



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 February 2017

### Attendees:

Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Margaret Skinner, Bob O'Neill, Vickie Abel, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Chris Burden, Margaret Ormonde (EGRA), Nick Haskins (Co-Chair of Caversham NAG – Neighbourhood Action Group), Rickey Josey (RBC RAYS Project Team).

**Apologies for absence:** Judith Barratt.

**Minutes of 24 January 2017** Approved – matters arising were discussed and noted below.

1. The new **RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street)** volunteering scheme supported by cash grant from TESCO was described by Ricky Josey from RBC. This RBC initiative supports residents in caring for their communities and local environment. Residents can volunteer to join with neighbours and friends to make their street or local area one to be proud of by keeping it clean and tidy. Volunteers are provided with litter pickers, plastic bags, gloves and hi-viz vests. More information via 011809373534 or email [rays@reading.gov.uk](mailto:rays@reading.gov.uk). This scheme would complement the aims of the GLOBE group and should be encouraged for the benefit of all residents. **Volunteers! Can you commit to joining this scheme?**

**Review next meeting**

### 2. Parks, trees and green spaces:

#### 2a) Christchurch Meadows:

- **Readipop licence for Caversham Festival 2017.** Jim reported on the licence review hearing at RBC on 26 January. The licence was renewed but with more stringent restrictions on noise and the siting of fairground type rides. This should avoid the nuisance caused by the 2016 festival that had resulted in complaints from nearby residents. **CLOSED**
- **slow flowing Danall and related odour near western end** – statement from RBC Parks received as follows: “.....the bottom of the Wolsey Road underground chamber is covered in dried up tarmac which is blocking the water flow. This will need to be removed by hand and we don't have anyone immediately available to deal with this.” **STILL NO PROGRESS BY RBC – keep in view**
- **Reinstatement of meadows** – Concerns remain about the long term condition of some of the grass areas. There are also 2 trees to be reinstated by RBC. **NO PROGRESS Report next meeting**
- **Replanting of hedge behind laundry site after building work.** Dave is in contact with RBC Parks. A few laurels have appeared rather than full hedge. **NO PROGRESS Review next meeting.**

**2b) Westfield Rec. removal of 2 trees and laying of a tarmac on a previously grassed area** – Dean's reply from RBC confirmed “that the majority of the funding for this work came from the Heights Primary School. RBC had wanted to extend the play facilities at Westfield Road Recreation Ground and the school contribution enabled this to happen. Providing some hard standing allows additional activity especially during times when the ground is otherwise wet and muddy. The new tarmac area is intended to allow the play facilities to be used by a slightly wider age range. During school hours most children will be at school and so use of this area by the Heights Primary School will not impact on public leisure use. This arrangement will be in place only until the school relocates to a permanent site.” Also it was confirmed that 2 replacement trees funded via the Heights School will be planted in March. **CLOSED**

#### 2c) Balmore Walk

- **Repair or replacement of National Cycle Route metal millennium milepost** sign damaged in Feb 2016 by machinery used during RBC hedge work. RBC Parks are considering replacement. **SLOW PROGRESS BY RBC . Keep in view**
- **Woodland at Rotherfield way end of Balmore Walk** – Felling and clearing by RBC has now concluded. The effects, hopefully positive, will be reviewed by the group later this year. **CLOSED**

**2d) Litter in stream/ditch near Richfield Avenue and through the Rivermead site.** Clearance of vegetation and litter in the Rivermead culvert has now been started by RBC. **Keep in view**

**2e) Three replacement trees at Flambards Flats on Star Rd corner due to be planted.**

This has been postponed indefinitely due to delay by Southern Housing and new doubts over ownership of the frontage on Lower Henley Road, as the land may belong to RBC Highways. **Follow up with RBC**

**2f) Large oak tree on boundary of Elizabeth House with Westfield Rec.** Problem of unauthorised parking of cars on the grass next to the base of this mature oak, compacting the root area, causing the tree to suffer. Chris to investigate with RBC what action can be taken to stop this. **Review next meeting**

**2g) Loss of more large mature trees in our area** – noted the loss of a prominent copper beech in The Mount due to giant polypore fungus (replacement is required); 5 horse chestnuts in St Martin's precinct had been felled as part of redevelopment plans; a Horse Chestnut by the war memorial in Christchurch meadow partly collapsed in Storm Doris; two large oaks on Peppard Road had also been felled by RBC.

### **3. Planning matters**

**a) Farmland between Peppard Rd & Kiln Rd. Outline planning for 245 dwellings.** The land is in South Oxon (Eye & Dunsden Parish) but with major consequences for Emmer Green & Caversham. See <http://www.cagedunsden.org> representing five south Oxfordshire parishes & EGRA, CADRA, GLOBE & CPVA. SODC will consider the application in April. See planning ref P16/S3630/O <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P16/S3630/O> **Keep in view**

**b) 1 Albert Road, former Arthur Clark home.** Malcolm is investigating possible non-compliance with approved plans where builders have felled trees & removed part of a mature hedge. **Review next meeting**

**c) GLL, Rivermead Leisure Complex,** new permanent building which would initially house a 25m demountable swimming pool. This has been approved for a 15 year lifespan. 5 trees not 4 are to be planted for some screening from the north side, with extended replacement condition of 10 years. Nick reported that an Informative had been added to the planning consent to maintain and enhance the tree line along Thames Promenade where there is currently a large gap near the Rivermead site. **Keep in view**

**4. Finance Matters** Dave reported that we have been informed that there will be no RBC annual grant which normally covers our PL insurance and meeting room hire. This is a risk to the GLOBE group's future.

### **5. Environmental Issues**

**a) EVAs.** Likely that these will cease in current format altogether after March 2017 due to RBC staff reductions. Suggestion discussed that NAG, Globe and residents' groups could continue with these. **Review next meeting**

**b) Spring clean up around Caversham (RESCUE)** – Arranged for Sunday 12 March around central Caversham and nearby riverside. Also in parts of Emmer Green. Richard making all arrangements. **Review next meeting**

**c) Extensive litter on roadsides in and around our area and into South Oxfordshire.** Very noticeable that many local lanes and main roads, including A4074 and Caversham Park Road have a lot of litter on the verges and some fly tipping in places. **Ideas sought for remedy- anyone, please?**

### **6. AOB**

**a)** Noted the replacement of approx 30 trees alongside the A33 in south Reading by RBC, which had been removed recently to make way for a new bus lane.

**Next monthly meeting Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7.15 pm in Church House, Caversham (refreshments from 7 pm)**