



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 May 2016

Attendees: (Chair) Judith Barratt, Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Phil Bagge, Vicki Abel, Dean Ezra, Jim McMaster, Margaret Skinner, Bob Busby, Malcolm Moye, Isabella Pietrzak, Chris Burden.

Apologies for absence:, Jean Newbery, Lin Godfrey, Cyril Walkington.

1. Minutes of 26 April 2016 Approved with minor corrections - matters arising as follows:

2. Parks, trees and Open Spaces:

2a) Planters on Church Street – Summer bedding will mainly be petunias as these proved drought tolerant in past years. A couple of the shrubs will also be replaced. **Work party to be arranged.**

2b) Hill's Meadow: the very slow flowing Danall. RBC action to remove the accumulated silt under the bridge at the end of Wolsey Road that is thought to be impeding flow is still awaited. **Still No progress.**
Related item: Isabella reported that on Christchurch Meadows near the Danall at the end of Wolsey Road there is a smell thought to be caused by this silting. Isabella to contact RBC Parks. **Review next meeting.**

2c) Christchurch Meadows

2c1. Ground reinstatement not completed after bridge construction, with some grassed areas waterlogged near the new bridge as well as near George Street entrance and by the Gosbrook Road entrance. RBC is getting quotes from contractors for this work. Phil reported that the reinstallation of the gateway along from the laundry on George Street has not been done correctly and that this had been reported to RBC for correction. Margaret reported that some rubble appeared to have been put down next to the path by the river under the new bridge and the purpose of this needs investigating. **Keep these items in view**

2c2. CAMRA Beer Festival – Following this Festival some concerns have been raised about the consequent state of the ground – there are ridges where cars and trucks have ploughed up the land and bald compressed patches of grass where the festival marquee was sited. Several people raised concerns about this and Dean has received the following response from RBC. “There is a full repair/reinstatement clause within contract documentation, with the operator of the beer festival required to reinstate the site in a timely fashion post event or meet the associated costs of these works once agreed with us. These works will be factored into wider works to be completed following the installation of the pedestrian footbridge and continued associated ground reinstatements. We are in the process of speaking with contractors regarding quotes and availability for undertaking the works and we aim to get this completed ASAP.” **Keep in view**

2c3. Long term usage of Christchurch Meadows for events. Some residents have concerns that RBC now has a policy of allowing an increased number of commercial events to take place here, rather than at Kings Meadow as before. This would result in a further restriction of open space for informal activities, further changing the character of the meadows and cause more compaction of the floodplain. More events means more people, noise and general disturbance, including event construction and supplier vehicles from Wolsey Road. The meeting considered that Kings Meadow is more suited as it is much bigger and is not so near residential areas. **Contact Councillor Davies to obtain definitive information about RBC policy for future.**

2c4. No response from J C Decaux about the triangle of grass on corner of George Street and whether GLOBE could plant wild flowers there. **CLOSED through lack of interest.**

2d) Balmore Walk – National Cycle Route milepost millennium sign badly damaged by machinery used during RBC hedge maintenance work. (Photo on FaceBook page). Awaiting repair or replacement. Also the issue of new unauthorised gates from private property. **Richard to follow up with RBC Parks for resolution.**

2e) Caversham old cemetery Hemdean Rd – See previous meeting minutes. Chris Webster is following up on this with RBC. **Keep in view.**

2f) Contact with schools about usage of open spaces – Following Kay Perry's report of visit to Hemdean House School we have been asked for advice/help by The Heights Primary School. (**Kay is following up**). The school has also sought advice about planting some hedging in a small area. **Dave/Richard following up.**

2g) 2 horse chestnuts in Church Road were felled but stumps await grinding out and replacement may be in 2016/2017 or earlier if a species resistant to fungus is used. **Vicki & Dave pursuing with RBC**

2h) Stream/ditch near Richfield Avenue and through the Rivermead site. See previous meeting minute. The ecological survey is being done by RBC and results are still awaited. **Keep in view**

3. Planning matters

a) Application number 151715 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 fish pass on View Island. **No further progress - Keep in view**

b) Application number 152277 Former Arthur Clark site Albert Road – Revised plans with minimal changes to building height and 2 new trees have been published. On site parking will be severely limited, leading to problems in nearby roads once building is occupied. **Keep in view**

c) Applications 160018 (re 140997) St Martins Precinct. Hermes is seeking planning permission for the revamp on a phased basis, starting with the new block by the BT building. No changes to landscaping: Globe concerns over some issues remains. Isabella reported felling of several trees in Waitrose car park, not connected with the Hermes scheme but on checking these trees would be removed anyway to make way for the two-storey car park when that is built, so their removal seems premature. A dead tree behind the Iceland service entrance which is in danger of falling across the footpath remains. **Keep in view**

4. Finance Matters none this month

5. Environmental Issues

a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs). EVAs for our areas continue to be attended by Dave, Jim, Malcolm and others, accompanying the RBC Neighbourhood Officers to spot issues needing attention. **Ongoing**

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> or www.fixmystreet.co.uk Alternatively please phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 **HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN – please use these - encourage others to do it.**

c) Cleaner Caversham Campaign – Following discussion at April meeting no ideas or suggestions were tabled for taking this forward. Litter problems are discussed at NAG meetings. **CLOSED**

6 Street lamps and light levels. Discussion about LED street lighting and the potentially harmful effects of cool-white/blue-rich LED lighting on humans and wildlife. GLOBE supporters have been previously provided with information. There were varied levels of interest on this matter. People are urged to write to their Councillor about RBC's policy on these new street lamps and to ask that the lights installed are warm white (max 3000k) for the benefit of public health, ecology, road safety and sky glow . People may also write to their MP asking about national light policy on these issues. Further info available from Richard . **CLOSED**

7. Conservation area – Church Road area. Vickie mentioned that CADRA is convening a meeting on 16 July at 4 pm in St Peter's Church to discuss possible extension of the area. People interested can attend.

8. GLOBE AGM will be held at 7.15 pm in Church House on Tuesday 28 June. The annual report and accounts will be presented at this meeting for formal review and adoption. Agenda will be sent in advance.

Next monthly meeting Tuesday 28 June 2016 at approximately 8 pm following the AGM in Church House, Caversham (refreshments from 7 pm and GLOBE AGM from 7.15pm)