations

Thames 21 organised a major clean of the Hill's Meadow, View Island, Caversham Lock and Deans Farm area over the weekend of 20-21 May 2011. This was supported by Globe members and resulted in over 15 shopping trolleys being removed from the river as well as many sacks of rubbish.

Lafarge Aggregates Globe was involved in a consultation with Lafarge over new permissive paths at Caversham Lakes; detailed comments were submitted. The paths were due to open in late 2011.

Readipop a Representative attended Globe meeting following which Globe supporters helped with litterpicking after the festival at Christchurch Meadows

RBC Ward Councillors Local ward councillors attend many of our meetings and take up a wide variety of issues which are raised.

RBC Housing Globe planted 4 new trees on Housing land at Grove Road. Discussions are ongoing over replacement tree planting for Charles Evans Way.

RBC Streetcare GLOBE participates in the council's monthly **Environment Visual Audits**. Particular issues were raised concerning Caversham Centre, Hemdean Rd, Grove Hill Scout Hut, School Lane, Promenade Rd, footpath behind telephone exchange & footpath between The Mount & Church Rd.

RBC Parks Department Globe liaised with RBC Parks staff over landscaping and other issues affecting: Baltimore Walk, Caversham Centre planters; Christchurch Meadows, Clayfield Copse, Coals Woodland, Hemdean Bottom, Hill's Meadow, King's Meadow, Thames Promenade, View Island, Warren Woodlands, The Withies. In addition Globe made representations and had site visits with RBC officers in connection with the landscape plans for Christchurch Meadows and Hill's Meadow (ongoing) and tree felling & planting. Parks Manager Ben Stanesby attended two Globe meetings during the year.

RBC Tree Strategy / Tree Wardens - Globe supports and participates in the new Reading Tree Wardens group. Site meetings held with RBC natural environment staff regarding trees in Buckingham Drive/Peppard Rd. Richard Stimpson (RBC) attended two Globe meetings during the year to discuss tree issues and planting plans. Globe members helped with planting in Richfield Ave (February), Old Peppard Road (December) and Greystoke Rd (December).

RBC Legal Department Representations were made over the proposed sale of public land on the Warren Escarpment - part of the Warren Woodlands Local Wildlife site

Environment Agency Met EA staff to discuss dredging of the Danall/Gos Brook in Hill's Meadow

Liaised with other local community organisations:

Caversham & District Residents Association (CADRA),
Emmer Green Residents' Association (EGRA),
Friends of Caversham Court Gardens (FCCG)
Eye & Dunsden parish (covers Caversham lakes area).

Caversham Park Village Association.
Caversham Traders Association
Kings Meadow Campaign

GLOBE members regularly attend meetings of **Econet**, the **Reading Globe Alliance (Trega)**, and local **Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG)**.

Caversham GLOBE is a member of **Reading Cultural Partnership** with particular interest in the partnership's 'sustainability' theme.

We are also part of **GREN**, the 'Greater Reading Environmental Network'.

Planning Applications GLOBE continues to monitor planning applications, including applications for work on protected trees. Comments are submitted as time permits, particularly with regard to environmental issues. During 2011 representations were made about the

Trees in St Martin's Precinct - ongoing

Abbotsmead Place Retirement Complex - Representations from Globe resulted in a change being made to the landscaping to include additional trees along the School Lane frontage.

Hemdean Road Bakery site - commented to request additional landscaping

Globe also keeps across RBCs **Sites & Detailed Policies Document (SPDP)** and **Proposals Map**.

South Oxon planning We continue to monitor applications from developers for building in rural areas adjacent to the Caversham boundary. An application for a boathouse on the riveredge at Caversham Lakes was withdrawn following objections from the EA and Globe.

GLOBE members continue to tackle graffiti around the Caversham area on an ad hoc basis and to regularly report issues to RBC officers and the local police as appropriate.

Battery Recycling scheme GLOBE members continue to collect batteries from four shops around Caversham. These are taken monthly to central RBC collection points to be sent for recycling. A new collection box was installed in the **True Food Co-op** shop in Grove Rd. but the box in Woodcote Way post office was removed when new owners took over.

Caversham 100 years on During 2011 Caversham GLOBE took part in events to mark the 100th anniversary of Caversham's incorporation into Reading in 1911. We prepared a display of three panels covering natural heritage and open spaces. These were displayed around Caversham throughout the year and have also been incorporated into a publication to mark the anniversary.

Finances We received a Core Funding Grant of £375 from Reading Borough Council. We also had a Plant Sale at Caversham Court in September raising £22

Publicity During 2011 GLOBE purchased a number of Hi-Vis vests for members to wear during practical events. We also had a banner printed and purchased a set of display boards. A report highlighting litter collected on one of our RESCUE events was published on the front page of Caversham Bridge local newspaper. Our **web site** is regularly updated - www.cavershamglobe.org.uk.