



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 22 April 2014 .

**Attendees.** Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Jenny Hicks, Jim McMaster, Peter Trout Richard Denney, Vickie Abel, Bob Busby. Lin Godfrey

**Apologies for absence:**, Jennifer Millest, Chris Burden, Jean Newbery, Malcolm Moye, Cyril Walkington,.

**Minutes of 25 March** - Approved for publication

**1. Proposed “leisure Developments” at Christchurch Meadow** 7 people from GLOBE and the “Save Christchurch Meadows” campaign met Councillors Paul Gittings and Richard Davies on Friday 28 March for discussion and to get some clarity from RBC on specific issues; outcomes are currently as follows: **It is now “very unlikely” that any leisure facilities like high ropes and adventure golf will be constructed; the small catering facility in the hut by the paddling pool will soon open; a possible cafe that would bring the old pavilion back into use is awaiting detailed proposals and costings; kayak provision near Fry's Island is still being considered but no solid proposals coming forward yet; suggested moorings on the Millstream/Hill's Meadow are definitely no longer being considered; Councillors said that they are positive about consulting local people on future issues concerning the river side meadows.** There are further issues affecting Christchurch Meadows that are unresolved, see also item 3 below about the new foot/cycle bridge. **Update at May monthly meeting**

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

**a) Planters on Church Street** – 5 GLOBE activists recently weeded/tidied the planters and added some new shrubs. Summer bedding plants will be added soon. After the changes to the lay-out and relocation of some of planters on the BT exchange site some renovation will be required and 3 replacement planters are due to be installed by RBC shortly. **Richard to contact BT site management agents re state of paving etc. Keep in view**

**b) Balmore Walk - No progress since last meeting** Resurfacing of parts of current path and completion of new part in top field, yet to be completed by RBC contractor. **Keep in View**

**c) Hill's Meadow:** Danall is not currently flowing due to silt and debris. RBC has reported this to the EA and will remind them again. **Keep in view.**

### **3. Proposed new foot/cycle bridge over the Thames**

A meeting is to be arranged in early May for GLOBE and the “Save Christchurch Meadows” campaign to discuss the proposals/timescales for contractors to access Christchurch Meadows and install their construction site and all matters affecting the public, e.g play area access, tree felling, closure of footpaths, dates, environmental issues. A public meeting is also planned. Details to follow: **Review at May meeting**

### **4. Planning matters.**

**a) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct.** A series of presentations by the owners and developers to show designs and ideas for the area are due in early May **Review at May Meeting**

**b) Proposal for a Reading Sustainability Centre.** On Friday 28 March Dave, Chris and Jenny attended a meeting at the Civic Centre. Plans are for a water-powered electricity generation plant on the Clappers footpath near Caversham Weir and a sustainability centre building nearby. The hydro is likely to be similar to one at Abingdon see <http://www.abingdonhydro.org.uk/> Project activists are in discussion with RBC and the EA. Further details expected soon. **Keep in view.**

c) **Reading Borough Local Plan - setting out policies for deciding planning applications and identifying sites for development or for other designations.** Dave had submitted a brief statement on behalf of GOBE asking for all current protected areas to be carried forward to the new plan. Awaiting second stage of consultation. **Keep in view.**

d) **Proposals from RBC for a privately run hand car washing facility on Hill's Meadow.** This would be near the recycling bins and the BMX facility. Concerns were discussed. **Dave will contact RBC.**

e) **Arthur Legge Centre, 1 Wolsey Road – Landscaping and boundaries design proposals.** Concerns discussed, plans examined and agreed that we should submit comments requesting tree planting and reduction in height of wall on Gosbrook Rd frontage. Planning ref 140260. **Dave and Bob to liaise on this.**

f) **Richfield Avenue – proposed Garden Centre** on land west of Rivermead car park & south of the golf driving range. Planning Ref 140329 **Dave will review protection of trees**

g) **Anaerobic Digester on Mapledurham Estate.** Concerns over this potentially unsightly industrial-type structure in a rural location within the Chilterns AONB. South Oxon planning ref P14/S0477/FUL

**5. Finance Matters** Dave confirmed that RBC grant cheque for £500 has been received. This will cover essential items such as our PL insurance and annual costs for meeting room hire.

## **6. Environmental Issues**

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** Regular audits by RBC streetcare take place and GLOBE supporters attend.

b) Please report to RBC all litter, fly tipping and similar problems via smart phone app or web link at <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk> **Alternatively please phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN – please try that link.**

c) . **RBC “deep clean”** of 6 local roads now due in mid/late JUNE. **More is needed elsewhere locally.**

d) **Large bales of hay on Bugs Bottom** – have been subject to vandalism and arson. These have been left since last autumn and should be cleared.

## **7. A.O.B.**

a) **Caversham Park – BBC Boundary Hedge on Lowfield Road.** Concerns were raised that a mature hedge and some mature trees next to the metal fencing on northern end of Lowfield Road grass verge had been cut down in recent months. It is believed that this may be contravening the status of a Designated Historic Landscaped Park and also that the hedge was planted as a planning condition when housing was approved for Caversham Park in the 1960s. **Review at May meeting.**

b) **Advanced notice of GLOBE AGM – this will precede the June 24 monthly meeting.**

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 27 May 2014. 7.15 pm Church House.**