



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 23 April 2013 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

**Attendees.** Judith Barratt (Chair), Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Jim McMaster, Phil Bagge

**Apologies for absence:** Richard Denney, Vickie Abel, Peter Trout.

**Minutes of 26 March** - Approved for publication - no amendments.

### **1.Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:**

- a) **Planters on Church Street** - Richard has taken delivery of materials for refurbishing the exterior woodwork of the planters - donated by Drews plus a £200 grant from RBC. Suggestions for suitable bedding plants included marigolds, geraniums, red nasturtiums. Richard is organising the refurbishment and Dave is arranging the plants, some of which we hope to purchase from Greenshoots (parts of Ways & Means Trust). The work is likely to be done in May - dates to be circulated. **NB there are 22 planters and this is a major work project on which GLOBE supporters have an opportunity to give practical help please.**
- b) **Balmore Walk - Resurfacing of paths etc** The conservation grass cut of the slope and resurfacing of the main path with crushed limestone has not yet taken place. **Keep in view.** Concern was raised about the new steps opposite the primary school in Hemdean Rd. These are very steep and it was felt that the previous gravel surface may have been less slippery.
- c) **TPO trees at St Martin's Precinct** - two very large dawn redwood (metasequoia) were delivered to the site on 22 April (*Update: the trees were left for 4 days with the root balls exposed and not watered, before eventually being covered with soil. RBC have reminded the precinct management company about the need to water the trees weekly. However apparent lack of watering remains of concern & is being monitored by Globe supporters.* **Keep in view.**
- d) **Hill's Meadow:** The enlarged fairground area has been resurfaced again with additional hardcore and a thin layer of soil, which has been seeded. Some concern was expressed over the use of a thick membrane under the hardcore which would seem to prevent greenery from taking root properly. Also very little soil has been left covering the hardcore: it remains to be seen if there is enough soil for the grass to grow. Other works now believed completed include: i) removal of large concrete rubble from the earth mounds ii) re-profiling & seeding of the earth mounds iii) installing logs to prevent vehicles encroaching beyond the fairground area iv) removal of excess soil from around the new trees. RBC parks officer had confirmed on site visit that further tree & shrub planting is planned to complete the landscaping & additional grass seeding would take place if necessary. **Keep in View.**
- e) **Caversham Court gardens.** Vickie had sent an update on the recent management committee which had mainly focused on discussions about disabled access from one of the allotment holders. Events included a return of Summer Screens and the Progress Theatre. Some concern was noted about the amount of floodlighting likely due to the high number of evening events.
- f) **Charles Evans Way.** One of the Globe trees (a Rowan) which was originally planted in Buckingham Drive (where it has been replaced by a lime tree), has now been relocated to Charles Evans Way with the agreement of RBC Housing dept. It joins the 5 trees we planted there last year.

### **2 Planning matters.**

- a) **George Street Petrol Station** – No resolution of concerns about removal of trees/shrubs on the site frontage – **Carol is pursuing with Shell**
- b) **18 Church Road. 13/00086/FUL** Church Road conservation area. RBC have confirmed that one replacement tree will be required following removal of trees & shrubs from the frontage without permission. **Item now closed.**

e) **Caversham Methodist Church**, Gosbrook Road. It was noted that a tree and grass at the frontage had recently been removed and most of the area paved over - apparently without planning permission. RBC were investigating.

### **3 Finance Matters.**

a) Volunteers warning/publicity triangles now on order- £96; Some "Handyhoops" will also be ordered for Globe volunteers to try. These help keep sacks open while litterpicking and cost around £4 each.

### **4 Environmental Issues**

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)**. Jim, Judith, Dave and Vickie had attended EVAs during April with the RBC streetcare inspector. Future dates were circulated: Judith to attend 9 May EVA in Cav Park Village; Jean & Margaret to attend 28 May at Washington Rd/South View Ave.

b) **Flytipping/Litter** i) at the rear of Humphries (Promenade Rd); ii) behind Gibbons (Church St) and iii) behind the Prospect St Dry Cleaners (corner Oxford St) has been reported. **Keep in view.**

**5 RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event)** Following cancellation of our March Rescue event to clean up the Henley Road south side verge/hedgerow area near the borough boundary, Richard had pursued the issue with RBC Streetcare. Dave and Jean both confirmed that there seemed to have been a recent litter pick of the verges by RBC, it also appears that some of the larger, more accessible fly-tipped items have now been cleared. As vegetation has now covered much of the area, the meeting view was that we should revisit in the winter and possibly include this area in next years Rescue if necessary.

### **6 Globe Correspondence / Activities**

a) Re: Tilehurst GLOBE's co-operation with RBC on streetcare issues and fly tipping, it was agreed we would investigate further to see how we could apply this in Caversham GLOBE. **Ongoing – Richard still progress with RBC but deferred due to other priorities**

b) **School Lane (Emmer Green)** A property owner/developer had in contact about an overgrowing hedge along School Lane which he wants RBC to remove due to overhanging ivy (which is causing it to collapse). He wanted our support for this and also our help with replacement planting. Dave had visited and although agreeing that the ivy is a problem felt it could be cut back to enable the existing trees (mostly hawthorn) to be retained and maintained as a high hedge: there was no need to remove it all. This point has also been made to RBC Housing who own the land.

**7 Proposed new cycle & footbridge over the Thames** The meeting had concerns about the proposed location - very close to Frys island and into the play area, and the proposed additional paths through the meadow. Could it not be moved east of the play area to meet the existing path? Possible loss of a row of 4x trees on the towpath in front of the SSE building. Consultation drop-in at Town Hall to take place on 2 May from 2-8pm. Detailed planning application to follow in September. **Dave to send comments on behalf of Globe.**

### **8 AOB**

a) Richard and Dave had recently visited the Withies and met the site owner. Most of the trees were OK, there has been some clearance of undergrowth. New fruit trees and oaks have been planted in cleared areas. And there were beehives on site. A large heap of tyres near the entrance is of concern: the owner said that these would be removed. **Keep in View**

b) Margaret asked if we could prune back a small area of dangerous protruding greenery by pavement of Lower Henley Road. **This now done. Item CLOSED**

c) **Re Scout HQ Grove Hill** – need to check on our recently planted boundary hedging and whether "natural barriers" have been installed round native bluebells to protect them, as per their Lease agreement on the adjoining woodland.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday, 28 May 2013. 7.15pm Church House.  
(The following meeting on Tues 25 June will be our AGM)**