



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 23 SEPTEMBER 2014 .

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Malcolm Moye, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Jenny Hicks, Will Alliston, Bob O'Neil, Jim McMaster.

Apologies for absence: Dave Kenny, Cyril Walkington, Jennifer Millest, Lin Godfrey, Peter Trout,,

1. Minutes of 26 August 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 will soon need attention for over-winter. Small sign designs and ideas on wording discussed. Quotes being obtained for installation in next month. **Richard.** [2] the BT exchange site – Still awaiting planting by RBC. Some work may then be needed by GLOBE. BT property services contractor still in discussion re GLOBE's concerns about paving, weeds and unsightly railings being removed. **Action expected in next 4 weeks – Richard to report back.**

b) Hill's Meadow: A requested site meeting with RBC to discuss various issues is still awaited. Should happen in next few weeks. **Dave to report back.**

c) Christchurch Meadows

[1] Site meeting had taken place and undertakings given by RBC (Ben Stanesby and Carolyn Jenkins) that a management plan for biodiversity and maintenance procedures would be produced to avoid problems in future. **Awaiting sight of said document. See also 3a below about landscaping plans etc for Christchurch Meadows**

[2] **Re the access and location of the construction site for the new footbridge** and felling of some poplars along George Street – work due to start in October. NB that the scalping of parts of the meadows for flood relief compensation still seems undefined at this late stage **Update at October meeting.**

[3] **Historic Issues of Christchurch Meadows and change of use** – Jim described some of the detail he has been having correspondence with about these issues relating to “Fields in Trust” and the changes being made on Christchurch Meadows. **Update at October meeting.**

3. Planning matters.

a) Proposed new Thames footbridge 140567 – Landscaping plans. The follow-up site meeting with RBC to finalise detail has now been re-arranged for 6 October at 10 am. **Update at October meeting**

b) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Planning application 140997 Major concerns about this development regarding Church Street frontage, trees and other issues have been subject of letters to developers and discussion with CADRA by Dave. Revised plans awaited **Dave to report at next 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. The meeting discussed the contents of the letter from Tony Cowling sent on 3 September regarding the proposed Reading Sustainability Centre and small Hydro-electric Scheme at Caversham Weir. (copy of letter available on request). After discussion on issues involved it was agreed that Caversham GLOBE is prepared to work with the Sustainability Centre on the various proposals. The current view of those at the meeting was positive and open-minded on the detail, without committing to any of the suggested sites for the centre, although a brownfield site would be much preferred by some people rather than within the View Island nature reserve. Will Alliston is a member of the Sustainability Centre Steering Group as well as a GLOBE supporter. Chris Burden, Jenny Hicks and Dave Kenny have also been to recent meetings about these proposals. **Actions: Richard to send note to Tony Cowling; Will to keep GLOBE informed and discuss at next meeting.**

d) 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**

e) Anaerobic Digester, Mapledurham Estate. This SODC planning application P14/S0477/FUL has been granted subject to many conditions. **CLOSED**

4. Finance Matters – none this month

5.RESCUE (Litter clean up) 9 -11 th October - GLOBE not now taking part in this event, though 5 sacks of litter were collected at our central Caversham litter pick on 29 August.

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) Graffiti across 6 Fence panels in alley between Anglefield Road and Lower Henley Road. Jenny asked if this could be painted over by GLOBE? This is an RBC owned house but they will not do the work. **To be arranged; volunteers needed to help. Richard, Jenny and Dave to co-ordinate.**

7. Any Other Business.

a) GLOBE Communications We had a look at the new website using a newly acquired projector,thanks to Dean for all his work on this. He is also setting up our Facebook page. We shall need to promote its use.

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. 8 week moratorium whilst alternative sites are considered by the Education Funding Agency. **Update at October meeting.**

c) Invasive species e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam - several local occurrences of these plants were discussed e.g. Star Road. Has anyone tried this smart phone 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. ANYONE tried it??**

e) Jenny has now nominated GLOBE for the **Waitrose Green Disc Scheme**

f) Noted that the wooden footbridge over the Heron Island end of the old Mill Stream had been closed due to need for repair – (IT WAS OPENED AGAIN AFTER A FEW DAYS)

g) “Adopt a verge” scheme. Margaret described the “adopt a verge” scheme that operated at various locations in the 1980s under the former Berkshire County Council (deceased aged 109 years on 1 April 1998 – RIP). This type of scheme would involve planting wild flowers on green verges, as can be seen in many other towns. **Agreed that this would be a good idea for our area and needs someone to work on it.**

h) Details were given about 2 upcoming events: Reading Town Meal 4 Oct in Market Place and a GLOBE walk around the Lafarge Lakes Permissive paths on Sunday 5 October.

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 28 October 2014. 7.15pm at Church House
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)**