



## MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 April 2017

### Attendees:

Judith Barratt, Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Maggie Hawkes, Dean Ezra, Nick Haskins (Co-Chair of Caversham NAG – Neighbourhood Action Group).

**Apologies for absence:** Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Caroline Langdon, Bob Busby, Lisa Anning, Annette Fairweather (EGRA).

**1. Minutes of 28 March 2017** Approved – matters arising were discussed and noted below.

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

#### 2a) Christchurch Meadows:

- **slow flowing Danall** – Awaiting action from RBC Parks to clear debris under Wolsey Road which is blocking the water flow. (Noted that low rainfall has not helped with the flow) **keep in view**
- Noted that the CAMRA festival is due to take place shortly.

**2b) Balmore Walk - replacement of National Cycle Route metal millennium milepost** sign damaged in Feb 2016 by machinery used during RBC hedge work. Action awaited by RBC Parks who are organising replacement. **Review next meeting.**

**2c) Litter in stream near Richfield Avenue and through Rivermead site.** Urgent need to complete this clearance, which has been partially done by RBC. **Dave and Maggie to discuss what we can do.**

**2d) Large oak tree on boundary of Elizabeth House with Westfield Rec.** Unauthorised parking on the grass at the base of this mature oak, compacting the root area, causing the tree to suffer. Chris reported that this is RBC housing land and they're investigating how to protect the area. **Review next meeting**

**2e) Warren Woodlands Escarpment** – Work party of 5 GLOBE activists cleared 20 sacks of litter, mainly cans and bottles on 8 April. Thank you! **CLOSED**

**2f) Planters in central Caversham** – 8 GLOBE activists tidied up the 20 planters and applied Danish oil to preserve the woodwork on 20 April. Thank you! **CLOSED**

Drought-resistant summer bedding for the planters was discussed; Margaret suggested dwarf verbena; Maggie suggested marigolds. The soil is currently too dry for planting. **Review next meeting**

**2g) Felling of trees in Chazey Wood** - Vickie raised concerns that the Mapledurham Estate has been felling trees and carrying out major clearance work in Chazey Wood with heavy machinery during the nesting season. This work has continued throughout March and April i.e. during the active nesting season. Whereas major woodland clearance works such as this should have stopped at the end of February to avoid disturbance to nesting birds. A lot of local people have raised concerns about damage to bluebells, since this is a renowned local bluebell wood, probably ancient woodland. **This has been raised with Natural England – review next meeting.**

### 3. Planning matters

**a) Outline planning application for 245 dwellings on farmland between Peppard Rd & Kiln Rd.** 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 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; 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 will not now be on stilts but will be built at ground level. 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. A meeting has been arranged by Nick for 8 May with RBC. **Review next meeting.**

d) **Draft local plan for Reading Borough – revised version published by RBC.** Dave reported that this draft long term strategic plan produced by RBC can be viewed at <http://www.reading.gov.uk/newlocalplan> or at Caversham Library or RBC Civic Offices. It contains some new development sites north of the Thames but the detail needs to be studied. Noted that the proposed inclusion of View Island as possible development site has been rejected. This document also includes aspirations by RBC for three “Park and Ride” schemes in our area on land outside the Borough – near Milestone Wood on Henley Road at Playhatch, near Rosehill Park Emmer Green and at Chazey Heath on Woodcote Road. **Review next meeting.**

#### 4. Finance Matters

4a) As previously reported, the GLOBE groups will not be getting the essential RBC grant this year that has covered basic running costs each year since GLOBE groups were formed by RBC over 20 years ago. Alternative funding sources were discussed e.g. local supermarket community grant or other sources; Nick is in discussion with Reading Voluntary Action which may have funding available to cover insurance and he will also raise it with Chris Bloomfield of RBC. **Review next meeting.**

#### 5. Environmental Issues

a) **EVAs.** These have now ceased due to RBC staff reductions. An alternative was discussed in principle at the recent NAG meeting. It's possible that GLOBE and residents' groups could continue with these, dependent on RBC co-operation. **Residents should continue to report any issues through the Love Clean Reading App or at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)** **Review next meeting**

b) **RAYS litter campaign.** The RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street) volunteering scheme was set up by RBC to encourage volunteer residents to keep their immediate locality clean, tidy and more pleasant. Residents can volunteer individually or 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](mailto:rays@reading.gov.uk).

We discussed how our group could work with RBC (Ricky Josey) and residents' groups to publicise further and encourage people to join this scheme, especially where there are litter hotspots of which we know. **Richard will contact other groups and liaise with Ricky to identify some actions and report back.**

c) **Extensive litter around some of our green verges** 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 litter clearance at these sites. **Richard to raise with the RBC**

#### 6. AOB

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

b) A resident has reported that the new security fence erected along the laundry site boundary near the George Street entrance to Christchurch Meadow appears to be on RBC land. Dean reported in his experience the boundary could be plus or minus 3 metres from what is shown on the laundry deeds.. **Richard to email and check that site of fence is acceptable to RBC Parks.**

**Next monthly meeting Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 7.15 pm in Church House, Caversham  
(refreshments from 7 pm)**