



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 22 July 2014 .

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Richard Denney, Vickie Abel, Malcolm Moye, Jean Newbery, Philip Bagge, Cyril Walkington. Colin Potts, Will Alliston, Jenny Hicks, Caroline Langdon, Dean Ezra, Peter Trout, Bob O'Neil

Apologies for absence: Chris Burden, Jennifer Millest, Lin Godfrey,

1. Minutes of 24 June 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 now in summer condition. Noted that the “Reading in Bloom” project records these as being cared for by 'local community group' and suggestion made that GLOBE should obtain some small signs to inform the public. **Richard will investigate.**

[2] the BT exchange site – some new planters have been installed by RBC and await planting. Some work may then be needed by GLOBE. Our concerns about paving, weeds and unsightly railings raised with BT property services contractor are in progress. **Richard liaising on this, review at next meeting.**

b) 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 to clear. Several of the new trees have been vandalised and will need replacing later this year. **Keep in view**

d) Christchurch Meadows

[1] Dean gave details of serious damage done on 14 July where an RBC contractor was seen removing major amounts of hedging, semi-wild margins and vegetation along the riverside & some bordering onto houses. Dean had intervened and stopped the contractor just after he had removed a 10ft section of hedge - he was going to remove all of it. (GLOBE supporters were emailed on 15 July with further details of this and subsequent actions that Dean had taken, along with some photos.) Dean established that checks had not been made for presence of wildlife or birds nests. This removal of vegetation was contrary to recommended process and previous understandings, as well as recent statements made to GLOBE supporters by RBC at meetings to do with landscaping on the meadows. **Meeting to be requested with RBC on site urgently – update at August meeting**

[2] Jim further updated the meeting concerning his investigation into some of the historic issues to do with use of Christchurch Meadows and ownership relevant to the current legal position for any developments or changes of use by RBC. There are outstanding issues about the access and location of the construction site for the new footbridge and felling of some poplars along George Street. Work has already started on moving part of the play area near the site of the bridge. **Update at August meeting**

[3] Debris present since February 2014 floods is **STILL** blocking the Thames backwater near eastern end of Fry's Island. This has been reported to RBC and EA but still not cleared. **Review at August Meeting**

e) Kings Meadow Baths – refurbishment and future car parking. Bob informed the meeting that plans have been published to take up an area of Kings Meadow grassland near the existing Napier Road car park to be used for future car parking for the refurbished baths. There are also worries about the protection of the nearby plane trees. **Review at August meeting**

3. Planning matters.

a) **Proposed new footbridge over the Thames 140567 – Landscaping plans.** A group of GLOBE supporters had attended the offices of Peter Brett Associates with David Moore of RBC on 3 July to discuss landscaping plans. After a lot of detailed discussions it was agreed that a follow-up site meeting would be arranged to finalise some details **Update at August meeting**

b) **Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Planning application 140997** Drawings were circulated and issues discussed included: trees on the site & along Church Street; soft landscaping to improve the appearance; objections to the height and frontage materials of some of the buildings on Church Street. Individual GLOBE supporters can comment and Dave will compile a detailed GLOBE response. **Dave to submit comments - review at August meeting**

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) **Proposed privately run hand car washing facility on Hill's Meadow. Planning Application 140815** Consultation period open **from 21 July - GLOBE supporters to consider, review at August meeting**

e) **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**

f) **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 – Annual Public Liability Insurance of £292 now due for 2014/15.

6. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** Regular audits by RBC Streetcare with GLOBE supporters attending. Dave has dates if anyone wants details.

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.**

7. A.O.B.

a) **Communications** Dean suggested that we could improve the communication and impact of GLOBE by better use of available technology such as Facebook and different aspects of the website. **Agreed that this would be worked on asap by Dean, Will, Dave and Richard.**

a) **High Ridge, Upper Warren Avenue – proposed site for new primary school** – Bob said that he had been told that work is being done on this site, including clearance of vegetation and draining of ponds. There are worries that a part of the Warren escarpment, a protected designated ancient woodland site, may be under threat of damage, intentional or otherwise. The Warren and District Residents Association are monitoring. **Keep in view**

b) **Litter!** Advance warning that as it will be Reading Festival 22 to 24 August it is likely that we will need to organise some litter picking sessions soon after.

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 26 August 2014. 7.15pm at Church House
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)**