



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

Attendees. Richard Denney (Chair), Peter Trout, Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Jim McMaster, Phil Bagge, Vickie Abel, Steve Waite, Mary Waite, Dean Ezra, Chris Burden, Colin Potts

Apologies for absence: Judith Barratt, Malcolm Moye, Caroline Langdon, Jenny Hicks, Jennifer Millest

Minutes of 28 May - Approved for publication - no amendments.

1.Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

- a) **Planters on Church Street** - The final coat of woodstain and planting of summer bedding was completed on 26 June. Weekly watering has been necessary during the very hot dry weather. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this. Further planting will be needed in the autumn with winter bedding and/or shrubs. **Richard to contact Ways & Means about future supply of plants.**
- b) **Balmore Walk - Resurfacing of paths etc** The main path has now been resurfaced, concern was expressed about the very powdery surface which is difficult to walk or cycle on. It may need rain to help it bond. Path from top of Surgery steps is still to be done. Railings have been installed on the steps down to the primary school. However the long grass on the slope & hedge still needs cutting & poplar suckers removing. **Dave to speak to RBC Parks about the grass, hedge & path.**
- c) **Balmore Allotments** Awaiting decision from RBC following consultation about new gate.
- d) **New trees at St Martin's Precinct** - concerns remain over watering of the new dawn redwoods by the bottlebanks. Also awaiting response about TPOs for the new trees. **Cllr Davies to follow up with RBC planning natural environment team**
- e) **Hill's Meadow:** Some of the new plants & trees look to be suffering in the dry hot weather. RBC are supposed to be watering them. Soil on top of the earth mounds is still bare and appears not to have been seeded yet with wildflowers. **Keep in View.**
- f) **Caversham Court gardens.** A new head gardener has been appointed, Jan Lambourn, who is currently at RHS Wisley. She is due to start in August. Planting up of the bare patch of soil by the main entrance gate is awaiting permission from the Diocese of Oxford which owns that piece of land.
- g) Proposed "leisure Developments" at Christchurch Meadow & Mill Stream moorings** - This was discussed in detail following the presentation from RBC Parks at our 25th June meeting. Much concern was expressed about these proposals which would radically change the whole character of the area and have a hugely detrimental impact on both the natural environment and neighbouring residents. There also potential impact on the flood plain and it was questionable whether residential moorings would be permitted under planning legislation within a designated flood zone. The consultation was felt to be flawed as it did not give a full & balanced description of the proposals. Also, the way in which the voting, with responses being anonymous and not monitored, was open to abuse. Many local residents are not aware of the extent of the proposals and would probably be against the developments if they knew what was being planned. Publicity in the local press and a public meeting could draw attention to the many concerns surrounding these proposals.
- h) King's Meadow developments.** Bob O'Neill had emailed to report that RBC were in the process of installing lighting all along the Thames footpath through Kings Meadow. He had also been told that the changing room portacabins currently next to the Kings Meadow pool were being moved to the old bowling green site, electricity cables were being installed. Meeting was concerned that no planning permission has been sought for this works, which would result in loss of green space within the flood plain.

2. Proposed new cycle & footbridge over the Thames

GLOBE had received an invitation from Anthony Bolton , Head of Highways & Transport, to a meeting at the Civic Centre to discuss the new Pedestrian Cycle Bridge as part of the pre-planning application consultation. The planning application for the bridge is likely to be submitted in mid August. **The Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 August in Committee Room 2, Civic Centre.**

3. Planning matters.

No new issues were raised

4. Finance Matters.

GLOBE's public liability insurance is due for renewal in August. We are currently insured with TCV (ex BTCV) the renewal premium is £292. Dave would also seek a quote from our previous insurers, Tennyson, who had emailed to offer a discount if we renew with them.

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)**. Calendar for August was discussed.

Jim had attended an EVA today 23/7 in Amersham Rd area and reported that generally it was looking better, with less problems being noted.

b) Jim had learned on the EVA that plans for some recycling facilities were being investigated for the Co-op site in Star Road. Jean was concerned about potential noise from bottle banks.

c) Jean reported that some parts of the Mill Green footpath were badly overgrown.

d) Vickie reported that there were a lot of beer cans and bottles strewn around locally, probably a result of more people being out in the evenings during the recent warm dry weather.

6. Withdrawal of GLOBE local battery recycling collections. Since 2009, Richard has been collecting batteries for recycling from GLOBE collection boxes in up to five locations. However RBC now collects batteries for recycling (they should be placed in clear plastic bags on top of the lid of the red recycling bin on collection day). Also many local shops and supermarkets had collection boxes for batteries including Waitrose (batteries should be taken to the customer services desk), Boots, Tesco and Aldi. The meeting therefore agreed that the our own collections were no longer necessary. Richard would provide a GLOBE notice for display at local shops with details of the collection points.

7. Globe Correspondence / Activities

a) **Thames 21** is organising conservation activities in Caversham initially to clear rubbish and some vegetation from the Danall through Hill's Meadow and Christchurch Meadow. All are welcome, equipment will be provided. Meet in the Hill's Meadow car park near the skate park at 11am on Sundays 28 July, 11 August, 15 September. Contact Billy Coburn on 07557 970812

b) **RBC Parks Dept** have given us contact details for all of the Parks Supervisors responsible for each of the parks and open spaces in the borough. Details available on request from Dave or Richard.

8. AOB

a) **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. (Update Dave visited on 24 July to water the new hedge & will report back to next meeting)

b) Chris reported that the damaged Virgin Media inspection cover in George St has been replaced.

c) Chris also reported that the University are carrying out a Hedgehog Survey.

d) Mikron Theatre is performing “Beyond the Veil” at Caversham Court on 2 August (a play about bees). There will be a bee walk in the gardens as part of the FOE BeeCause at 1730 on 20 August.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday, 27 August 2013. 7.15pm Church House.
(NB August meeting will be in the small room downstairs as the main hall is closed for redecorating)**