



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 APRIL 2015

Attendees. Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Carol Langdon, Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Vickie Abel, Isabella Pietrzak, Malcolm Moye, Bob Busby, Dean Ezra, Jim McMaster

Apologies for absence:

Cyril Walkington, Jean Newbery, Chris Burden.

1. Minutes of 24 March 2015 - Approved for publication with minor amendment – matters arising discussed as follows

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street – Some repainting of the peeling Ronseal needed though the option of hard wood oil may be more practical. Recent weeding and tidying has been done. Margaret suggested “phuopsis” as a suitable flower. **Ongoing action**

b) Hill’s Meadow: Danall now flowing more freely after work by RBC. Cutting of conservation grass areas and tree work remains outstanding. **Pursue with RBC Parks officers**

c) Christchurch Meadows

c1, The construction of the new footbridge Further concerns discussed regarding: the widening of paths, including the footbridge over the Danall; the use of metal edging which is a safety hazard; the hard surfaced material being laid. Are these changes approved or were they part of the originally approved plans about which GLOBE was consulted? **Richard to raise with PBA (Elizabeth Orchard) Monthly review at each GLOBE meeting until construction site vacated and full reinstatement of the meadows is achieved.**

d) Balmore Walk – 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. **No response from RBC on their prunings disposal policy – raise again.** Re the unsightly high metal fence erected by resident on the rear of 63 Hemdean Road adjoining the park boundary, Dave has planted some hornbeam hedging to supplement existing vegetation.

e) Two RBC-planted oaks on Peppard Road – Dave has seen that these are suffering and need watering. Richard has visited the nearby residents to request watering assistance and this is now happening.

3. Planning matters.

a) Developments proposed on St Martin’s Precinct. Planning application 140997. No start date known - keep in view

b) Proposed Reading Sustainability Centre and a small hydro-electric generation plant in the weir, also a proposed natural “fish pass” on View Island. **Still very early days - No more progress- keep in view.**

c) Swan Heights Planning Application 150120 - a proposed development on Kings Meadow Road next to railway line. Our formal objections earned GLOBE some press and online publicity, especially our comparison with North Korea. RBC Planning Officer had major objections to this development proposal and is likely to be rejected by the RBC Planning Committee on 29 April (**Subsequent note – it was rejected**) .

d) Housing proposals for number 1 Albert Road, the former Arthur Clark Care Home site. Comments on proposals have been invited by the developer prior to a formal planning application process. Malcolm has submitted serious concerns over the scale and height, the small amount of parking spaces and the fact that the proposed footprint of buildings would require many of the mature trees to be removed from the plot. **Keep in view.**

4. Finance Matters – The RBC Grant cheque for £500 to cover our costs of meeting room hire and public liability insurance has now been received. This helps towards the Group's continued existence.

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)**. Regular audits by RBC Neighbourhood Officers (formerly Streetcare) with GLOBE supporters and others attending. **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) **Broken chain link fence Lower Henley Road on RBC Housing Land? Awaiting reply from RBC.**

6. RESCUE 2015 – From the two GLOBE sessions we collected 23 sacks including 17 of rubbish and 6 of recyclables, a car battery, and various wood, plastic and metal fly tipped items from Balmore Walk, Hemdean Road, Henley Road and a Warren escarpment footpath; also Thames Side Promenade car park edges and the nearby fields/shrubbery. Thank you to those who took part. As a result of our Facebook post about our RESCUE results we had an interview on Radio Berkshire. **CLOSED**

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 The wide ranging public consultation process ends on 1 May. **Update at May meeting.**

8. Any Other Business.

a) GLOBE website and Facebook page. Discussed the linking of entries and consequent benefits. **Dean will investigate and implement in discussion with Dave.**

b) Messy hoardings on Wolsey Road corner site of the former Arthur Legge centre. **Bob Busby will speak to his contact at Elegant Homes about this.**

c) **Former Caversham resident who had a prominent role in the sealing of the Magna Carta** – Vickie told the meeting about an exhibition in Caversham Court Gardens Gazebo on Sunday 14 June 10 am to 4 pm. This is about William Marshal, who acted as intermediary between King John and the barons when Magna Carta was agreed in 1215. William Marshal died in Caversham at his manor house, which is thought to have been where Dean's Farm is now. See: <http://home.fccg.org.uk/events>

d) **Caversham Neighbourhood Action Group.** Caroline told us about the Caversham NAG meeting coming up on 30 April and the item about possible 20 mph speed limit on Briant's Avenue. The future meetings of the merged former Upper and Lower Caversham NAGs will rotate between different venues in Caversham Emmer Green and CPV.

Next meeting Tuesday 26 May 2015 at 7.15 pm in Church House, Caversham
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)