



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 AUGUST 2015

**Attendees:** Richard Denney (Chair), Margaret Skinner, Dave Kenny, Vickie Abel, Dean Ezra, Chris Burden, Will Alliston, Jim McMaster, Philip Bagge, Bob O'Neil.

**Apologies for absence:** Judith Barratt, Malcolm Moye, Isabella Pietrzak, Peter Trout, Jean Newbery, Cyril Walkington, Caroline Langdon, Councillor Claire McDonald.

**1. Minutes of 28 July 2015** Approved after minor checking errors corrected– matters arising discussed:

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

**a) Planters on Church Street** – We've decided that in future we'll use Danish Oil on these hardwood planters rather than re-apply the previous sealant, which had peeled in places. We have now oiled all those by Church Street corner and will continue with others. Regular watering and care continues. **ONGOING**

**b) Hill's Meadow:** The cutting of these conservation grass areas and those in Balmore Walk has again been raised with RBC Parks and we'll need to monitor that it actually gets done soon. **Keep in view.**

**c) Construction of the new footbridge on Christchurch Meadows.** Following lack of helpful response to Dean's enquiries to RBC Planning, regarding GLOBE concerns as to whether the widening of paths had been included in original planning approval and whether EA had approved for flood impact, it was agreed to enlist help of Councillor Ballsdon who is on the Planning Committee. **Review at next GLOBE meeting and until construction site is vacated and full reinstatement of the meadows is achieved.**

**d) Proposed hydro-electric generation near the weir and natural "fish pass" on View Island.** A site meeting was confirmed for 1 September. This would give opportunities for GLOBE supporters' 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 site. **There is a public meeting on 23 September at 7 pm in RBC offices.** (See also <http://www.readingsustainabilitycentre.co.uk/> where you can sign up for their newsletter.)

**e) 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. However, after an examination of the site, which is tarmacked and has the large stump in a tiny patch of soil, it was decided it would be impractical to plant replacement for some time. **CLOSED**

### **f) Dean's Farm: public land on the Lower Caversham eastern border with south Oxfordshire.**

Dave reported that the established access to the adjacent lakes via unofficial paths on land owned by Lafarge has now been blocked off at the Reading Borough/South Oxfordshire border by re-erection of high fencing and has security patrols on site. This is a great pity because previous access to enjoy waterside flora & fauna around the lakes has now been denied to local residents. NOTE: There was no access via this site to the "Permissive paths" on Lafarge land at Caversham Marina nor any designated public footpaths.

### **g) The Warren: land at the Caversham western border with south Oxfordshire.**

GLOBE supporters have been corresponding with Councillor Ballsdon about resolving the continuing litter and fly-tipping nuisance in this area. Current status is that RBC will not supply another litter bin due to vandalism of previous ones; also that the question of CCTV will be raised by Jo Anderson (RBC Neighbourhood Officer) on 10 September and will report back subsequently. **Await report from Councillor.**

**h) A Caversham "Tree Walk"** - The Reading Tree Wardens are preparing various "Tree Walks"; Dave, Dean and Chris are working on a walk for the Caversham area. Any suggestions for notable trees are welcome please. There are already some established tree walks, e.g - [www.reading.gov.uk/.../TREE-WALKS-Town-Centre-21-JUly.pdf](http://www.reading.gov.uk/.../TREE-WALKS-Town-Centre-21-JUly.pdf) and other tree walks are available, including one for Caversham Court.

**l) Kings Meadow** Bob reported that plans have been published for landscaping including tree planting by the refurbished Swimming Baths currently under construction. This part of the meadow would no longer be available for functions. Also reported on the fact that there are site work people living temporarily in unauthorised places on the adjacent land.

### **3. Planning matters**

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

**b) Former Arthur Clark site in Albert Road – From the CADRA website we know that** new information has been posted on changes to be incorporated in revised plans following the consultation earlier in 2015. see this link: <http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php>. A planning application is expected at the end of August. Concerns still remain, including the loss of trees and extent of building. Noted that “Beechwood Grove” the developer’s current name of the site would clash with the nearby historic sites known as “Beechwood” and “Caversham Grove”!

**4. Finance Matters** – £67 spent on materials for work on the planters.

### **5. Environmental Issues**

**a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** We have been informed by Gina Frost (RBC) that EVAs for Thames and Mapledurham wards have been suspended until at least late September due to job vacancy. Caversham and Peppard ward EVAs continue. **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. Reported 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 “Flambards” the housing block on the corner of Star Rd/Lower Henley Rd. Housing Association, Southern Housing will be contacted to get the facts and discuss replacement. Dave/Richard to progress**

**e) A clean up during and after the upcoming Reading Festival was discussed.**

### **7. EFA Announcement re The Heights Primary School permanent site:**

“..decided to pursue Mapledurham Playing Fields as the site.... ..and will commence the work necessary to put forward a proposal to the site’s trustees.” We will await further information. **Keep in view**

### **8. Any Other Business.**

**RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean Up Events)** dates for the Autumn RESCUE clean up have been confirmed as **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

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**Next meeting Tuesday 22 September 2015** from 7 pm in Church House, Caversham  
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)