



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2014 .

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney, Phil Bagge, Dean Ezra, Will Alliston, Jim McMaster, Colin Potts, Chris Burden, Councillor Richard Davies, Linda Carter, Isabella Pietrzak, Len Smith.

Apologies for absence: Malcolm Moye, Dave Kenny, Cyril Walkington, Jenny Hicks.

Bereavement announcement - It is with sadness that we have to record the recent death of Jennifer Millett after a short spell in hospital. Jennifer was a tenacious campaigner on all of the issues for which our GLOBE group exists. She took part in many of our practical activities as well as holding our attention during meetings with a detailed knowledge of the workings of local government, environmental issues and planning regulations. Her tireless campaigning has ensured that Caversham is a better place than it might have been. A private family funeral is taking place in Teddington on 10 December and a memorial service is being arranged for Tuesday 20 January at 3 pm in St John's Church, Caversham.

1. Minutes of 28 October 2014 - Approved for publication – matters arising discussed as follows

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street – The 3 new planters on BT exchange site have now been filled and planted by RBC, the north side planters need to be made ready for over-winter and this is in hand for next week. Some re-varnishing will be needed next summer when the wood has dried out.

b) Hill's Meadow: RBC confirm the following: replacement field maple and silver birch are on order; grass cutting by RBC contractor to be done asap. Work on 2 large willows near the Danall will be scheduled as prioritised; sandbags impeding flow of the Danall still await removal near George St east side. Further work near the GLOBE trees along the Danall will be organised by Dave over winter. **Keep in view (KIV)**

c) Christchurch Meadows

[1] Dean reported that RBC have said the new management plan for biodiversity and maintenance procedures will be produced in mid-2015 as it is not considered a priority document at moment. Problems over damage to trees by nearby residents were discussed. **Keep in view. (KIV)**

[2] Re the access and location of the construction site for the new footbridge Work now in progress. We need to monitor progress and ensure landscaping plans are fulfilled and subsequent re-instatement of the site. **KIV**

[3] Historic Issues of Christchurch Meadows “change of use” Jim told us that this matter is now closed because the trustees of “Fields in Trust” have given retrospective permission for change of use and the Minister of Health has now given approval. **Closed**

3. Planning matters.

a) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Planning application 140997. Following GLOBE's and CADRA's meeting with developers in October about concerns over the Holm Oak and other trees/soft landscaping on Church Street, the revised plans were considered by RBC Planning Applications Committee on 12 November. The item was again DEFERRED. **Keep in view.**

b) Proposed Reading Sustainability Centre (location to be decided) and a small hydro-electric generation plant in the weir. Will told us that a public meeting is being scheduled for 7 January 2015. Details awaited. **KIV**

c) **Richfield Avenue – proposed Garden Centre** ref 140329 on land west of Rivermead car park & south of the golf driving range. Impact on trees. Dave has written a letter to RBC from GLOBE to object to removal of trees. **KIV**

4. Finance Matters – £1200 donated by Caversham Traders Association (CTA) (see last month's minutes) will be “ring fenced” for future spending on planting in central Caversham as intended by the CTA.

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) Painting over the graffiti across 6 Fence panels in alley between Anglefield Road and Lower Henley Road was completed on 24 November by 3 GLOBE volunteers. **CLOSED**

6. Threat to Bugs Bottom due to it being one of the possible locations under consideration as a site for the new Heights primary school. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has announced an “on hold” indefinitely on the High Ridge Upper Warren Avenue site. They now want RBC to work with the community to find a suitable site. They list a number of reasons why Bugs Bottom & Albert Rd Rec would not be suitable while appearing to favour Mapledurham Playing Fields as a suitable site. However there would be major hurdles, not least that the Playing fields are held in Trust. A Mapledurham Playing Fields Actions Group has been set up to oppose the school being on that site. A Save Bugs Bottom Action Group has also now been formally established with a committee and bank account and will work to ensure that Bugs Bottom is not built on. Contact save.bugs.bottom@gmail.com or see www.facebook.com/savebugsbottom **Update at next meeting**

7. Any Other Business.

a) **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. Japanese Knotweed at 78 Star Road is known about.

b) **“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 Dean will do some further research.**

c) **GLOBE** has been presented with a certificate re our contribution since the late 1990s to the Annual 'RESCUE' litter clean up events, the first of which was held in Reading 25 years ago.

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday, 16 December 2014. 7.15pm at Church House
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)**