



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 March 2017

Attendees:

Judith Barratt, Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Margaret Skinner, Phil Bagge, Chris Burden, Bob Busby, Maggie Hawkes, Nick Haskins (Co-Chair of Caversham NAG – Neighbourhood Action Group), Rickey Josey (RBC RAYS Project Team).

Apologies for absence: Vickie Abel, Margaret Wall, Margaret Ormonde (EGRA).

Minutes of 28 February 2017 Approved – matters arising were discussed and noted below.

1. Ricky Josey updated us about the **RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street)** volunteering scheme to encourage volunteer residents to keep their immediate locality clean, tidy and more pleasant. Residents can volunteer to join with neighbours and friends to make their street or local area one to be proud of. Volunteers are provided with litter pickers, plastic bags, gloves and hi-viz vests. More information via 0118 9373534 or email rays@reading.gov.uk. This scheme would complement the aims of the GLOBE group and should be encouraged for the benefit of all residents. **Please join up. Keep in view.**

2. Parks, trees and green spaces:

2a) Christchurch Meadows:

- **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. **Subsequent note:** The 2 replacement trees have since been planted by RBC. **CLOSE**
- **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. **Subsequent note:** Dave and Richard have now erected some protective posts along the hedge line to protect the now regrowing original hedge. Review in November to assess what additional replanting maybe needed **CLOSE**

2b) 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. **Richard to ask RBC again. Review next meeting.**

2c) Litter in stream/ditch near Richfield Avenue and through the Rivermead site. Clearance of vegetation in the Rivermead culvert and some dredging has been carried out by RBC, but a great deal of general litter and larger items (extinguishers, traffic cones etc) remains. **Keep in view**

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

This has been postponed indefinitely until resolution of ownership of the frontage on Lower Henley Road/corner of Star Road between RBC Highways or Southern Housing. **CLOSED.**

2e) 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 is writing to RBC re what action can be taken to stop this. **Review next meeting**

2f) Warren Woodlands Escarpment – Nick raised the issue of extensive litter in this RBC owned small important local wildlife site and suggested we should clear it. **Work party to be arranged - Richard**

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 probably consider the application in April or May. See planning ref P16/S3630/O <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P16/S3630/O> Comments and objections will be accepted up to the time of the planning meeting. **Keep in view**

b) 1 Albert Road, former Arthur Clark home. Malcolm had been in contact with RBC Planning and CADRA about changes to the landscaping plans; a recent landscape plan appeared to omit a replacement hedge along the Albert Rd frontage. As a result of bringing this to the attention of RBC, the developers have since confirmed that they would put a hedge in along the Albert Rd frontage, as per the original plans. **Keep in View**

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 rather than 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 enhance the tree line along Thames Promenade where there are currently gaps; he is pursuing this with RBC. **Keep in view.**

4. Finance Matters

4a) At last meeting it was confirmed that we will not be getting the essential RBC grant this year that has covered basic annual running costs each year since GLOBE groups were formed by RBC more than 20 years ago. Alternative funding sources were discussed e.g. a local Supermarket community grant, other RBC grant sources, without definite solution and requires more focused investigation. Nick is also going to raise with Chris Bloomfield of RBC. **Review next meeting.**

5. Environmental Issues

a) EVAs. These have now ceased altogether 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) – On weekend of 10/12 March around central Caversham and nearby riverside as well as parts of Emmer Green, 15 volunteers collected 54 sacks of litter and a LARGE load of fly tipped items. Only the sacks were collected by RBC (due to RBC budget cuts!!) so we had to take the larger fly-tipped items to the recycling centre. **WORTH NOTING! - CLOSED**

c) Extensive litter around some of our green verges e.g. Caversham Park Road. Agreed that we should draw attention of this and other roads to RBC "Community Payback"organiser so people who have community service as part of their court sentence can be allocated to this. **Richard to raise with RBC.**

6. AOB

a) There's an unsafe old wooden fence in Westfield Rec next to the path. **Richard to refer to RBC**

b) Planters on Church Street – now is the time to organise some maintenance. **Dave/Richard**

c) Noted. Tree damage by SSE contractors in GROVE Road. Dave has raised this with them **CLOSED.**

**Next monthly meeting Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 7.15 pm in Church House, Caversham
(refreshments from 7 pm)**