



DRAFT MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 September 2013 at 7.15pm, Church House, Caversham.

Attendees. Jenny Hicks (Chair), Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Malcolm Moye, Jim McMaster, Vickie Abel, Dean Ezra, Richard Denney, Philip Bagge, Chris Burden, Councillor Jane Stanford-Beale, Councillor Richard Willis

Apologies for absence: Judith Barratt, Jennifer Millest, Peter Trout

Minutes of 27 August - Approved for publication with 5 minor amendments in paras 1d, 3a,3b,3c, 8a

1.Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

- a) **Planters on Church Street** – GLOBE will continue looking after the planting of 5 of the planters on the BT Exchange frontage as separately agreed with RBC. However, regarding the 12 planters on north side of Church Street, in which we have planted shrubs and some perennials, we have requested Caversham Traders and The Greenshoots Nursery (part of the Ways and Means Trust) or other contractor or RBC to now take responsibility for replenishing soil and doing the bedding planting twice a year as GLOBE is not resourced to carry on with this, although we should keep an interest and help as needed **SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS COMMITTING TO IT. Richard/Dave progressing**
- b) **Baltimore Walk** - Resurfacing of paths – northern path in top field still requires completion as per plan.
- c) **Hill's Meadow:** GLOBE hedge has been cut again by RBC Parks, though probably not necessary at this time.
- d) **Proposed “leisure Developments” at Christchurch Meadow & Mill Stream moorings** – RBC Policy Committee of 23 September made decisions: Re **Moorings:** sites in other parts of the Borough will be investigated and a report back considered prior to any further plans for the View Island proposals. Re **Leisure Development** proposals: these will be pursued in more detail BUT further public consultation will take place on specific plans before any decisions to implement are made. GLOBE has concerns about these proposals radically changing the whole character of the area with a hugely detrimental impact on both the natural environment and neighbouring residents. Jim has contacted the Open Spaces Society and English Heritage about the status of these areas. GLOBE resolved to object to these proposals and campaign with publicity in the local press and a public meeting to draw attention to the many concerns surrounding these proposals. **GLOBE supporters to plan campaign.**
- e) **King's Meadow Pool.** RBC Policy Committee of 23 September awarded preferred bidding status to Clifton Lido, a company with experience of renovation and operation of a grade 2 listed pool in Bristol - see <http://www.lidobristol.com/bar/> Further detail on their plans for Kings Meadow Baths expected.
- f) **Reading's woodlands - a consultation from RBC.** GLOBE supporters discussed Dave's concerns that aspects of proposals were not in accord with current policy and practice of The Woodland Trust or the RBC Tree Strategy. Also that the proposals were often too vague or inaccurate in places and some proposed actions would be detrimental rather than improving. **Dave had drafted a detailed response which he will submit for GLOBE requesting site meetings before any work is commissioned.**
- g) **Christchurch Meadow/Elliots Way boundary** Dean raised concerns that RBC Parks had authorised tree work and boundary cutting by the Danall on public land to be done by external contractor, risking unnecessary felling, excessive pruning and wildlife disturbance. Noted that Dean had raised this with Councillor Cumpsty who had raised this with Parks but decision stands. **Richard to have site meeting with Dean to assess.**

2. Proposed new cycle & footbridge over the Thames

Draft minutes of consultative meeting at RBC on 7 August hosted by A Bolton, Head of Highways and Transport, still awaited. The planning application 131234 for the bridge is now open and due to come before Planning Committee on 16 October. Councillors Willis and Stanford-Beale explained some detail GLOBE concerns include, landscaping, lighting and bird collision.

3. Planning matters.

a) Development proposed on St Martin's Precinct. No details available yet. **Keep in view**

4. Finance Matters.

Possible reimbursement of cost of GLOBE's PL insurance – **to be discussed with other GLOBE groups at TREGA meeting in November. Dave/Richard**

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)**. Calendar for September/October discussed; GLOBE supporters can attend these inspections of local areas to identify issues for action by RBC – further details available on request.

b) All are reminded of the web link where litter, fly tipping and similar problems can be reported to RBC at <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk> **HAVE OTHER GLOBE SUPPORTERS USED THIS PLEASE? i**

c) **NAG report about litter** in Westfield Park – **Jim/Dean agreed to do a litter pick in early October**

d) **Unclean streets in central Caversham**. Noted that some streets have accumulations of litter and grime, especially compared to other parts of Lower Caversham and in nearby Abbey Ward off Caversham Road where dedicated street care operatives keep areas much cleaner. **ACTION TO BE DECIDED**

e) Autumn brings our usual problem of dead leaves accumulating especially over drains after heavy rainfall, causing mini-floods and hazardous pavements. **Please report via <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk> or phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 with details**

6. Withdrawal of GLOBE local battery recycling collections. NOW CLOSED

7. Globe Correspondence / Activities/AOB

a) Marchwood Avenue Emmer Green SODC Planning Application P13/S2026 on South Oxfordshire side of borough boundary for a dwelling and access – green field site

b) Clayfield Copse Tree identity guide is being prepared

c) RBC will be planting poppy seeds soon for 100 year anniversary of start of World War 1 in 1914.

d) The Reading Town Meal will be held on Saturday 5 October

e) **Re Scout HQ Grove Hill** – re new boundary hedging - a short section near the entrance requires replacement planting, plus a few replacements to infill elsewhere. Need to confirm that “natural barriers” have been installed round native bluebells to protect them, as per their Lease agreement on the adjoining woodland. **GLOBE planting/maintenance task to be arranged this winter**

Date of next meeting Tuesday, 22 October 2013. 7.15pm Church House.