



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 November 2015

Attendees: Richard Denney,(Chair), Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Malcolm Moye, Margaret Skinner, Bob Busby, Chris Burden, Phil Bagge, Isabella Pietrzak

Apologies for absence: Jean Newbery, Jim McMaster, Judith Barratt, Vicki Abel, Charlotte Payne

1. Minutes of 27October 2015 Approved - matters arising discussed as follows:

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

2a) Planters on Church Street – Winter planting, tidying and added soil done recently by Dave and Alan.

2b) Hill's Meadow: Conservation grass areas now cut. Concerns continue about the very slow or not flowing Danall: silting at Wolsey Road end is thought to be the cause. Isabella and Dave to investigate and raise again with RBC Parks. Also, Thames21 can maybe help resolve? **Review next meeting.**

2c) Christchurch Meadows – after-effects of construction site for the new footbridge.

c1. GLOBE concerns have still not been resolved regarding whether the widening of paths had been included in original planning approval and whether EA had approved for flood impact. **Persisting with enquiries with the help of Councillor Ballsdon to obtain satisfactory response. Also raise with Caversham Ward Councillors.**

c2. Ground reinstatement has not been fully achieved, with some grassed areas not yet fully restored and waterlogged ground by the new bridge as well as near George Street entrance; also by the Gosbrook Road entrance where heavy machinery churned up the grass edge next to path. **Raise with RBC Parks.**

c3. Suggestion also made that the current RBC Christchurch Meadows Management Plan contains little or no wild flower areas - this needs further suggestions and **somebody in GLOBE other than usual activists (ANY VOLUNTEERS PLEASE?)** to take the lead and work with others to bring ideas to fruition. **Raise with RBC Parks and review at next meeting.**

2d) View Island -

2d1. Proposed hydro-electric generation near the weir and natural “fish pass”. Planning application has now been submitted (see section 3 below). **Keep in view**

2d2. Designation of local development sites– View Island has been included in a list of proposed **local development sites** for potential building land for homes. This is contrary to its current designation and likely to be extremely controversial locally as View Island is not only a nature reserve but a zone 3 flood plain [ie. Maximum flood risk]. **GLOBE meeting attendees resolved to fight this proposal - awaiting consultation period.**

2e) Public land at Deans Farm public open space. (First discussed at August 2015 meeting) Concerns that the Tarmac/Lafarge security patrols appear to be resident/sleeping in vans on public land at this site and how long this will be allowed to continue. Dave and Richard visited the site and spoke with security personnel about their living arrangements, related litter and falsely erected notice boards that implied prosecution of people entering the Dean's Farm public land. It appears that RBC Parks gave temporary limited permission for Lafarge guards to have access but this has been taken advantage of in terms of time duration and use of the site. It is thought that the public field will be vacated very soon, though the barriers to the informal paths around the lakes are once again fenced off to prevent access to the Lafarge land. **Dave/Richard liaising with RBC Parks (UPDATE: The vans/security people have now gone).**

2f) Mill Green Residents have contacted GLOBE regarding private land on the river bank known as “The Orchard”, concerned that possible development may be intended, with consequent road access plans via the Mill Green Footpath and the adjacent strip of land, including the drainage ditch. **Awaiting further enquiries re registered ownership of access land. Keep in view.**

2g) Two Trees – A young oak tree that was originally planted by RBC on private land in front of Emmer Green shops on Peppard Road has died. Having discussed with EGRA, it has been agreed that GLOBE would assist with replacement. The Crab Apple tree in the frontage of Caversham Library has collapsed, possibly due to shallow roots. With concerns that the tree might not be replaced because of the difficult funding situation in RBC libraries, it was agreed that GLOBE could fund and replace this tree. Agreement has also been reached with the libraries management. **Keep in view**

2h) Hedging shrubs Globe has opportunity to acquire 50 young natural species for hedging projects locally.

3. Planning matters

a) Application number 151715 submitted 24 October re The installation of two Archimedean Screw Turbines with a hut covering the generators, gearboxes and the control system (hydropower infrastructure); also the construction of a natural fish pass. The meeting examined plans and documents on the RBC website using GLOBE laptop and projector. Whilst in favour in principle, the brick structure of the building when compared with structure at Osney near Oxford is not favoured as it is likely to be subject to graffiti which is nigh impossible to remove. Also perhaps a flat roof would be preferable, maybe for green roofing or solar panels. There appeared to be insufficient detail about the design or construction of the fish pass, making it impossible to comment. **Dave will construct our response letter**

b) Former Arthur Clark site in Albert Road – Developer has now provided revised plans following residents' feedback on the earlier proposals. This still shows high density of homes, lack of adequate parking and obvious intention to remove many mature trees on the site. It is likely that formal planning application will be made in December. GLOBE needs to provide robust objections once detail is known. **Keep in view**

4. Finance Matters

a) Proposal to purchase a refurbished laptop – Dean has upgraded the spec on a laptop and serviced it recently. Agreed that this will be useful for GLOBE purposes and to purchase for £120.

b) Noted that there would be expenditure for the 2 trees agreed in item 2g above.

5. Environmental Issues

a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs). Thames and Mapledurham wards – RBC Neighbourhood Officer has now been appointed – Gary Miles – Dave will meet Gary on next EVA which is 8 December

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) Flambards Flats on corner of Star Road/Lower Henley Road - Response now received at last from Southern Housing; GLOBE has offered to help with planting 3 replacement trees on the corner of Star Rd/Lower Henley Rd. **Report back when progress made.**

6. Any other business

a) Caversham NAG meeting – Next public meeting on 26 November – Recent minutes showed “litter” as being a major concern raised by attendees, though no specific locations were stated. Richard had written on behalf of GLOBE to Jo Anderson (Neighbourhood Project Officer who convenes the NAGs) regarding these litter problems, requesting more detail on exact locations of offending litter so that GLOBE can organise litter picking. **Keep in view**

b) Local building sites : Bob Busby reported that the hoardings around the former Arthur Legge site on Wolsey/Gosbrook Road had been renewed and repainted. More importantly, demolition is due to start on the old Bakehouse Rectory/Hemdean Road corner to clear the way for building of homes previously granted planning permission. There's a possibility that GLOBE may be able to use a small storage facility for various tools and practical project materials. (Previous storage at Caversham Court stables was withdrawn by RBC)

Next meeting Tuesday 26 January 2016 from 7 pm in Church House, Caversham
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)