



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 June 2014 .

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Richard Denney, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Jean Newbery, Cyril Walkington. Colin Potts, Bob Busby, Will Alliston
Apologies for absence: Malcolm Moye, Jennifer Millest, Jenny Hicks, Caroline Langdon.

1. Minutes of 27 May 2014 - Approved for publication – matters arising discussed as follows

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street –

[1] North side planters need bedding plants. GLOBE will be doing on Fri 27 June 11 am. **Dave arranging.**
[2] the BT exchange site - still awaiting final placement of 5 more planters by RBC. Some work may then be needed by GLOBE. Concerns about paving, weeds and unsightly railings raised with BT property services contractor - awaiting response. **Richard to progress**

b) Balmore Walk -

[1] Resurfacing of parts of path – **mostly complete – CLOSE**
[2] Overgrown shrubbery on two sets of steps – those near Caversham Primary School and on NCR 5 near Doctors Surgery – problems has been registered with RBC - awaiting response. **Richard to progress**

c) Hill's Meadow: Danall is now flowing but some sandbags remain as they are difficult to remove. RBC has reported this to the EA and work is awaited. Thames21 clearance event on June 7 helped. Two trees, a plane and a silver birch have been damaged and need replacing later this year. **Keep in view**

d) Christchurch Meadows - Jim updated the meeting concerning his investigation into some of the historic issues to do with Christchurch Meadows ownership and the current legal position for any developments or changes of use by RBC. (contact Jim direct if you would like more details).

Debris in the Thames backwater near eastern end of Fry's Island. This has been reported to RBC and EA but still not cleared. Maybe Thames21 can help? Dave will raise with them **Review at July Meeting**

3. Planning matters.

a) Proposed new footbridge over the Thames 140567. A group of GLOBE supporters attended the RBC Planning Committee at Civic Centre on 18 June. GLOBE had submitted objections to these plans in writing (see minutes of June meeting). Cyril had also submitted objections and, after investigating the waterborne method used by the Whitchurch Bridge contractor, submitted to RBC some constructive suggestions for a waterborne solution for some components of the Caversham construction plans, thus reducing the disruption to Christchurch meadows and the poplars, reduced costs and less traffic. Cyril spoke at this RBC Planning meeting but the plans were passed as submitted and no account taken of his proposed changes. Work has already started on moving part of the play area near the site of the bridge. **Update at July meeting**

Also noted that RBC landscaping proposals for the new footbridge & surrounding area are now available for discussion with GLOBE at a meeting with David Moore of RBC in early July. **Update at July meeting.**

b) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Noted that GLOBE has just today been informed [24 June] by the developer that a formal planning application has been submitted to RBC. Await further details and planning application number, which we will advise to all GLOBE supporters as soon as possible. NB this will need careful attention to ensure that GLOBE concerns are submitted at the planning stage, expected very soon. **Keep in view**

c) Two Proposals: a Reading Sustainability Centre (location to be decided) and a small hydro-electric generation plant in the weir at the southern end of Clappers Footpath.. This is progressing and further details are awaited. **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. **No change. Awaiting planning application.**

e) Residential development on the former Arthur Legge Centre, 1 Wolsey Road – Planning ref 140260. Awaiting confirmation that GLOBE comments have been incorporated into the site design proposals.(subsequent note **Bob Busby confirmed that the developer has accepted GLOBE's suggested design changes for trees and boundary wall. The revised plans had been submitted to RBC Planning. Keep in View**

f) Richfield Avenue – proposed Garden Centre on land west of Rivermead car park & south of the golf driving range. Impact on trees. Planning Ref 140329 Revised landscape plans awaited. **Keep in view**

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

5. Finance Matters - None this month.

6. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).**Regular audits by RBC Streetcare with GLOBE supporters attending. Likely that organisational changes and economies will reduce this RBC activity. GLOBE must find a way of keeping this type of activity going so that the appearance of our area doesn't deteriorate. e.g an "adopt a street" initiative.

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 several local roads now due in July, having been deferred yet again.

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 July meeting.**

b) Noted that 18 Church Road replanting has still not been completed.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 22 July 2014. 7.15pm at Church House.