



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 JULY 2015

Attendees: Judith Barratt (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Vickie Abel, Dean Ezra, Chris Burden, Malcolm Moye, Jim McMaster, Phil Bagge, Caroline Langdon, Richard Denney, Vincent Ruane.

Apologies for absence: Cyril Walkington, Jean Newbery, Peter Trout.

1. Minutes of 23 June 2015 Approved – matters arising discussed as follows:

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

a) Planters on Church Street – Regular watering and care continues, volunteers to help with this please contact Dave. Repainting tops of the boxes and seats will be done in August. **Ongoing action Richard/Jim**

b) Hill's Meadow: The cutting of the conservation grass areas would be raised again with Parks nearer to the time that this year's cutting is due - in late Summer. **Keep in view and pursue with RBC Parks officers**

c) Christchurch Meadows

c1, Construction of the new footbridge Concerns over: the widening of paths, with non-permeable tarmac being laid, not included in original planning approval and thus does not have EA approval in terms of flood impact. Also the use of exposed metal edging which is a safety hazard. Dean contacted EA regarding this issue and was referred back to RBC. Dean is going to contact Planning Officer to ascertain whether 150853 included this work and consequent flooding alleviation. Jim reported that a Wetland area - part of the flood alleviation for the bridge - was being constructed at the river edge. **Review at next GLOBE meeting and until construction site is vacated and full reinstatement of the meadows is achieved.**

c2 The large champion white poplar has now been reduced to a safe height.

d) View Island - It was noted that the paths were very overgrown. **Raise with Parks**

e) Proposed Reading Sustainability Centre and a small hydro-electric generation plant in the weir, also a proposed natural "fish pass" on View Island. Chris updated the meeting about various ecological and wildlife surveys to be done. GLOBE supporters have some concerns and questions about the extent of work necessary on trees in the stream; exact site of the fish pass; the current intentions/ambitions for the Sustainability Centre; some sensitivities about View Island. These have been notified to the project with a site visit request. A request for a Screening Option for the Hydro Centre had been submitted to planning in May (see Planning, below) which Globe had not been made aware of. **Await site visit/review next meeting.**

See also <http://www.readingsustainabilitycentre.co.uk/> where you can get information and sign up for their newsletter. **There is a public meeting on 23 September at 7 pm in RBC offices.**

f) Dead Whitebeam tree was felled in private grounds at corner of Priory Avenue and Church Street, Caversham. Suggestion raised that GLOBE could offer help with replacement. **Dave will enquire with business owner.**

3. Planning matters

a) 150683. 355-357 Gosbrook Rd (corner Coldicutt St). Application to convert the Piedmont kitchen showroom to 4x1 bed flats. Has been approved, with no flood alleviation conditions. **CLOSED.**

b) 150546. 65 Peppard Rd. Application to build two detached houses in a back garden. **REFUSED**

c) 150853 Caversham Weir Hydro Project/View Island - request for screening option. **Keep in View.**

4. Finance Matters – Public Liability Insurance renewal received. Same cost as last year £293. Accepted.

5. Environmental Issues

a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs). Judith contacted RBC to chase up missing EVA reports some of which have now been provided. Current situation with EVAs is unsatisfactory due to non-receipt of reports and cancellation of some EVAs without notice. **Subsequent note:** Julia Naughton, the Neighbourhood Officer for Caversham & Peppard Wards is currently also covering Thames and Mapledurham wards on a temporary basis pending appointment of a new member of staff to cover these wards (Bill Robertson has moved to another area). The Neighbourhood Officers would like to attend one of our meetings in the near future to give a presentation on their work. **Keep in View & discuss at next meeting.**

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) Overhanging bushes in Mill Road; raised roots from a sycamore causing tripping hazard on the pavement in Lower Henley Rd. Richard to report via Love Clean Reading;

d) two alder trees that were part of the landscaping plan when the development was built have recently been felled on land of the housing block on the corner of Star Rd/Lower Henley Rd. ?RBC or Housing Association? Subsequent Note This land is part of Flambards, which appears to be owned by Southern Housing.

e) A clean up by boat (courtesy of Bob O'Neil) along the Thames to retrieve litter, shopping trolleys etc was done by Dave, Malcolm and Bob.

7. The future of Bugs Bottom looks secure now that the results of The Heights School consultation have been published with Mapledurham Playing Fields being favoured by about 70% of the vote. A final decision on the site is expected from the EFA in late July. **Subsequent note: EFA have now announced that it has** "...decided to pursue Mapledurham Playing Fields as the site for the school and will commence the work necessary to put forward a proposal to the site's trustees." **Discuss at next GLOBE meeting**

8. Any Other Business.

Richard had attended a recent meeting of TREGA with reps from Tilehurst, Southcote, Redlands and Caversham GLOBE groups. **RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean Up Events)** is now being coordinated by the Neighbourhood Officers in Streetcare . The dates for the Autumn RESCUE clean up have been confirmed as **Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th October.**

Next meeting Tuesday 25 August 2015 from 7 pm in Church House, Caversham
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)