



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 JANUARY 2016

**Attendees:** Judith Barratt (Chair), Richard Denney, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Margaret Skinner, Bob Busby, Chris Burden, Phil Bagge, Isabella Pietrzak, Lin Godfrey, Margaret Ormonde (EGRA)

**Apologies for absence:** Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Jean Newbery, Vicki Abel

**1. Minutes of 24 November 2015** Approved with 1 word change - matters arising as follows:

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

**2a) Planters on Church Street** – litter and related debris to be cleared. **Isabella will clear.**

**2b) Hill's Meadow: Still no progress about concerns** re the very slow or not flowing Danall. This has been raised again with RBC Parks. Also, Thames21 have raised this with RBC and Environment Agency. **Review next meeting.**

### **2c) Christchurch Meadows**

**c1. Awaiting reply from RBC via Councillor Ballsdon** re GLOBE concerns regarding whether the widening of paths had been included in original planning approval and whether EA had approved for flood impact. Councillor **Ballsdon expecting response shortly. Review at next meeting.**

**c2. Issue has been raised by Councillor Davies with RBC re Ground reinstatement not being fully achieved**, with some grassed areas waterlogged 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. Action unlikely until late spring when ground may have dried out. **Keep in view**

**c3. Meadow Trees** - RBC has planted 12 more lombardy poplars parallel with George Street . Also transplanted 4 established lime trees from Forbury Road (by the building site) to near the riverside path along from Wolsey Road entrance.

**c4. RBC** informed us that some demolition work on the Laundry site may impinge on the park boundary. **RBC** has confirmed it is aware that 2 gates from private property have been erected in fencing from Cardinal Close. **Keep in view**

**c5. VOLUNTEER(s) needed to take up the** suggestion made at November 2015 meeting that the current RBC Christchurch Meadows Management Plan (see pdf sent with minutes) needs wild flower areas - this needs **somebody in GLOBE other than usual activists** to take the lead and work to bring ideas to fruition. Contact Dave or Richard in first instance. **Chris Burden is going to contact J C Decaux** about the triangle of grass on corner of George Street and whether GLOBE could also plant wild flowers there. **Review at next meeting.**

**c6. CAMRA** - RBC has offered the meadows as an alternative to Kings Meadow where this early May festival has been in past. GLOBE has informal meeting with organisers. The marquee will be next to the old pavilion with deliveries via a temporary metal walkway from Wolsey Rd. Site fencing would be in place for 2 weeks, though the festival itself only lasts 4 days, with music on 3 evenings. The stage will be in the far corner by the old pavilion. Full reinstatement and litter clearance is assured. Residents may have concerns about numbers and disruption on the meadow. **No major issues for GLOBE**

### **2d) View Island -**

**2d1. Proposed hydro-electric generation near the weir and natural "fish pass"**. Planning application has now been submitted **See item 3d in next page.**

**2d2. Designation of local development sites**– View Island has been included in a list of proposed **local development sites** for potential building land. 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 [i.e. Maximum flood risk]. **See item 3d in next page for Local Plan consultation starting Feb 2016**

**2e) Planting by the Milestone Centre Caversham Park Village** – Judith is trying to arrange.

**2f) Balmore Walk** – work party arranged for **Mon 8 February at 10 am** to do some tree base clearance, a litter pick and to add some hedging to the 2 year old hawthorn whips by new allotment fence.

**Volunteers please contact Richard for more details of tools needed and bad weather options**

**2g) Trees** – The new oak tree was planted on the green space in front of Emmer Green shops on Peppard Road; thanks to GLOBE and EGRA, with assistance of Reading Tree Wardens volunteers who also helped GLOBE to plant an ornamental pear in the frontage of Caversham Library. Also noted that about 20 new trees had been planted north of the Thames by RBC (some were suggested by GLOBE) **Closed.**

**2h) Flambards Flats - 3 replacement trees on the corner of Star Rd/Lower Henley Rd.** This work has been deferred to Autumn 2016 due to refurbishment work and scaffolding at the site. **Review September**

### **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. Dave has followed up GLOBE's comments. Details of Fish Pass not given with the application. **Keep in view**

**b) Application number 152277** Former Arthur Clark site Albert Road – Details just becoming available. **Malcolm is studying the detail and will liaise with Dave to construct GLOBE response** There is a residents group called SPEAR is studying detail, as is CADRA. Concerns are height of building, parking and trees removal from previous GLOBE meetings. **Comments welcomed from anyone interested.**

**c) Application number 152127** Former bakehouse site Rectory Road. Demolition completed. A slightly revised planning application was submitted. A small storage facility for GLOBE may be provided. Bob and Dave have discussed.

**d) RBC revised Local Plan** is now being consulted on, the consultation runs until 7th March.

Proposed sites for development in Caversham include View Island and Caversham Weir. There are also changes to designations for protected green spaces.

**An RBC consultation meeting in Church House on Tuesday 16th February 7pm to 9pm. Or a Drop in at the Civic Offices, Bridge Street, RG1 2LU (main reception) - Monday 15th February, 2pm to 7pm and Tuesday 16th February, 1pm to 6pm.** Responding after this consultation is crucial for GLOBE, so we intend to hold a separate meeting for those interested to go through the detail and consider our response. Please go to one of above or examine the detail online, see <http://www.reading.gov.uk/newlocalplan>.

### **4. Finance Matters**

**a)** The GLOBE annual grant application to RBC has been submitted, thanks to Dave for doing that.

**b)** Noted probable change to GLOBE group's banking arrangements for more convenient usage.

### **5. Environmental Issues**

**a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).** New dates of EVAs for our areas have been published and will be emailed to GLOBE supporters shortly.. Also to be available on website. **Richard to prepare**

**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 to**

**c) Caversham NAG meeting – Next public meeting on 28 January–** Recent minutes showed “litter” as being a major concern raised by attendees, though no specific locations were stated. Await further details after that meeting. Jim goes to these meetings and will report back.

**6. RESCUE dates 4 to 6 March 2016.** Bi-annual Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event organised by Reading Borough Council's Neighbourhood Officers for volunteer groups, residents and workers to join in a major litter clean up across the borough. GLOBE will hold some sessions TBA.

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**Next meeting Tuesday 23 February 2016** from 7 pm in Church House, Caversham  
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)