



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2015

Attendees.

Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Phil Bagge, Isabella Pietrzak, Peter Trout

Apologies for absence:

Judith Barratt, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Will Alliston, Jenny Hicks, Chris Burden.

1. Minutes of 27 January 2015 - Approved for publication – matters arising discussed as follows

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street - Review monthly meeting in March 2015.

b) Hill's Meadow: Some GLOBE volunteers attended the Thames21 event on Sunday 15 Feb to help clear areas along the Danall. Also, on Weds 18 Feb 3 GLOBE supporters removed 32 sandbags that had been impeding flow of the Danall near George St and cleared some overgrown trees along the bank.

c) Christchurch Meadows

c1, The construction of the new footbridge We are monitoring progress to ensure that landscaping plans are fulfilled and subsequent re-instatement of the site. **Review progress at each monthly meeting until construction site vacated and full reinstatement of the meadows is achieved.**

c2. We have sent photos to RBC to report that the Danall is badly silted up beneath the Wolsey Road bridge.

c3. The mature Willows along the Danall have now been pollarded by RBC contractors, the arisings were chipped and spread around under the trees. Some hedging has been planted to fill gaps near Wolsey Road.

d) New Trees on Newlands Avenue and nearby roads. We have been informed by RBC that GLOBE's request for replacement and new trees, a total of 20 trees, has been approved and should be planted soon. Those will probably require some watering and after care by GLOBE and local residents.

e) Balmore Walk – Two issues discussed: RBC has been pruning and cutting back various over growth but only in some areas, leaving other essential work yet to be done; prunings appear to have been left in random spaces and not removed as in past years. Also, an unsightly high metal fence has been erected on the rear of 63 Hemdean Road adjoining the park boundary. **Richard to clarify with RBC**

3. Planning matters.

a) Developments proposed on St Martin's Precinct. Planning application 140997. This has now been approved at the February 2015 RBC Planning Committee. We discussed concerns about trees, increased traffic and the difficulties of heavy traffic on Wolsey Road nearby. **Keep in view**

b) Proposed Reading Sustainability Centre and a small hydro-electric generation plant in the weir. See this link for details: <http://readingsustainabilitycentre.co.uk/2015/01>. A discussion about possible creation of a natural "fish pass" on View Island was discussed and is awaiting a site meeting. **Review March meeting**

c) Hand Car Wash Hill's Meadow . Planning Reference 141841 This has now been approved at the February 2015 RBC Planning Committee despite objections from GLOBE and CADRA. Some amendments were agreed, including a hedge to help screen part of the security fence. **Keep in view**

d) Dovedale Close Planning ref 141730 – Following GLOBE's comments revised landscaping plans have been submitted for this development.

e) **Old Peppard Road – The Hill Primary School** – Good news - Changes have now been made to the construction plans for new vehicle access. The removal of a young Oak tree in Peppard Rd has been averted as a result of Dave's work with RBC and the Tree Wardens to have changes made to the construction plans.

f) **25 Rotherfield Way** There is some construction taking place which may result in a recently planted new RBC street tree on the grass verge needing to be moved. Dave has notified RBC for further action. **Review March meeting**

4. Finance Matters – Donation of £1,000. Due to the winding up of the defunct Bugs Bottom Action Group, which had been set up in the 1980s to campaign against the major housing development, GLOBE along with several other local organisations has received a donation from the residual campaign funds. This will be used by GLOBE wisely for future green planting and necessary equipment.

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)**. Regular audits by RBC Neighbourhood Officers (formerly Streetcare) with GLOBE supporters and others attending. 2015 program is now underway. **Please ask if you want details of dates for your area as you are welcome to take part.**

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) **A total of 17 sacks of litter and some fly tipped items were collected** at our litter pick held on 9 February in Church Street to Wolsey Road, Abbotsmead Place and nearby alleys/riverside; also Hemdean Road Alley to Bugs Bottom and through Beechwood up to Highdown School. Thanks to 6 volunteers.

d) **Litter at the end of Paddock Road** – this is on private land in the Business Park – no action by GLOBE.

e) **Litter in alley between Star Road and Douglas Road** – Is this on an RBC cleaning schedule? **Richard will follow up**

f) **Broken chain link fence on Lower Henley Road** – Is this RBC Housing Land? **Richard will follow up**

6. RESCUE 2015 – annual Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event - GLOBE sessions will be **Friday 27 March 10 am & 2 pm. Sessions last about 2 hours.** Exact locations to be decided during inspection of litter hotspots in mid-March. **Finalise details at March meeting.**

7. Threat to Bugs Bottom as one of the possible locations under consideration for the new Heights primary school. See save.bugs.bottom@gmail.com or see www.facebook.com/savebugsbottom A wide ranging public consultation process is planned by the Education Funding Authority to commence in March whereby residents will be able to comment and vote on five possible sites for the school. **Update at March meeting.**

8. Any Other Business.

Dave has received some old GLOBE documents from Tom Millest that may be useful for the archives.

Next meeting Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7.15 pm in Church House, Caversham
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)