



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 August 2014 .

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Philip Bagge, Will Alliston, Bob O'Neil, Bob Bristow

Apologies for absence: Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Cyril Walkington, Jennifer Millest, Lin Godfrey, Peter Trout, Jenny Hicks,

1. Minutes of 22 July 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 still in summer condition, some watering was needed. GLOBE to obtain small signs that we maintain these planters. **Richard investigating.**
[2] the BT exchange site – Still awaiting planting by RBC. Some work may then be needed by GLOBE. Still no resolution by BT property services contractor re GLOBE's concerns about paving, weeds and unsightly railings being removed. We are persisting patiently.

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. **Dave suggested a site meeting with RBC.**

c) Christchurch Meadows

[1] Regarding 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 - this removal of vegetation was contrary to recommended process and previous understandings. Dean reported that he Dave and Cyril had a site meeting with RBC. An explanation and apology were given by RBC as well as an undertaking that maintenance and management of the "Thames Parks" would be more rigorous and properly done in future. **keep in view.**

[2] Re: Jim's 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. **Update at September meeting.**

[3] Debris blocking the Thames backwater near eastern end of Fry's Island. RBC are planning to clear in next few weeks. **Review and if resolved, close item at September Meeting.**

d) Kings Meadow Baths – refurbishment and future car parking. Bob O'Neil informed the meeting that plans are now due to go to RBC planning committee later this year. **Keep in view**

3. Planning matters.

a) Proposed new Thames footbridge 140567 – Landscaping plans. The follow-up site meeting to finalise detail has twice been arranged and cancelled by RBC, to be re-arranged. **Update at September meeting**

b) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Planning application 140997 Dave reported that he has submitted a 2 page response on behalf of GLOBE. (Copy available on request) **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.. Will informed the meeting that he is now part of the Steering Group. Further information awaited.

d) Proposed privately run hand car washing facility on Hill's Meadow. Planning Application 140815
Dave described the RBC Planning Officer's comments about this and it was now anticipated that this planning application would be withdrawn.

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**

4. Finance Matters – none this month

5. RESCUE (Litter clean up) 9 -11 th October - RBC has scheduled an autumn borough-wide clean up by voluntary groups. Unlikely that GLOBE will take part in this. **Confirm at September meeting.**

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 use these - encourage others to do it too.**

c) Litter pick in central Caversham – GLOBE will do a litter pick on Friday 29 August at 10 o'clock.

7. Any Other Business.

a) GLOBE Communications It was agreed that the group could improve the communication and impact of GLOBE by use of Facebook and updated GLOBE website. Dean has agreed to start work on this with input from Will, Dave and Richard. Any ideas and suggestions welcome. **Review at September meeting**

b) High Ridge, Upper Warren Avenue – residential plot purchased for the site of new primary school resulting in likely adverse impact on sensitive site of Warren escarpment as well as other environmental issues e.g access, traffic and disruption to the area. No Planning Application yet. . **Keep in view**

c) Invasive species e.g Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam - several local occurrences of these plants were discussed. Margaret informed attendees of legal requirements on landowners and local authorities. See <https://www.gov.uk/japanese-knotweed-giant-hogweed-and-other-invasive-plants> for more information. There is a smartphone App with the following description "*The first step in tackling this problem is accurately determining where these plants are. In order to do that, we need your help! Please use this app to help us to build a comprehensive picture of the UK's invasive, non-native plant species:*

<http://planttracker.naturelocator.org/> **Any GLOBE supporters who try this App, please share your information with the Group, thanks..**

d) South Oxfordshire possible new housing - Bob O'Neil drew attention to the prospect that SODC may be including in their plans the northern outskirts of Reading Borough as possible sites for additional housing!!

e) Jenny suggested that GLOBE apply for the Waitrose Green Disc Scheme

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 23 September 2014. 7.15pm at Church House
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)**