



## **MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 OCTOBER 2014 .**

**Attendees.** Judith Barratt (Chair), Dave Kenny, Cyril Walkington, Peter Trout, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Jenny Hicks, Will Alliston, Bob O'Neil, Jim McMaster, Phil Bagge Kay Perry, Steve Perry, Sarah Mainprize, Peter Mainprize, Andrew Rogers.

**Apologies for absence:** Malcolm Moye, Jennifer Millest.

**1. Minutes of 23 September 2014** - Approved for publication – matters arising discussed as follows

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

**a) Planters on Church Street** – Small signs have now been presented to GLOBE by Caversham Traders Association (CTA) for display on the planters. Our thanks go to CTA for those. Additionally, during an anniversary dinner celebrating the CTA's Caversham Rewards Card (1 yr) and the Bina Restaurant's (25 yrs), the CTA held a fund raising auction towards costs of plants for the future. The final total amount is yet to be confirmed and a cheque is expected soon. Our grateful thanks for the generosity of all concerned. The north side planters need a maintenance session for winter. **(TBA)**. The south side (BT exchange site) – BT property services contractor has at last removed the unsightly railings. The long awaited road works on this part of Church Street are now in progress and RBC is due to do some new planting. Work will then be needed by GLOBE to deal with the weeds, to keep frontage litter-free and take general care of the planters. **(TBA) Update at November meeting**

**b) Hill's Meadow:** Dave reported that he'd met with Andy Gillespie and Dave Booth (RBC) on site on 14 October where various issues were agreed for action: replacement of dead field maple and silver birch; re-instatement of grass cutting in places missed by RBC contractors; 2 large willows near the Danall need attention; sandbags impeding flow of the Danall still await removal near George St east side. Also noted that there are no litter bins on south bank of the Thames upstream from Kings Meadow until near Caversham Bridge. Dave also confirmed that a work party with Thames 21 will take place on 16 November. **Review at November meeting**

### **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 the summary cutting down and over-reduction of banks/hedges by RBC contractor that occurred in mid-July. **Awaiting said document.**

**[2] Re the access and location of the construction site for the new footbridge** Work has now started on felling of 7 poplars along George Street and the scalping of parts of the meadows for flood relief compensation. Concerns about the scalping of part of the playing field near trees were resolved with PBA.

**[3] Historic Issues of Christchurch Meadows and change of use** – Jim confirmed that the concerns he raised are still not concluded. He confirmed that the trustees of "Fields in Trust" have given retrospective permission for change of use and that the Minister of Health surveyor is now considering the detail. **Update** at November meeting. Cyril drew attention to residents' concerns about the increasing "flood Risk" frequency rating by the Environment Agency for Christchurch Meadows. - (one in x years likelihood of flooding) in 1999/2000 it was 1/100, in 2003 this was reduced to 1/67 and in 2014 this became 1/27.

### **3. Planning matters.**

**a) Proposed new Thames footbridge 140567 – Landscaping plans.** The follow-up site meeting with RBC to finalise detail was attended on 6 October. 6 new trees were agreed and attention to others was agreed. (Details available on request). Early discussions were held regarding RBC's plan to fell all the George Street Lombardy Poplars. **Update at November 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 now received and due to be considered by RBC Planning Applications Committee on 12 November. **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.** GLOBE support in principle was confirmed to Tony Cowling after our September meeting as attendees had discussed. Will told us that a public meeting is likely for January 2015.

**d) Richfield Avenue – proposed Garden Centre** ref 140329 on land west of Rivermead car park & south of the golf driving range. Impact on trees. Dave told us that revised plans still included removal of existing trees so he would be writing a letter to RBC from GLOBE to object. **Keep in view**

**e) Kings Meadow Baths ref 141604** Bob O'Neil drew attention to these proposals now published by "Thames Lido Ltd". The 14 page pdf design and access statement available at this url makes interesting reading. [http://documents.reading.gov.uk/AniteIM.WebSearch/\(S\(q2ikqi55tb1ssbvugh0jgj55\)\)/Results.aspx](http://documents.reading.gov.uk/AniteIM.WebSearch/(S(q2ikqi55tb1ssbvugh0jgj55))/Results.aspx) the plane trees are mentioned plus some new ones "...some open space (750 sq. m) is lost to the car parking , this is compensated by the removal of the existing tarmac access track and hard standing (total approx. 900 sq. m) and the removal of the changing room and container (200 sq. m) these areas being landscaped to improve the setting of the building. Avenues of new trees from the car park to the Spa entrance and from King's Meadow Road to the restaurant entrance help to anchor the building in the park and....."

**4. Finance Matters – none this month**

#### **5. 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. This is an RBC owned house but they will not do the work. **Volunteers needed if GLOBE is to do it.**

**6. Threat to Bugs Bottom** This issue relates to the possible site of the new Heights Primary School. (see item 7a below re Highridge in Upper Warren Avenue). **Bugs Bottom is also currently being considered.** Five members of the "Save Bugs Bottom Campaign" attended the GLOBE meeting to draw attention to this threat to Bugs Bottom by explaining their views and actions thus far. Many Globe members shared the concerns of the **Save Bugs Bottom** campaign and although the GLOBE group did not express a specific collective view about the location of the school because members have a variety of differing views, it was noted that the school is needed in Caversham Heights whereas **Bugs bottom** is at the very **bottom** of the valley and close to existing schools. The meeting also discussed the fact that **Bugs Bottom** is a protected open space as well as a designated wildlife site; Globe would certainly discourage and object to any loss of such valuable green space in Caversham. It was agreed that it was up to individual GLOBE supporters to make their views known. **Contact** [save.bugs.bottom@gmail.com](mailto:save.bugs.bottom@gmail.com) or see [www.facebook.com/savebugsbottom](http://www.facebook.com/savebugsbottom) or you can sign the petition at: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/petitions/view/save-bugs-bottom>

#### **7. Any Other Business.**

**a) 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. See item 6 above.

**b) Invasive species e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam -** <http://planttracker.naturelocator.org/> **Any GLOBE supporters who try this App, please share your information with the Group, thanks. .... ANYONE tried it??**

**c) "Adopt a verge" scheme.** this operated at various locations in the 1980s under the former Berkshire County Council. 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.**

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 25 November 2014. 7.15pm at Church House**  
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)